

UCS Committee 2013-2014

Glover Room, Gillespie Centre, Lerner Court

11.05.2013

Present

- Harry Peto
- Kiri Koumi
- Ollie Russell
- Jenny Boddy
- Ben Fraser
- Anna Ritchie
- Cleodie Swire
- Robin Elliott
- Aimee Hesketh
- Clare Lewis
- Fingal Plumpton
- Georgina Collie (Invited by Harry Peto)
- Matt Hempstead (Invited by Harry Peto)

Apologies

- Rebecca Harris

In attendance

- 1 **Charity Rep- Georgina Visit (Harry)**
 - **Purpose:** Georgina was invited to attend the meeting to make representations to the committee regarding the creation of a position within the UCS focused around charities. She sought to press two points:
 - a) That there was an immediate need for the creation of a 'charity rep' role as this area lacks representation in the UCS Committee.
 - b) When amendments to the constitution are eventually made, an executive position of 'Charities Officer' should be created. This would be a voting position on the UCS exec.
 - **Discussion regarding interim creation of charities rep:** The committee was happy to create the position of a charities rep. In the meeting that took place on 27.04.2013 there had been a vote in favour of creating this position subject to constitutional amendments.
 - **Representations made in favour of creating a voting position:**
 - a) A large volume of charity works takes place within Clare. UCS exec involvement is required so that there is a visible place where advice regarding fundraising can be sought. Furthermore, there is a symbolic need for the UCS exec to affiliate itself with these charity events.
 - b) A voting officer would be able to liaise effectively with other UCS executive officers and work in conjunction with them on events and campaigns that overlap. This point was illustrated by a possible collaboration with a Charities Officer and Women's Officer on the breast cancer awareness month campaign. The creation of the role would also

- lighten any current burden on executive officers who's remits overlap with charitable interests.
- c) A voting officer would improve communication to students about opportunities to get involved with charitable work in Cambridge. The 'Charities Officer' would be the clearly identified person to approach regarding information about these opportunities.
- **Question 1:** Where would charity officer fit in within QCOEF hierarchy?
Answer: The charities officer would be involved with QCOEF but would not be head of the organisation. QCOEF is an autonomous charity and heading it up is a considerable role in itself.
 - **Question 2:** Why does the role need to be voting?
Answer: Charitable issues have a significant bearing on the lives of students in college. The funding of charitable causes could be more easily facilitated. Furthermore, a charities mailing list could be created as well as a weekly newsletter. Overall, the role would be so large that it merited a voting position as it would be coordinating a range of charitable interests.
 - **Question 3:** What would be the position of the RAG Rep if the Charities Officer position were to be created?
Answer: The Rag Rep is not directly linked to college or the UCS. It is an unofficial college position and is appointed through applications to the RAG committee.
 - **Question 4:** Charity affects people outside of college, the UCS exec is for Clare Students, why is a vote needed? (Question about conflict with UCS aim)
Answer: Funding for a charities officer would not go directly to charities. It would be used to help stage charity events which would then raise money for charity. That way students will benefit from events and charities would receive money.
 - **Question 5:** Would the creation of a Charity society not be a better way of solving these issues?
Answer: A Charities Officer would be more official than a society and show greater college interest. It could co-exist with a society and a Charities Officer. Current societies will be encouraged to become more official.
 - **Point Raised in Response:** There could be a conflict of interest between a Charities Officer on the executive who also heads up a society.
 - **Non-executive Officer:** The President raised the point that a third option, the creation of a non-executive officer, was a possibility. A non-executive officer is elected by the student body and is accountable to them. They do not, however, have a voting position on the executive committee.

Georgina Collie left the Meeting

- **Discussion of proposal by the executive committee (Note, this took place after Matt Hempstead had also left the meeting):**
 - a) It was felt that expanding the committee might create inefficiency. Other reps may seek a voting position.
 - b) There were concerns that a Charities Officer was not sufficiently involved in dealing with the student body.

