



Union of Clare Students

Beth Kelly
Secretary

Union of Clare Students
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UCS Full Committee Meeting Minutes

Glover Room, Clare College

15:30, Saturday 18th May 2019

A record of the fourth meeting of the UCS Full Committee

In the Chair

Dan Wright President

Present

Natalie, Conor, Ella, Eloise, David, Isha, Harry, Tarn, Abby, Harriet

Apologies

Nick Hall, Vicky Grennan, Jayme Benson (Isha confirmed to us all that his sister was, in fact, actually here), Katie Veitch

JUST NOT HERE NO APOLOGIES

James Rodgers, Jonah Zur, Georgia Appleyard, Nick Gregory

Feedback

Highlights from this week's pre-meeting chat were that we had all had weird dreams involving Barack Obama and some people didn't know what sea monkeys were.

Apparently my minutes were fine (win) although there was cowardice on our Supreme Leader's part as he did message me prior to ask if I could make it clearer who was speaking. To this I say: say it to my face, Dan.

Referring to Izzy Rudd's climate emergency motion last week, Dan would like it on record that there will be concrete action from us on that.

Minutes from various subcommittees during the week will be attached to this one.

Feedback: subcommittees

Welfare & Liberation

The Game of Thrones debacle was fed-back on. I would write this all out except I have had to hash it out so often this week that I can no longer face it and, in any case, all our issues with it are solved now, and the nightmare that was (screening) series 8 is over. My watch has ended.



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However, in good news, College Nurse Helen has cited the screenings as the best welfare activity she's seen! Maybe for you Helen, maybe for you. Thank you very much to all who came and please keep on attending welfare events!

We will be updating the college's respect and dignity policy (which is a written document) so that it covers all bases: hopefully this will include adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Association's definition of anti-semitism, as well as the all-party Parliamentary group's definition of Islamophobia.

Services

Essentially the takeaway from this one was that college hate the idea of keepcups (maybe you spoke too soon, Dan...)- Abby seems slightly traumatised by their vehemence.

College would like us to come up with a solution to the millions of plastic water bottles they get through at conferences: the obvious solution, floated by all of us, is that they just use jugs and glasses like normal people. Unsure why this is an issue but apparently the water needs to be more portable (?) Discussions still ongoing.

It's likely they'll be removing the laptop-free desks in the library as no-one respects that rule anyway.

There is currently something of a conflict over attic storage space in Colony: it belongs to the UCS and is mainly for international students to store their belongings. However, college have told us that it is "a filthy firepit" and that they are taking them over in order to convert them into more rooms. Eloise made an intrepid trek up there and can confirm that, whilst they are a mess, "filthy firepit is an exaggeration." However she did find a metal doll full of human hair, so we can safely say those attics are cursed and no-one should possibly consider going in. Regardless, we'd like to try and keep them so that there can be non-paid storage for international students- Natalie suggested doing a big clearout and possibly donating items. Anyone with any issues or thoughts on this should contact El Presidente at dw531@cam.ac.uk.

Sports and Socs

Marriage formal went well and there may even have been a small profit- hurrah. Dan wasn't aware he was on the certificates as a witness so would like to apologise for being a witness in absentia.

Finance

No-one is happy about all of the various prices going up (as detailed in last week's minutes) but we do have to remember some things are connected to RPI (ie inflation) and so rises are unavoidable. However, we will be doing our best to ensure that things like research (which would be affected by the out of term raises) don't become an access issue.

There was also a debate over the Kitchen Fixed Charge- some people would like it to become optional, but it was then pointed out that this will cause prices to go up for everyone else. It also became clear that no-one really knows what the KFC is or does.



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Action: we will ensure that the college provides an explanation for the price increases. More research will be done into improving the KFC. The UCS's official position is that it is unacceptable for the college to squeeze students in order to make up a shortfall caused by the building works on Old Court.

CUSU Feedback

It appeared democracy had broken down last week as we had voted against giving money to students to go on a fossil fuels protest, but then Clare voted for it in Council: however, this is due to new information, like the fact that the money will be given on a means-tested basis and also has to be spent, so it was this or it going to waste. Democracy is restored.

CUSU, and everyone else with a brain, are very upset about the Justice For Men and Boys talk taking place in the Alison Richards building and are working for a way of constitutionally banning them from the rooms (at the minute it's only "terrorists" who are banned. The more you know). There's a link to the petition against this on the bulletin- please sign!

CUSU and the GU want to merge: Natalie is unfazed by this but apparently people got very heated in the meeting. Again, there's a link to give your thoughts on this pressing issue in the bulletin. Also- exciting news- the Actual Proper President, everyone's Facebook friend, Evie Aspinall HERSELF will be out and about in college trying to get views on this. Dead exciting.

AOB

We are still looking for various reps and I'll send a reminder about this in the next few days. We discussed the minor issue that the college sells gowns for £45 in Freshers week but you can get them cheaper in town: however, according to the testimony of several UCS members, these ones are terrible quality and, all things told, you are better off buying one from Clare (it also supports the UCS. Please let us have our yellow t-shirts.)

Harriet brought up the issue the cleaners are having which is at the end of the year they just bin anything left in rooms or gyps: this is obviously a massive waste and they don't particularly like doing it anyway.

Abby has spoken to Izzy Rudd and Jackie Searle about this and apparently there is a swap at the end of the year to lessen this issue, but no-one ever goes. We all pondered.

Natalie suggested we could have boxes for people to donate things they would otherwise leave or throw away, like for foodbanks. I was informed that a whole actual griddle pan was thrown away last year, which makes me feel sick to my very core.

However, to donate things we would need volunteers to go through the things- college has offered us rooms for an extra night to do this. We also thought of storing the things and selling them cheaper in international freshers week, since it's the sort of thing international freshers usually have to buy here (pots and pans etc) and we could reduce waste this way.



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No actual conclusion was reached, so I'm hesitant on actioning this, but rest assured we are thinking about it.

*The meeting adjourned at
16:27 with everyone
dissolving into hysterics
at the photo of the
hair-doll on Eloise's
phone. I wish I could
unsee this.*