**UCS Full Committee Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Room 1, Clare College Colony

17:00, Saturday 25th October 2019

A record of the fourth meeting of the UCS Full Committee

**In the Chair**

Dan Wright

**Present**

Natalie, Ella, Nick H., Eloise, Jayme, Tarn, Vicky

**Apologies**

Everyone else. Quiet one this week.

**Pre-meeting chat:**

I was late because, much as I love my mother, she and I have very different attitudes to timekeeping, so cannot tell you much of what went on here, but there was brief badger chat and I heard Tarn say the phrase “the badger has swag.”

**Feedback from last meeting:**

All minutes correct (I assume, no-one has said anything.) Dan has spoken to the gardening team about the patch of land we want for an allotment and they are happy to help out! It will be more of a wild patch so just involves planting seeds - I am plumping for a classic Cbeebies bug hotel, if anyone has any know-how on that. Nick mainly supports this as it will give him a nicer view.

I have just realised Nat and Dan are both wearing their UCS stash. Did they decide to do this independently?

Keep cups are moving forward - they will probably be in the Clare colours so red, black and yellow.

**Presidential feedback:**

Dan went to Pres Con, which he describes as the G20 summit of CUSU. God, the glamour of it all. However, it was not well attended - only 8 presidents turned up but it somehow lasted two hours. Should Brexit ever actually take place, they will be presenting info on this; the phrase New-Su was brought up, which is what the cool kids at CUSU have decided to call the proposed merged union of CUSU and the GU, and which I find abhorrent. Nick suggested “CUSU Two: Electric Boogaloo”, which I am a great fan of. Additionally, Dan found out that other colleges are actually far more harsh on alcohol related issues than we are (citing Brennan’s very polite email re: the vomiting in cellars. Get it together please Freshers! Don’t make Brennan sad!) - some have harsh fines for vomiting (around £80), and Trinity tried to have an entirely alcohol free day in Freshers, which apparently didn’t go well. Apparently this fine is paid directly to the cleaner, which to me seems more than fair: quite frankly £80 is a fraction of what you’d have to pay me to get me to clean up someone else’s vomit. Eloise, on the other hand “would fight to clean up vomit for eighty quid.” Economists.

There is a digression into the inadequacy of the new Stone Cold, which is so far from what it should be now that it’s laughable. Jayme is not impressed. Apparently he lived on them in Michaelmas, and look at him now! No harm done at all. Somehow the phrase “They can’t stop us” came out, which is now the UCS motto.

In reference to the vomiting in the JCR saga, it was discussed whether Ents workers can actually turn away people who are obviously too drunk when they arrive - at present they have no power to do so.

Ella keeps telling me to “write that down”, which, surprisingly, is in fact my whole job. In retaliation I am not writing down anything I am told to, and if she says it again I shall expunge her comments from the written record of the UCS *in perpetuam.*

We want to link up more with the MCR so that we can do an event where students can ask grads questions about grad life, funding etc - everyone thinks this would be a good idea.

The KFC War continues - the college have a pretty airtight legal loophole in which they can just say the KFC is a charge for being a student, not related to rent.

Clare puffers would be £36 - the UCS would very much like to do a photoshoot in them.

After “long and hard” negotiations, Dan has secured “some” free waterbottles from “the green people” which need to be picked up from West Cambridge “because that’s where the science is” (copyright B.M. Kelly, 2019). I realise this is a vague sentence but Dan can’t even tell us how many bottles there are, so there you go.

Kings’ have turned over their squash courts to us, so Ward is now Squash King. Jayme offers to help. What is going on with this business of Jayme being all helpful?

**CUSU Feedback:**

New-Su (still don’t like) is a hot topic: apparently there are lots of different campaigns who all want to elect a sabbatical offers for various issues, and they’re really the only people with opinions on it all. One person at Clare has raised an issue, according to Dan: the new scheme would combine the access and education sabb roles into one, which they felt could be an issue. We decided it’s probably okay - in fact integrating access and education is probably a good thing! Additionally, there is a slim possibility that, once the unions have merged, all the sabbatical officers could be either undergraduates or grads - but Dan thinks this will sort itself out. The MCR supports the merge as CUSU has a lot of money/staff and the GU has nothing, so this would make it fairer.

