**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, Jayme, David, Nick H, Eloise, Harry

**Apologies**

No-one actually said they couldn’t make it, so therefore anyone not here did not apologise and is therefore rude and inconsiderate and will **not** get premium wine at Small Hall. Natalie and I have decided this.

**Feedback from last meeting:**

Minutes were NOT correct but I didn’t write them, so. Dan incorrectly said that Natalie had reported that the hair doll had “no legs but a sculpted butt” - in fact it had no arms. Update on the doll: it is still in Colony in an undisclosed location. The most recent reports have it wearing a pot for a helmet, in boat club stash.

**Presidential feedback**

Dan has put forward proposals for a welfare wildflower garden and more study spaces in Colony.

Clare has had a meeting on Prevent -apparently if you don’t like Prevent you just give them loads of not great data, but we don’t know if we did that or not. Information! David does not know what Prevent is and is frantically trying to conceal this fact.

An access funding guide for Clare has been created - CUSU’S Access sabb, Lily-Rose, is getting everyone to do this,so Dan believes we will be prepared “when they come knocking.” Who, exactly, is they?

**NU-SU (I refuse to write New-SU, I hate it) Feedback**

The yes campaign is fronted by Edward Parker-Humphries, so if you have any thought on it get in touch with him, I guess? As is their wont, CUSU will throw a free pizza party for the college with the highest voting turnout. Why on earth they have this much money, I do not know - maybe they should merge, and then the grads can get in on these stacks of cash. David thinks we should lobby to get this, because then he can pass it off as a Welfare event.

Apparently Sidney wanted drugs testing kits, but their senior staff vetoed it in case a death is caused anyway - much like Gazza and his streak of ill-fated advice in the noughties (please

ask me for more detail on this, it is tragic but also deeply hilarious.)- but CUSU, defenders of the weak etc, will be stocking them anyway.

Languages centre funding: apparently Clare is pretty middle of the road here.

Kitchen Fixed Charge - some colleges have yet to abolish theirs - CUSU want everyone to as then they can accurately compare rents across colleges.

Everyone needs more sexual health supplies because - and this surprises us all - John’s have run out of johns! Massive dad joke credit to D. Wright Esquire.

There will be a sports day next term? I have no idea, apparently there won’t be an egg and spoon race, ask Jayme.

MCR Jonty was “cold” to the idea of a mingle: the grads do not want to meet us. They do not want us in the MCR, and they do not want to come to Cellars. I quote: “the thing is that we do that anyway, we just don’t want to.” I would now like to vote down Nu-Su so that the MCR get no money at all.

**CUSU Feedback**

Natalie voted as we discussed re: the previous two motions, and they were passed as we wanted.

*Motion: the disability access campaign would like to apply for £350 of funding to run events during UK Disability History Month.*

*Passed unanimously.*

*Motion: the Welfare campaign would like £400 to fund a Sex Workers Opera Workshop, as some Cambridge students are involved in sex work and this would be a training session wit the Sex Worker Opera Collective (who give performances and workshops), sharing advice and training and giving an introduction to sex work politics. This wold also enable other campaigns to better support sex workers - a high percentage of student sex workers are LGBTQ or disabled.*

Dan is pro this as other unis do more to support their sex worker students. Natalie adds that the data the campaign put forward is that 5% of students in Swansea are involved in sex work, so this is actually a pretty big demographic - although it was raised that this is possibly an inappropriate use of data. This was also one of the current welfare sabb’s main campaign points, so it would be good to do.

*Passed unanimously.*

*Motion: CUSU to run a postal vote registration drive as they’re worried the student vote will be suppressed.* Dan says they will essentially do that anyway.

*Passed unanimously.*

*Motion: to continue to support and encourage a boycott of the National Student Survey,* which hasn’t reached 50% response in 3 years. The NSS contributes to the Teach Excellence

Framework, which allows universities to charge more. In addition, it also reveals a negative bias against female and BME academics, and CUSU’S protest is against the continuing marketisation of higher education. There are still plenty of avenues that don’t contribute to the TEF which students can use to give feedback.

