**UCS Full Committee Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Room 1, Clare College Colony

17:00, Sunday 24th November 2019

A record of the eight meeting of the UCS Full Committee

**In the Chair**

Dan Wright

**Present**

Natalie, Katie, Isha, Nick H, Eloise, David, Georgia

**Apologies**

Ella, Harry, Tarn. No-one else apologised.

**Pre-meeting chat:**

Katie’s mum brought her some frankly delicious fridge cake, which she very kindly brought along, and now Anna Veitch is my favourite person and I love her. Let the minutes show this.

**Feedback from last meeting:**

Oh God, so many errors in the minutes. Katie had coffee, not tea; it was David who was ignored by the puppy people, and Eloise overheard someone discussing the first year position, she didn’t actually speak to them.

In my defence, it had been a really long week.

**Living wage campaign**

This week we had a guest! Our first ever! We absolutely did not know how to behave. The lovely Lily from Clare’s living wage campaign came to ask some questions (not many of which we were able to answer, sorry!). Firstly, it appears that once again Clare would pass on the cost of their moral obligations to us, by increasing buttery prices to fund paying the living wage - however, although we think the percentage increase would be in the single digits, no one is sure yet exactly what it would be. King’s apparently had a specific amount of their budget they had to make up in order to pay the wage, so this will be found out by the campaign. The bar workers have very nobly said they don’t want to be part of the campaign as it will pull focus from those who actually have to live off their wages, so arrangements need to be made so we can be accredited for the living wage whilst still (reasonably) paying the bar staff lower wages than the bedders, for example. Other colleges will be looked at for examples. Questions were asked about the MCR being involved: since they’ve decided they don’t like us anymore we were all very sniffy, apart from Dan, who claims he “has a very good working relationship with the MCR President,” which to me sounds like a lie.

We discussed the idea of buttery prices going up - people despaired, but I brought up (having worked in catering - not a flex) that sadly, that just is what food costs? In the grand scheme of things Buttery food is not great, but it absolutely isn’t massively overpriced in the way people seem to think it is. However, the general consensus is that the KFC is an issue in this respect as you’re subsidising others twice - once at buttery and once when you pay the charge. I think it’s a bit like tax, but then again I famously do not know how money works.

**Officers’ Feedback**

**LGBTQ:**

Nick ambled in in his suit, gave some great points, and left. Inspiring behaviour. He’s noticed that other colleges have welfare details on the back of toilet doors (contact details for welfare officers, helplines etc) and thinks this would be good in Clare. David has also seen this done on library desks. I pointed out we probably should avoid posters with people’s faces on them if they’re going in loos, and Georgia said very vehemently that she does not want people thinking about her whilst they’re taking a shit. David started screaming, quietly.

Nick, emboldened by the success of yellow week, will be holding a rainbow week in February, to incorporate Natalie’s LGBTQ history month display. There will also be a “big gay formal” and he and Isha are going to collaborate on a big intersectional Clare Pol panel.

**Secretary**

I actually had feedback for once! I met with Brenan to talk about the difficulties we’ve had in using and booking rooms, and the main takeaway was that it’s going to get even harder as Old Court renovations mean we have less rooms, but Brenan is pretty firmly on our side, which is nice. Additionally, if you do book rooms please remember you have to fill out a catering waiver a week in advance to bring your own food!

**CUSU**

Dan is going in Nat’s place this week, though sadly not wearing a Nat mask.

Motion: to support CUSU’s move to encourage the University to ensure all staff receive anti-bias training on racism.

At the moment anti-bias training is compulsory, but there’s no way of checking whether someone’s done it, so CUSU would pressure the University to improve this. Isha thinks this would be an excellent idea as she has heard of a few instances at Clare recently where buttery/formal staff have shown bias against students of colour. We discussed how formals can definitely be a breeding ground for bias - hardly any other colleges have to stay in their seats the whole time, and this isn’t made clear to guests especially - yet white students seem not to get told off as much as students of colour are for not knowing the rules. The university as a whole has already committed to getting an anti-racism Bronze Chartermark (aim high, lads!) so CUSU are asking them to really get on it and stop asking staff to act on their biases (cough cough Prevent).

Motion: passed unanimously.

Motion: to use £250 of CUSU’s funding to contribute to LGBTQ History Week - last time this was a huge success, involving not just students but the local community.

Passed unanimously.

Motion: Homerton have proposed a motion in regards to the DRC/UCS strike controversy; however, the situation has clearly changed since the motion was proposed and so we decided we’d wait until we had more information to vote on it.

**Welfare**

Dog therapy is happening! There is a very high turnout of dogs but not a massive room, apparently. Natalie and I requested golden retrievers, which Georgia proceeded to call “the basic bitch of dogs”. I am not responsible for any threats she now receives.

**Buildings**

If we want to change rents we need to do so soon - important to note that the sum total of rent has to be the same, it can just be allocated differently. Questions about rooms will be included in Dan’s infamous Big Clare Survey. We also discussed how much you get screwed over in fourth year by the ballot, but we’re unsure what to do about that.

**Puffers**

They’ve been a tremendous success but quite annoying for Dan. I am still mystified.

**CUSU Referendum**

The New-Su has won, all hail the conquering grads. The pizza party was “a complete joke” the system is apparently rigged towards smaller colleges, who coincidentally have smaller pizza bills… We are officially throwing CUSU into disrepute. Dan and I are reminded of the World Cup semi final, in which so many of our hopes and dreams were crushed. Clare Hall is Croatia; Dan a defeated, knobbled, noble Harry Kane. I am Maguire purely on regional grounds.

**Strikes**

Dan somehow managed to attack himself? “If Tarn were here,” he says, “she would ask where the dossier I said I’d do is, and to that I would say: I am only one man.”

Basically he’ll do it tonight. Update: he did it and it’s attached this week!

Due to the strikes and the teach-outs, we are now essentially paying nine grand a year for kahoot, though Dan cut this convo short as we did not have the time to “discuss kahoot in the depth it deserves.” He did say, however, that “the music absolutely slaps.”

In respect to this, I played the ten hour kahoot remix for the rest of the meeting.

**Gardens Committee**

Dan was forced to go and it was “one hell of a two hours.”

Apparently it will cost £750 to lift anything over the river for the renovations, due to us having to lift a small crane with a big crane. I wish I had made this up.

The Avenue will remain open throughout the works, and there was lots of tree appreciation, which is nice - all the trees are protected.

There will be a plaque to commemorate the gardens being open for 127 years when they shut, which is both lovely and very sad.

The Gardens will close 29th of June 2020 - to reopen at the earliest in July 2022. We are all so sad.

SOON: we will all be held accountable to our manifestos. Yikes.

*Meeting adjourned at 18:30, kahoot still playing softly.*