**UCS Minutes**

Computer Room, Clare Colony

19:30, 25th February 2020

A record of the seventh meeting of the UCS Full Committee.

**In the Chair**

Dan Wright

**Present**

Jayme, Rowan, Eloise, David, Georgia, Nick H.

**Pre meeting chat:**

I expressed mild agitation at how long the hustings minutes were. Little did I know.

**Feedback from last meeting:**

Minutes all correct.

**Officers’ Reports**

**Sports and Societies**

Sports day went well! Fifty people came from Oxford and a jolly time was had by all, including free Domino’s - tragically Clare lost ⅗ events. Apparently Jayme was running around taking photos of everyone - please, everyone, take a moment to imagine Jayme as a classic Sports Day Dad, possibly barbecuing, definitely wearing knee length shorts.

He is still fuming about the gym, as at the last moment his gym proposal was STRUCK from the agenda at college council -which he had rearranged a supo to attend. Dan is going to arrange a new meeting, because “they can’t run forever” (except they could, if we refurbed the gym, and had a treadmill.)

**Freshers’ Officer**

Rowan has done a survey of the first years, the results of which are, frankly, damning. The main issues are that they feel they don’t know what’s going on with college facilities in terms of the building works, and a whopping 23% want “more communication from the UCS.” At this point I very nearly threw my laptop across the room. If you are a fresher, and you are reading this - which feedback would suggest is unlikely - *do you actually want more emails? Really?*

38% didn’t understand the rooms ballot. Eloise now feels very attacked, as just last night she was writing a report about all the things people want more info on (this has now been sent out, so if you want to complain about not knowing about the building works, do just check that first.)

They also apparently asked if anyone could come to meetings, and my notes for this section are just the word DUDE!!!!!!

For clarification - yes, anyone can come to meetings!

**Accomodation**

The building works are going well, St Regis is finished - no one has a clue what this is, but it’s progress. The trees are being cut down in preparation for the next stage.

Buttery will be closed from September - it’ll be in the tent.

Georgia’s official observation is “That’s shit and it’s against my human rights.” She also suggests a move to another college - “Clare Hall can become Clare formal hall!” Eloise also thinks we should look into negotiating cheaper formals with another college.

Everyone is very angry that money is being spent on the cafe, but sadly the money was given explicitly for the cafe so can’t be moved around.

Dan worked out how to lower his chair and is now tiny.

College are working on a carbon strategy by Phil Allmendinger, of whom Dan says “he’s the best, I love him”: this is an overall plan by the college to reduce our environmental impact.

**Welfare**

Yellow week good! Pancake day also good - although there was no microwave, and Katie and David had to steal toasters. In 15 minutes they had lost 100 pancakes and waffles, which is odd phrasing but impressive.

David asks if we can agree on, for next year, making clear to the welfare team (ie all the officers to do with welfare) that they all have to turn up for events, as it’s mega stressy for just two people. Apparently the MCR does this, and it works well.

Random Update on Dan’s Life: Dan and MCR Jonty nearly went to the races together on a classic lads day out.

**Women’s**

Georgia is going to do a big International Women’s Day thingy - it’ll be in the Gatehouse and, never fear Amit, everyone is invited.

**LGBTQ**

Megaformal was “great and wholesome,” although some people haven’t paid.

Dan is also owed money from people, so suggest they go round and ask for it together. I cannot work out which of them I would be least intimidated by, but I suggested that Dan on Nick’s back like a very threatening backpack might work.

Conor has not paid Nick for a week. David scoffs. He hasn’t been paid for a term. I am reminded of the bit in It’s a Wonderful Life where Jimmy Stewart starts screaming “WHERE’S THE MONEY, UNCLE BILLY! WHERE’S THE MONEY?”

**CUSU council**

This taken from Natalie’s messages, so no jokes.

I voted for banning firearms at freshers fair (they are impossible to remove during access hour when many who are vulnerable or threatened by weapons would be attending the fair, plus replicas and pictures can be used and easily put away at this time). It was amended to not affect military-related organisations. This passed.

I voted against the Homerton motion to petition the uni to compensate students for contact hours lost - primarily because it encourages a marketised view of the education and doesn’t show solidarity with the validity of the strike, not to mention as discussed in the council this is literally impossible to work out or implement, and as we still have supervisions unaffected the university would just say no. This motion was not passed.

I voted in favour of improving international student representation in CUSU (by spreading awareness of how student politics works to foreign students unfamiliar with the system)

This passed.

I voted in favour of a transparent scholarship database that collects all scholarship information in one accessible place for those who need it. This passed.

I voted in favour of funding 100GB of uni wide cloud storage for note sharing etc during the strike. This passed.

**Academic Affairs**

(Also taken from messages)

Blythe room computer rooms

- IT department have been to have a look and they are very happy for us to enhance the room in the way we see fit

- posters on notice boards, better lighting, signs telling people where it is, comfy chairs

- I will talk to Fred Parker at some point to discuss whether we can use the Parent’s Fund to buy supplies etc

- I am also going to talk to housekeeping about getting comfy furniture.

Nick Gregory (his own category)

- big up Nick’s work stocking the LCR

- the librarians have noted a big difference and are happy with your work

Colony study space

- Also very happy with this

- all three meeting rooms will be available as study spaces for next term

- I will make sure to brief the next Academic Affairs Officer about securing the study space for next Michaelmas and Lent.

**Presidential Feedback**

Dan reminds me of how badly I messed up attending college council (in that I did not turn up for half an hour.)

Living wage - Lily did a great report which went down well, and the Bursar is going to move payment closer to November (from June) to January, which has some sort of significance to the legal aspect of the campaign.However, the big news is: they are pursuing Living Wage Accreditation!

Clare Bar, is, however, a sticking point - in order to become accredited they would need to pay the bar staff the living wage (which they don’t want, and which would cost about £83,000 more a year), or find a way around this. Essentially some things like formal hall and the bar will increase if a solution can’t be found. There will be an open meeting to establish an increase in the KFC if such a thing were to happen, which would be an increase of £150 to cover the need to pay everyone the living wage. This is something we’re trying to avoid.

Kate Litman, CUSU Women’s Officer, has created an open letter from the women’s campaign , which calls for a centralised system for handling sexual misconduct in the wake of the Tit Hall news. Dan has signed this on our behalf.

IMPORTANT: Puffers are sold out across the whole United Kingdom - so if you’ve ordered one and haven’t got it you will have to wait.

Jayme says go to ents. No further comment.

*Meeting adjourned 8:00.*