**UCS Full Committee Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Room 1, Clare College Colony

7pm, 28th January 2019

A record of the first meeting of the UCS Full Committee in Lent term.

**In the Chair**

Dan Wright

**Present**

David, Katie, Isha, Natalie, Eloise, Abby Glaze-Nelson (bizarrely decided to go full name when they all had to say who was present, I rate), Georgia, Rowan, Jayme

**Apologies**

Me (doing it from a recording, no rest for the wicked), Ella

**Pre-meeting chat:**

Katie doesn’t have shoes on and Isha has just ratted her out.

**Feedback from last meeting:**

Dan can’t remember if my minutes were correct but he feels they were. They had better be, as I did them two days before Christmas.

**Officer Feedback**

**Accomodation**

The ballot will be out soon, so Eloise needs to organise tours to let people look around. Volunteers needed (everyone wants to do it so they can see other people’s rooms. Creepy.)

**BAME**

Access day on Monday (hope it went well!) Isha would like people to be aware that these will take place on Monday afternoons so if people are free then to let her know then she can use them as backup.

**Sports and Societies**

Jayme has liased with someone (unsure on the acronym) to set up a Sports Day on the 29th of February (not the fun bean-bag related one, sadly) and asked if anyone had any “sports ideas?” which sort of is his whole job. Apparently the person he liased with would like a pool game to be featured as well as more traditional sports, but the pool tables are in pretty bad shape.

Natalie asks about the gym - to refurbish it would be about 5 grand, so Jayme is going to write a proposal to get an alumni or someone’s rich parent to name it after them and fund it. Abby asks about a rowing machine. Frequent readers of these minutes will notice this is a recurring theme.

**A brief interruption for non-UCS members to complain**

Keji and Amit have now joined the game. Dan explains the Purim issue, starting with Conor’s statement, which everyone requests he should do in an accent. Thankfully, no one does, though I was on the edge of my seat. In summary, JSoc has come under fire for supposedly taking UCS funding to host an allegedly exclusive Purim party with college money. At the top of this incredibly long piece I would like to make clear - this doesn’t represent the views of anyone on the UCS, it is merely a record of what was said in as succinct, balanced and unbiased way as possible. In fact throughout the exchange barely anyone from the UCS speaks.

A copy of Conor’s statement is included in the bulletin.

I would like it to be known that when Dan mentions the “anonymous fourth year JSoc member” the room ERUPTS in laughter.

Someone has an INCREDIBLY loud laugh and I cannot make out who it is, but it sounds painful.

Natalie asks some questions: Yom Kippur was in September and Purim is in March, so why has this come up? Amit says it’s really about the next one, and that he doesn’t see why the UCS should be funding members of JSoc to “have dinner.”

Natalie asks if he thinks JSoc are just asking for money for their own food- Amit says that they were being exclusive as not all of Clare - or even all the Jewish people in Clare - were invited and that they should either invite everyone or not hold it. Abby says the Gatehouse won’t hold that many people -Amit suggests Cellars - she says that the Facebook event does say that if non-invitees want to come they should message. Amit then counters with the idea that if he asked “Gilbey to invite all 300 members of college he wouldn’t be happy with that.”

Isha points out that it’s very uncomfortable to message.

Apparently the funding rules aren’t clear - Amit thinks the UCS shouldn’t fund socials. Natalie asks if JScoc do anything but socials, as she’s not clear- they do, they did a Holocaust Memorial Day screening a few days ago.

Dan: “There are two issues here - one is that the party should or shouldn’t be opened to everyone, and two that there are issues with the allocation of funds, though the purchase of kosher wines is mentioned in the allocation, so we can;t go back on that. A closed private event that’s funded by the UCS is probably not desirable, and we definitely do need clearer rules on funding.”

Dan asks about the general feeling in the room. There is palpable tension.

Natalie points out that the allocation was above board and that JSoc didn’t try to hide that they were buying alcohol, so the issue is really that it’s a closed party. Amit likens it to him “having a house party for a hundred of my friends and then getting the UCS to pay for it,” which is quite a statement.

Abby asks whether Purim isn’t about being close to people and seeing the people that you love so it should be that the organisers can choose - Isha says it doesn’t always technically work like that - Amit points out that a lot of Jewish people in Clare just weren’t invited. Abby says that surely everyone in JSoc was invited, so if people aren’t in JSoc why should they go to their events?

Amit says it reflects badly on everyone since it’s a group of eight boys who- and then tails off.

Jake Gilbey would now like to phone in and make a statement.

This is reaching Pinter levels of absurdity.

Dan says “this is so multimedia,” which was a nice wholesome touch.

Jake has the problem explained to him - by Amit - as “you’ve set up a party for your friends, called it a Purim party and got the UCS to fund it.” Silence.

Jake says “And so what is it that you would like to happen, Amit?” in the tones of a harassed dad, which for my money is the funniest thing anyone has said all meeting.

Amit says it should be open to everyone - Abby says the Gatehouse can’t hold them - he again suggests Cellars. Jayme says you can’t bring your own drinks into Cellars. Amit suggests then that everyone comes, or it doesn’t happen.

Gilbey hits back by asking whether, when he was chess society president, he made every effort to include the whole college.

Amit says people signed up, so they were invited to events. Jake says that the same has happened with JSoc. Keji says that when they did hold events, he put them on the Clare Freshers page.

Jake would like it to be made explicitly clear that they have never said people cannot come - they should message for invites. “There is absolutely no one who is a member of Clare who isn’t invited if they don’t want to come. We can’t make it a public event as we would go over numbers and it would have to be shut down.”