- c) There could be increased competition between the UCS and Charities re events, therefore, less money to be put back into student life.
 - d) The committee did not feel that the need for a voting position on the exec was made out
 - **Vote:** All against creating executive Officer.
 - **Discussion as to whether a rep or non-executive officer should be created:**
 - a) If a non-executive officer were to be appointed they would be directly responsible to students rather than the executive.
 - b) Ethical and Environmental Affairs Officer may wish to take on the charities role. Therefore, there may not always be a need for a Charities Officer.
 - c) An election would help publicise the Charities Officer role.
 - d) Applications may be judged in a more impartial manner than an election.
 - **Vote to create non-executive officer role:** 1 in favour, 9 against, 1 abstention
 - **Vote to create Charities Rep:** 9 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.
- 2 **Clareif Online Matt Hempstead Visit (Harry)**
- **Purpose:** Matt Hempstead was invited to attend the committee meeting with a view to putting forwards the proposal of putting Clareification online.
 - **Proposal:** To upload the biweekly 'University' edition of Clareification to the UCS website. The edition that will be uploaded is the edition produced for students who do not go to Clare. Therefore, no reference to Clare students or the 'Clareifornication' column will be uploaded.
 - **Discussion:**
 - a) Uploading the paper to the UCS website might attract more people to the UCS website.
 - b) The paper would become more accessible, both to Clare students and other colleges.
 - c) From a green perspective, less paper copies of the biweekly edition would need to be produced.
 - d) Paper will be accessible via raven login and deleted at the end of each term. This removes concerns over outside access
 - e) By putting the biweekly intercollegiate version online, no sensitive content will go online. Moreover, Matt will take responsibility for the content published.
 - f) Potential to include advertisement for Clare Ents, Clare Politics etc.
 - **Action:** Create Clareification on-line

Matt Hempstead left the meeting

- 3 **Working Party Old Court (Ollie)**
- **Objective:** To find an executive member to sit as the undergraduate representative on the Old Court development Committee.

- **Action:** Robin Elliott will sit on the Committee. He will seek the exec's opinions regarding the development before he attends committee meetings and will report back after.
- 4 **Sky TV (Kiri)**
- **Proposition:** A motion was tabled to consider the option of getting Sky TV in the LCR. CUSU have brokered a deal with sky whereby JCRs can get Sky TV at charity rate.
 - **Discussion:**
 - a) There is a demand for the sky TV in the LCR.
 - b) The cost of getting Sky TV at charities rate would be £1000 per year. This was felt to be too expensive, given current expenditure on other luxuries such as the coffee machine
 - c) Concerns were raised that too much of the UCS budget would be invested in the LCR.
 - d) The possibility of only subscribing to Sky Sports was floated. This proposal was rejected as there were concerns that people would be alienated by sport dominating available TV viewing in the common room.
 - **Action:** The proposal was unanimously rejected.
- 5 **End of term Recycling (Fingal)**
- **Objective:** To find someone to work with the British Heart Foundation in implementing their recycling scheme after term has finished.
 - **Context:** The British Heart Foundation is providing recycling boxes to college. Items thrown away or left after this term has been concluded will either be sold or used for charitable purposes.
 - **Action:** Kiri should be around to work with British Heart Foundation.
- 6 **Society Finance (Ollie)**
- **Proposal:** The treasurer wishes to change the way that speech based societies are funded.
 - a) Speech based societies will apply for the funding that they think they need at the start of the academic year.
 - b) This money will be syphoned from the societies budget account into the UCS account.
 - c) Every time a speech is organised the society will request access to some of their funding from the treasurer to cover expenses.
 - d) At the end of the year any remaining funding will be given to the speech based society's bank account. It will, however, be taken into account in the following year's funding application.
 - **Discussion:**
 - a) Proposal supported by the senior treasurer.
 - b) Allows the UCS to have a tighter control on the funding of speech based societies.
 - c) Any extra work created will be taken on by the UCS exec treasurer. It is hoped that the next UCS treasurer will continue to implement the change but this will be optional.
 - **Action:** All were in favour of the change.
- 7 **Matters Arising**

- **Hot Chocolate:**
 - a) May drastically increase milk usage
 - b) Increase in mess likely.
 - c) Librarians are handing out cake and donuts this term. Therefore, there is no need for hot chocolate as well.
- **Will be revisited next term**
- **Linking Welfare Website and UCS Website:** There will be discussion between the Welfare Officer and the Computer rep.

Meeting Concluded