



# Union of Clare Students

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## UCS Full Committee Meeting Minutes 12/05/2019

Latimer Room, Old Court, Clare College

A record of the third meeting of the UCS Full Committee

### In the Chair

Natalie Chapman Vice-President

### Present

Natalie, Conor, Nick Gregory, Nick Hall, Eloise, Ella, Georgia, Harry, Katie, Isha, potentially other people who didn't speak and so I can't identify if they were there.

### Apologies

Me (we changed the meeting time, this isn't my fault), Dan, David, James, no-one else had an excuse but also wasn't there.

### Feedback

In a futuristic turn of events, I am recording the meeting without actually being there! Wild. In all events, thank you to Tarn for recording this!

Natalie has no idea how to chair a meeting and says so. No other business has arisen, but my minutes were "great" (and I wasn't even there to dig for compliments!)

### Finance

Conor went to a Finance meeting on the 7th, the results from which were that the utility bill is going to go up 55% and the gas 18%, so rents will be raised. Staying outside of term will now be £29 instead of £27 (still cheaper than a Travellodge in Central London by a country mile) unless it's for academic reasons, in which case it's now £21 not £19. RPI (direct quote from Conor- "I'm actually not sure what that is") is going up by 2.4%, whilst the kitchen fixed charge will be going up by 2%, but all of this is dependent on Brexit (even on the recording there is a palpably nervous laughter here.) Keys and card replacement charges are increasing by a pound.

It turns out Eloise knows what RPI is (it's the Retail Price Index, and I as a listener of this recording was just *waiting* for her to save the day on this one) and it's to do with inflation, so all these increases are part of a nation-wide thing and not Big Tone trying to do a number on us.

### Services

Nick has taken action on the vending machines via email so hopefully we can decide what we want and get it refilled more often; he's going to email Jackie about getting microwaves



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in the LCR but it doesn't sound likely due to health and safety. There is a debate between Conor and Nick as to exactly why there would be an issue with a microwave in a library.

## **ITEM ONE: CUSU MOTION 1 - University funding for climate strike.**

Someone was coughing a good deal during this, but the gist is that the University should pay students £80 to go on a camp which will shut down a power station- the idea is that your financial situation shouldn't stop you from engaging in environmental action. There is a general feeling that this is a good concept, but that the money could be better spent. Nick points out that the university's priority is education, not funding people's hobbies. Natalie says that the camp probably won't get that much done anyway.

The motion is put to the UCS. There is a silence because apparently we vote by putting our hands up now, which is very useful for someone working off a recording. I think I can hear Vicky asking if she gets a vote. Someone tells her no. Natalie helpfully states for the record that the motion has been denied.

**Action: none, motion denied.**

## **ITEM TWO: CUSU MOTION 2- To support abortion law reform in Northern Ireland**

At the moment in NI abortion can result in life imprisonment, regardless of how the pregnancy came about; every week 28 women travel to the UK for abortions. The student union in Ireland want the UK government to take action, so the motion is really about CUSU supporting them.

Again, the voting takes place IN SILENCE, but it is passed! Hopefully unanimously.

**Action: motion passed.**

## **ITEM THREE: CUSU MOTION 3 - To support the Regent House vote on student disciplinary procedure.**

Regent House is the official governing body of the university, and this motion is about accepting the new standard of proof- so that when someone comes forwards with an accusation of sexual abuse etc, they want to change the standard to a balance of probability which means that you can come forward without "absolute proof" of something happening: they will then listen to the circumstances and decide whether it's likely that that happened. The CUSU vote will be on whether to put money into the campaign to make sure that they do pass this motion.

Apparently CUSU have been campaigning for this since 2014 and this is the final stage- apparently it seems likely it'll pass.

**Action: motion passed.**



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Someone very helpfully says we should say the motions so that I will be able to write them down! Unfortunately it doesn't really help since no-one mentions numbers, but thank you for the thought.

#### **ITEM FOUR: EXTERNAL MOTION- climate emergency.**

This from Izzy Rudd, who wants us to follow the lead of the university as whole in regards to climate change, publicising the fact that there is a climate emergency and "making an effort to do green things" and support student campaigns. Everyone is in favour.

**Action: motion passed.**

#### **ITEM FIVE: MOTION - University Slave trade enquiry**

As publicised Cambridge is launching an investigation into its ties with the slave trade; colleges have to take part and CUSU would like us to petition the college to make sure that they do that and open the archives to students, as well as contributing to reparative justice.

**Action: motion passed.**

#### **AOB**

#### **Upcoming events:**

Tarn would like you all to know that on the 21st there will be a library committee meeting- get in touch with her or the librarians if you have any concerns or questions.

We still want people to do access tours- the dates for these will be on the bulletin.

Welfare will be holding an are evening in the next few weeks!

Nick will be holding a Eurovision watch party- more details on the bulletin.

Nick would also like to know when we will "get money."

Conor doesn't have the answer.

Conor has been left with less money than he should have for this term and so needs to discuss whether this money is for us or for freshers.

Harry wants to start a disability/mental health family scheme separate from the college family; Isha wants to do something similar.



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Services Nick wants to know if there is provision for a Clare personal counsellor as the University ones are “notoriously awful”; it’s pointed out that the nurses are really good but they’re not officially qualified. Apparently since we have two nurses and someone who comes in for higher level cases Helen seems to think the college thinks that’s enough, but at the moment she’s quite overstretched. Conor can take this higher since other colleges often have things like this and they’re “always better than Clare.” His other example is that as an insomniac, if he’s up at three it would be good if he could use the library; however, unlike many colleges, it’s not 24 hour. There is debate on whether the UL is an acceptable substitute (general consensus being no), and Natalie wonders whether attempting to make the library 24 hours is an option. Some people think it should be; Natalie thinks it might have an affect on people’s mental health. Isha thinks it could work if its combined with messaging to the effect of “don’t actually be here for 24 hours. According to Natalie there are other rooms around college which are open 24 hours which we could advertise potentially?

**Action: Tarn will look into 24 hour study spaces.**

*Meeting adjourned God  
knows when: everyone  
seems to depart in an  
orderly and stable  
manner.*