Natalie doesn’t think this is a good enough reason. Eloise suggests making it public and making people sign up for tickets, Keji agrees. Jake says that it differs from other events as it is a religious festival which is a part of “our culture” and that they are trying to introduce others to this. He also says that he doesn’t feel completely comfortable with making it super public as it is an event celebrating Judaism and it would be open on social media, which he says has been generally not been done as anti-Semitism is, regrettably, a thing. He also makes clear that he doesn’t think anyone would actually do anything, but that he has been to enough Jewish events in his life that he realises that these events are always kept fairly lowkey, as well as the fact that there have been anti-Semitic events in Cambridge in the past.

Amit thinks he is straying away from the main point - it is a closed page and he doesn’t think anyone in Clare is an anti-Semite; Jake asks if he has personally vetted everyone; I am frantically attempting to represent both sides. There have been incidents of anti-semitism in Cambridge; Jake points out no-one knows who did that, so there is still a chance.

After some more debate Amit claims that Jake is stealing money from the college, which from an objective standpoint is not true.

Jake states again that anyone can come if they ask, that it is open, and that he doesn’t feel comfortable sharing it very publically. Dan thinks we are not going to come to any sort of reconciliation - he says Jake’s reasons for privacy make sense, and asks if he would be comfortable posting on the Clare Freshers chat that people can message him for invites. He would be. Amit is appeased. I think Dan should get a Nobel Peace Prize.

There is more controversy but quite frankly if I wrote it all down I think there would be consequences.

Everyone reassures Rowan - new freshers rep - that this does not normally happen.

**CUSU Feedback**

Motion: to support cutting all ties between Cambridge University; Natalie voted for, passed.

Motion: to support and act in solidarity with the state of Kashmir as many students are having problems contacting family. Voted for; passed.

Motion: to give some of the leftover CUSU Council free budget to a mindfullness event by FLY (exploring tarot for women and non-binary people of colour); voted for; passed.

Motion: to use the same budget to print the first issue of Decolonise! - again, Natalie voted for, it passed.

She’s in the process of arranging Small Halls for smaller subjects. Everyone started talking at once so I hope nothing was said that was important.

**Women’s**

Georgia has been arranging events for International Women’s Day with GEM - she’s holding a party with Christ’s Femsoc at the end of the term and there’ll be a women’s formal again next term.

**Welfare**

Katie and David met with Helen to discuss this term - they want to hold an event for students to support friends with mental health issues but they’re being ignored by CUSU and Student Minds, which seems ironic. They’re going to distribute more information about mental health support services around college, as well as trying to organise a welfare bop with STI testing.

Natalie dares to bring up Yellow Week (Second Of His Name), so these events may take place then. Isha is explaining how STI testing works to Jayme in the background, which is mildly horrifying.

**Presidential Chat**

In order to resolve the aforementioned budget issue we’ll run a survey and then an open meeting to get people’s ideas on how allocations should be treated, in order to “restore domestic tranquility”.

**Student Loneliness Campaign**

Based on the results of the Big Clare Survey Dan would like to create a “world class student loneliness campaign”, which is mainly posters and maybe a few events with the college nurse’s advice. He also did research on Camfess, which honestly sounds draining.

**Big Clare Survey**

Dan has been starting to look at the data; 130 responses so far, mainly first years - Dan feels betrayed that third years don’t care. The main points to come out are that most people are happy with academic life though don’t know about the essay tutors, in terms of welfare no-one meets their tutor which is pretty bad, and one out of four people would feel comfortable going to see the Welfare officers if they had an issue (the same as the Dean!).

Dan thinks we should have an anonymous suggestion form as only two thirds of respondents would be happy contacting someone they didn’t know.

Most people appear happy to pay slightly more in order to support the Living Wage Campaign

**Living Wage Campaign**

They’re going to write a petition/ open letter, signed by us and the MCR, and hopefully by fellows too. The Bursar hasn;t replied to any requests (which seems to be a trend - why does no one want to reply to us :() Dan, I cannot hear a word you said after this point. Again, hopefully not important.

**Puffers 2 - The Sequel**

Another order is being made! Dan has seen them around a lot and this makes him really happy, unless he’s wearing his at the time, which embarasses him.

**Storage**

The MCR has a cupboard to put spare stuff at the end of the year (like pans etc) where people can take stuff they might like, but Jackie doesn’t want us to have one as the MCR one is so chaotic. Dan wants a rack to go in the CCR so it’s obvious and can’t get in a mess, but people can still leave and take things to avoid waste. After the fireworks earlier this is unforgiveably dull, sorry.

**Bin Chat**

Basically none of the freshers are using the food compost bins and some of them have disappeared (we only have about 12 for the whole college), but its agreed that freshers were generally a bad group to test this on. Apparently you can go to Jackie Searle and ask for a bin? You do then have to maintain the bin.

Ten minutes of bin chat. I am not recording this.

**Elections**

These will take place in the second half of Lent term. Mark is going to hold more UCS drink mingle things, which was very exciting when we went last year.

**AOB**

Eloise asks about the plans for the gym - will they just replace the machines or choose new, and if so who will choose? Jayme is going to send out a survey, but at the moment they’re just going to replace . Eloise points out the gym is very male at the moment - only really weights as opposed to rowing/running - Jayme says the gym is basically too small to fit more machines as cardio machines can’t go on the upper level.

Oh my god everyone is just shouting. I just nearly threw my laptop out the window onto Chesterton Road. I don’t think there’s an actual dispute, there’s just too much to say.

Everyone says bye to me on the recording, which is sweet.

*Meeting adjourned at some point about AN HOUR AND A HALF after it started.*