

Date: 17/02/2018

Chair: Molly O'Brien, President

Minutes: Becky Shepherdson, Vice President

Apologies: Naemi, Hamish. Absences: none.

Housekeeping

Hand signals: Hand signals are adopted by the committee (on that point, raising an additional point).

TCSU calendar + Google Drive

- Committee are to send google account emails to Molly on the Slack channel. All events should be on the calendar.
- Committee reminded to set notifications on Slack.

Treasurer: reimbursements

- Currently to handing over account details, will be worked in the next 2 weeks.

TCSU board

- VP announces intention to establish a TCSU board, location to be agreed with staff. Committee gives consent for photos to be put up.

Confidentiality + Definition of Welfare Roles

- Welfare officers announce that the confidentiality document has been approved by Sian Gardener. This has been uploaded on the Welfare Slack channel and will be published after final confirmation from the team. An email is to be sent to college containing the document and it is to be added to website.
- Definition of roles: the document has been uploaded to the Welfare Slack. Welfare team asked to made amendments and will be distributed with the confidentiality document.
- Role names will be changed as per last referendum.

Access to the Welfare Room

- The committee agrees that the Welfare Room is to be used as the sole space for one-on-one meetings.
- Rest of the committee to be given access for emergency events basis.
- A booking system deemed too complex, as last-minute arrangements are frequent in the roles. An informal system is agreed: when the room is in use, a message will be sent in Slack in the Welfare channel and the inner door shut when in use.

Political agenda

Strike stance

- VP gives an outline of the strike as given by CUSU (see additional information).
- The committee notes that some subjects are more affected than others.
- Female Welfare raises the disproportionate influence Cambridge has had in the dispute, querying the influence of colleges at a national level.
- Position of international students and fees: refund at least raised. £42,000.
- President and Vice President to attend the CUSU council on the subject. They agree to raise the following issues, if not presented to the council.

- Clarification of the lecturer position
- Disproportionate affect by subject
- The position of international students, especially raising Trinity's high proportion of international students
- Clarify CUSU's position: see additional info

LGBT: pride flag (see additional information):

- LGBT+ officer clarifies the situation: The flag was reportedly removed as a political symbol and the LGBT+ officer notes that the flag is not just a political symbol, but also representing identity. De-politicisation of the rainbow flag has long been pushed for in the LGBT community. It is noted that the Accommodation Handbook reportedly prohibits the display any posters or signs in windows. The Senior porter had seen the violation of this rule and instructed on duty porters to take down the flag. The student felt that the way the removal was handled was slow and inappropriate. BME raises why only one student was singled out, when multiple flags are visible in college windows.
- The LGBT+ officer has been in contact with the Senior Tutor who is looking into original source of rule, if it was taken down as a political symbol. In which case, tackle as de-politicisation of flag and as an issue of homophobia within college systems.
- Committee agrees to a meeting with the Head Porter with President and LGBT+ officer, to discuss the handling of the situation.

Publicity and Computing: website committee, TCSU website

- Feedback from the website committee meeting:
 - Suggested using bar screen to advertise college noticed. C+P counter proposed installing a screen in the queue to hall instead, which is supported by the committee.
- The Computing and Publicity Officer reports the creation of a new catering website created, with spaces around college advertised. As part of this, floor plans have been found for spaces in college. Computing notes that the College objects to putting floor plans online for security reasons. However, Computing suggests asking if floor plans for rooms could be added on a Raven authenticated website, to help students better choose rooms in the ballot.
 - The committee agrees that as well as floor plans, better photos of rooms should be made available. Male Welfare notes that he has already spoken to the accommodation office, who have previously suggested that students should be used to give these photos as it is too time consuming for the Accommodation office. Environmental notes that photos of gyp rooms are vital, especially for those with cooking requirements.
- Representative for website + internet committees is requested for the redesign of MyTrin. Committee agrees to appoint Computing Officer.
- Website: Problems arose during handover, which should be fixed in the week.
- Computing requests access to Google drive.
- Calendar on Website: meant to be run by societies. Male Welfare suggests Computing links this to a refreshable calendar, with TCSU members as editors.