MOTION: to endorse proposals and authorise referendum on merge. Unanimously passed.

The University wants to change the U Bus route, which would massively affect people at Girton and Homerton.

MOTION: to endorse opposition to the proposed route changes. Unanimously passed.

Class lists have reared their ugly head again: it seems to be something that people are either very against or do not care about, so probably best to to get rid as it fosters unhealthy attitudes of competition. Also, for those degrees where employers want to see how you ranked in your year, you can still see where you came - just not where everyone else did. MOTION: To support the abolition of class lists. Unanimously passed.

**Access feedback:**

Ella met with the new SLO, Chris. Apparently participation in access tours is really low, so please apply! As we can’t do tours of Clare due to the building works, we can go with Trinity on their tours so prospective applicants can see a college but have their Clare related questions answered. Ella thinks Trinity could be a little intimidating, so they’re also going to see if Tit Hall want to be involved. There will be school trips in November and subject taster days are being organised, so the scaffolding hasn’t ruined Everything (but it is *so* hideous). There is an issue with CUSU’s shadowing scheme - apparently Clare can now only take 5 people a week, when before it was unlimited. We’re not sure why, so Ella will see if she can find out. Due to all of this, they will be using social media more and sending out a newsletter with application tips, adverts for masterclasses/taster days/free lectures and personal experiences, which can be sent to sixth forms and colleges. There will also be a q&a video on Instagram - Natalie suggested that we email responses to all the questions rather than just showcasing one, but there are some very strict guidelines on contacting children (as there should be, really), so that will need to be thought about. We also thought about creating a database where students at the access link schools could send in questions for current students - this would be really helpful.

**Social secretary feedback:**

At this point in time Halloween Formal prep was going well - having just attended it I can confirm it was a really lovely event and Vicky did an excellent job.

**Buildings:**
Eloise has secured a skip for Saturday, so we will be cleaning out the attics then. Finally, Storage Wars can come to an end. Unsure on what to do with the hair doll, but Vicky said she might use it for the formal. I would have loved for it to be sat in Big Tone’s chair like some eldritch horror but sadly that did not come to pass.

**Academic affairs:**

Tarn is working on finding a permanent study space in Colony, though this will probably take place in Lent. She’s also trying to improve the Colony IT room, which is possibly the most cursed place I have ever been in my life. The Colony Common Room was brought up but it doesn’t seem fair to turn a social space into one for studying, especially when there’s the implication that it should be silent. Turns out most of us are stressed about the silence of the FML ( I don’t go in anymore as I am genuinely concerned I’m breathing too loud), apart from Eloise who demands more silence: apparently there are people having EXTENDED CONVERSATIONS in there. She would define this as “more than a double interchange.” You have been warned.

The Eduroam crisis continues, but sadly there is absolutely nothing we can do. Ella called Uni of Cam wifi “shit” and then requested I expunge this from the minutes - clearly there is a real and present risk of her being deaned for calling an inanimate wifi service “shit”. Even more funny, Vicky believed this. There is a diversion into Clareification, and in a move to make these minutes a more positive place, I have included a lovely compliment from an unnamed member of the UCS (I cannot remember who said this): “Henry is really good at writing.” Expect more compliments to random members of the student body next week.

It’s great now Jayme comes to meetings - he has just confidently asserted that Nick Hall (student) is married to Bob Sloan (porter).

**AOB**

Dan wants to take inspiration from Robinson’s open day and have all our campaigns (Living Wage, Divestment) come together on the Clare Open Day.

We want to change the way the thank you letters from those who receive bursaries are framed - at the minute it apparently feels demeaning and patronising, and not very personal (you fill in an online form and it’s implied that you have to do so.) I suggested the college could provide cards which people could write actual thank yous on and then could be sent via Tutorial - this might be more personal. CUSU are, as ever, on the case.

And finally:

Where Has Big Ketchup Gone. Everyone is very distressed that the ketchup dispenser has disappeared once more, although once I mentioned the horrible things they found in the MacDonalds’ in town everyone was significantly less wistful for it. The UCS would like to ban sachets, but we don’t think we can.

Even more finally, some lovely news for your week: the Colony cat sleeps on the printer in Plodge because it’s warm. This made the whole room lose their minds.

*Meeting adjourned at 18:00; everyone is still thinking about the cat.*