UCS Full Committee Meeting Minutes
The Gatehouse, Clare College
15:30, Sunday 16th June 2019
A record of the eight meeting of the UCS Full Committee

In the Chair
Dan Wright  President

Present
Harry Ezra, Nick Hall, Nick Gregory, Abby Glaze-Nelson, Eloise Trimingham, Ella Nevill, Katie Veitch, David Barton

Apologies
Vicky Grennan, Georgia Appleyard, Tarn Chamberlain James

Sent a photo of themselves with a pint in a garden like people with no Union responsibilities

James Rodgers, Jonah Zur

Pre-meeting chat:

General discussion of how WILD BCD was the previous evening. I inwardly pondered how rowing- a sport which is, on the surface, very square- has become such a mad night out.

Feedback

To my eternal shame I managed to say in the last minutes that both Access and Class Act were outward. The truth is that Class Act is, in fact, inward. My deepest apologies.

Dan started to say something about action plans and it was at this point, 10 minutes in, that Nick Hall ambled in.

Dan’s feedback: Meetings with Senior Tutor/ Bursar
We are definitely going to lose the Hall at some point due to building works but Dan doesn’t know when: possibly 2020. We might look into finding a partner college for discounted formals, though apparently they will still take place, just smaller and possibly in a tent.
More Hepple Room drama (I don’t even know where the Hepple Room is): apparently someone told us it wouldn’t be closed? MCR Jonty is Not Happy (I refuse to call him the MCR President, it feels too formal.)
There will be a Schools Liaison Officer when the current one goes on maternity leave: this was a real issue for Access and has been satisfactorily solved!
Jackie is also very happy with the various BAME and Mental Health mentoring schemes so those have the go ahead.
In terms of addressing out of term room rate increases: the careers tutor will have money to cover this, the travel grant can be used and there will be a reduced rate if you’re staying for something academic.

**Officers Feedback**

**Access**

The new SLO is called Chris and will only be working 2-3 days a week as there won’t be as many school tours. However there will still be the BAME days and the link schools scheme: so the scaffolding behemoth isn’t ruining absolutely everything. At this point a man wandered past the Gatehouse and took a very obvious photo of us on an iPad. We all looked to our glorious leader for reassurance and possibly protection. Dan was worryingly unfazed. Access have also managed to get the official Uni of Cambridge instagram to do a live Q&A once every half term with various students. We also still need student and course profiles for the website! Finally, there’ll be a newsletter to various schools to keep them updated about current events etc as visits are less doable, and the freshers workshops are now able to include tour training.

**LGBTQ+**

College have stolen Nick’s Big Gay Flag and he is fuming about it. A very strongly worded email is being composed. This prompted Services Nick to state that someone has stolen the much-promised squeegee sponge from the LCR: “so that’s another campaign promise gone,” he reflected, bitterly. He will not be replacing it- perhaps we could tie them up like the pens in Argos?

**VP Feedback**

Nat and Dan did not go to the CUSU council on the CUSU/GU merge: they made it sound as if they were too cool to go, really. Apparently next term it will be all change, however, as the new Sabbs will come in. Also from Nat: the societies photos are all now online for you to buy (who, exactly, is buying these?)

**College Council Feedback**

No-one knew what the college council was and Dan used a Soviet analogy to explain it which no-one understood. As far as I can tell it’s like an interim stage before the governing body so they aren’t bothered with as much. The new library system will be going ahead and the librarians are all now mental health first aid trained; in addition the academic skills sessions
will be going ahead and the librarians are also releasing academic literacy guides for freshers before they arrive called CamGuides. We have Archive People apparently: they found what Dan called “cool stuff” including a letter from Oliver Cromwell promising safe passage to Clare lads because “they’re just such good guys” (direct quote from the Lord Protector.”) I made a face and was accused of being a Royalist: Dan claimed I was on the wrong side of history- actually I just object to him putting Irish babies on pikes. Nick Hall considered defending this and thought better of it. Clare is committed to expanding and funding their own access outreach programme and is also open to the idea of a foundation year, which has been successful at the Other Place.

**Motion: create an £150 yearly Gender Expression fund**

Proposed by Dan, this would be managed discreetly by the LGBTQ Officer and would fund trans and non binary students for things like binders etc.

Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Dan will speak to Conor about it.

“Speaking of Conor, when will I get money for things?” - Nick Hall. We do not know. The yoga teacher has not yet been paid. The children, they are hungry. Where has Conor gone?

**May Balls**

Dan has had the idea that we will not promote any May Balls which do not have discounted bursary tickets: he tried to make it clear that this was not a boycott but I am firm in my belief that we should call a spade a spade, and therefore this is a boycott. As we mts probably won’t have a ball for a while we are going to attempt to find another partner college- Dan thinks we’re about the same level as Emma but I think we should offer ourselves as a Johns’ charity project.

**Random grievance**

David has only met his DOS once and would love to repeat the experience. Most people don’t know their tutor: although we don’t want to make meetings with them compulsory, we’ll aim to make it so there are scheduled meetings for everyone at the start and end of each term which people can take up if they wish.

**STORAGE WARS**

The MCR are also happy to help out with trying to recycle at the end of term. The sale will take place at the start of Freshers in order to help international students and will be planned into the timetable. Jackie is also keen on us using BHS bins for donations of spare and unwanted stuff at the end of term. Ideally we need one person per staircase to have a look
in their gyp at the end of term and assess what stuff is unwanted and get it washed ready to donate.

More hair doll news: Dan knows someone who makes wire dolls but they don’t have hair in, which either means this is a collaborative project or someone with a lot of spare hair just saw a wire doll and an opportunity.

**Freshers’ week planning**

Dan is going to meet with the bar staff to plan Freshers: we will probably keep the same sort of thing as last year. Nick Gregory suggested the college buying club tickets for freshers and selling them - this would probably be good for welfare as some of the UCS can guide the hordes safely to the club (and then leave them). Someone needs to talk to the reps about this.

General consensus that the free post-church brekkie in Freshers very much needs to be kept. Nick Gregory is also concerned about the amount of freshers on each staircase - can it be monitored so there aren’t any with just one or two on? Eloise confirmed that rooms are already allocated but that there will be so many freshers in Mem it’s unlikely anyone will be isolated as he was. We are attempting to reduce the amount of talks the freshers have to sit through but it’s unlikely the fire one can be cut: Gregory’s succinct analysis of this is “the reality is that half the fire talk is a lie.” He claims that the idea of steam setting off the fire alarms is also a lie - Eloise and I exchange horrified glances as we have been paranoid about this for months. Dan contradicts him as someone he lived with had a “relaxing orb” (he specified “not dodgy”) which released steam and this set it off multiple times.

Anyone with any other thoughts on Freshers’ week please get in touch: Eloise was concerned we “might not be representative”, to which I responded that that is literally the point of us.

**AOB**

I, personally, am fuming that we have to leave by 12 at the end of this week due to conferencing (how much can they take from us!) - some of us are not from the London/Southern area and will have to be so kind to the parents getting up at 6 am to pick us up! Northern erasure is real and this is just the latest example, in my opinion.

*The meeting adjourned at 16:20; I am still dissatisfied about the leaving deadline but am coming to the conclusion that the UCS is not just an*
arena for my own
cal personal grievances.