- Reminder for bios and email signatures.

Women's Officer:**Women's formal**

- Fellows and Students invited: Women's Officer asks whether men should be invited. The Committee agrees that men should be able to attend.
- BME draws comparison to the BME formal, where a preferential system was set up for BME students, with non-BME students able to book a week after BME students.
- Female Welfare suggests that the event collects for a women in education charity.
- A welcome reception beforehand is suggested, and the committee agrees that this is a good use of funds.
- No date set has yet been set, the first week of Easter is proposed.
- International officer asks about CUSU international formal in Trinity in International Freshers' Week. President suggests asking CUSU.

Women's hour in the gym

- Field Club agreed to a trial: TCSU push through.
- Varying the time for trial times.

Library

- President suggests sofas and chairs in first window section of the library, which could be used as a comfortable place for reading in the library. These could be removed in exam term if needed.

Master's Lunch

- Environmental asked to email Master's secretary concerning dietary requirements: 2 x vegetarian, 2 x vegan, 1 x halal.

Additional information

Strike stance

CUSU notes:

1. That in CUSU Council of Jan 22nd, 2018, CUSU resolved:
 1. To give full and public support to UCU on any industrial action that follows the ballot result;
 2. To lobby the University to oppose the changes to USS;
 5. To engage in an educational campaign for our students explaining why the strike is happening and why we should all show solidarity. Staff working conditions are our learning conditions.
2. That since then, students have become increasingly mobilised and engaged with this cause
3. That the rally in solidarity with UCU on February 22nd that is currently set to be “attended” by over 100 students, with 200 more “interested” on Facebook.

CUSU believes:

1. That Cambridge University has so far been reluctant to take a public stance on the issue of the cuts to pensions
2. That behind closed doors, Cambridge seems to be one of the few Universities taking a hard-line approach to the USS deficit, defending the proposed change to a “defined contributions” model rather than “defined benefits”
3. That student activism has already had some impact on the university’s attitude
4. That we must re-double our efforts in order to do as much as we can to show our solidarity with university workers and oppose cuts to pensions which will affect everyone from professors to porters to PhD students

Pride flags: Copied from Varsity article (<https://www.varsity.co.uk/news/14818>)

Accusations of censorship and homophobia have erupted at Trinity College after students were told to remove LGBT+ pride flags from their windows and allegedly told by a porter that the College “don’t want to be putting things in people’s faces”.

One student, who did not wish to be named, was told to remove a postcard-sized flag from display despite the fact her room is obscurely located and only overlooks another accommodation building. She told Varsity that it felt like a “personal attack” and made her feel “unwanted”, especially given the fact that Trinity is one of only two colleges, along with Trinity Hall, which have not flown the pride flag for LGBT+ History Month.

According to Trinity College Students' Union LGBT+ officer, Anna Dimitriadis, who has now submitted a complaint to the senior tutor, porters justified the decision saying: "there's a lot of people at this College with a lot of different opinions" and that Trinity policy bans the display of political symbols.

She added that a porter told her: "yeah, you can acknowledge your identity, but you don't need to put a flag up".

The College's accommodation handbook specifies that "posters or notices should not be displayed in College windows or anywhere other than on recognised College noticeboards".

CUSU LGBT+ has branded the move as "unacceptable" and said: "If the College is condoning the implied homophobia of the 'different opinions', it should be thinking seriously about their staff's ability to care for all of their students".

In recognition of LGBT+ History Month, most colleges have flown the rainbow flag. Some colleges, including Jesus, Clare, Hughes Hall, and Emmanuel, are also hosting themed formals.

The Trinity student, who is open about her bisexuality only in Cambridge, spoke of the emotional "gap" she feels "every time I walk back to College" which was only filled by the confiscated flag.

"And now even that has been deemed unacceptable by College. It's lonely and it hurts. In my time here I have seen no LGBT+ events advertised around College, no socials, no mention of the CUSU LGBT+ events around college, let alone a [themed formal] of our own."

"Cambridge is a place where I can finally be my complete self. I don't want that taken away from me."

In a statement, Trinity College said: "We are looking into this matter, which we take seriously, and will respond fully when that process is complete."