*Passed unanimously.*

**UCU Industrial Action**

Dan will meet with Tarn to discuss how the strikes might affect students from an acadmeic affairs pespective.

The New Museums site will be behind the picket line but the counselling service is there, which is a real issue - a reluctance to cross picket lines shouldn’t lead to anyone’s mental health suffering. The Counselling service will speak to UCU, and CUSU Edward will speak to the head of Services (not Nick Gregory.)

All supervisions are covered by college so shouldn’t be cancelled, and should take place within college grounds so they can’t be picketed, but they may be cancelled anyway. Students who don’t want to cross the picket lines and so miss anything important should hopefully be covered by CUSU so that there are no consequences for your academic life. For clarification, as it isn’t especially clear what staff are striking for/against: there is a massive gender pay gap in how lecturers are paid, and additionally lots of staff are students (postgrads) who are overworked and underpaid.

There is a campaign to organise group learning for those missing lectures - more from Dan and Tarn soon.

As it’s not exams and so there is no Absolutely Pivotal reason for people to cross the picket line, we discussed whether it’s okay to recommend that students don’t? Essentially, lads,it’s your decision, and if for example you are a scientist and your life will be ruined without lectures, you absolutely shouldn’t feel pressured to miss them. The UCS will put out further guidance soon!

**Voter registration**

CUSU will encourage people to vote but we can’t encourage them to vote in Cambridge- please look up where your vote makes most impact and follow accordingly! Nick at this point commandeered Nat’s laptop to check where he could vote. Lead by example!

Turns out pizza parties do work to encourage people to come to things, ie a voter registration evening - David is not shocked, as he remembers well the success of pizza speed friending. If you made a friend through this event and you are still friends now, please write in! Let us know. There will be hustings for the General Election in the first week of December and CUSU, as ever, will provide a manifesto.

**Welfare week**

Clare Yellow Week is currently in full swing and we hope you are enjoying it! Jamie didn’t know what Yellow Week was, but in fairness he didn’t know what his own role was until recently (and he’s doing great now!)

**Sports and societies**

Squash inductions are now over but if you still have a burning desire to be inducted into squash then message Jayme.

If you use the CCR, again, please write in - we have some plans for the space.

**Living wage campaign:**

Dan went to the Living Wage Campaign event, where loads of freshers came and he gave them info in his sage, old man way. He suspects college will use the usual excuse that students will have to pay more in order to pay staff the living wage. Dan will have a look at the accounts and see if this is the truth. Natalie suggested charging conferencing more or taking away some of the benefits from the Fellows.

I asked Dan if he felt very old and embittered with all these new idealistic voices. He was very impressed with their drive but yes, as suspected, he did feel like sighing and telling them “Look kid, I was like you once…”

It was suggested we could boycott buttery to achieve this, as King’s did it to great effect. In that case - because Eloise looked deeply panicked - we might end up running UCS cookery lessons so that no-one starves. I wish - God how I wish - that this was an over exaggeration.

**AOB**

David would once again like to co-opt something for Welfare - this time it’s the proposed garden in Colony, which was suggested should be called the Barton Welfare Garden. We then realised it sounded like David had died, to which Natalie solemnly promised him that “If you do die, I will campaign for your name on the garden.”

Dan received a letter with a wax seal, embossed with C.G. He assumed it was Catherine the Great. It was not, it was Cambridge Gowns, and they want to sell us recycled polyester gowns for £26, which we will recommend to the next year’s UCS. Natalie thinks the company were on Dragon’s Den, and that Deborah Meaden supported them. She’s Dan’s favourite, if anyone would like to know.

Eloise would like snacks for meetings to improve turnout, but I reckon we might not be reimbursed and I’m not going bankrupt on biscuits.

Natalie asks if we can complain to buttery about the meals because “they are bad.” There’s a move to change the dinner options from two meat to one meat one veggie and one vegan, which Lee and the head chef are in favour of, as well as introducing vegan puddings.

*I found out that the buttery now does cheesecake and honestly? Don’t know how I feel.*

*Meeting adjourned 18:00*