**UCS Full Committee Meeting Minutes**

Castle End Meeting Room, Clare College

17:00, Tuesday 15th October 2019

A record of a meeting of the UCS Full Committee

**In the Chair**

Dan Wright PRESIDENT

**Present**

Tarn ACADEMIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Katie WELFARE OFFICER

Harry MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITIES OFFICER

Eloise BUILDINGS OFFICER

David WELFARE OFFICER

Nick H LGBT+ OFFICER

**Apologies**

Jayme, Victoria, Georgia, Natalie, Nick G, Beth (these minutes were actually taken by Dan so that’s why they’re really boring), Isha

**Last week’s minutes**

All confirmed last week’s minutes were correct (congrats Beth)!

**President’s Feedback**

Dan attended college council and met with the Senior Tutor & Bursar beforehand; he intends to send out reports from the contents of these meetings where they’re of special interest.

Divestment from fossil fuels was discussed. This has been offered by the college but this is conditional on the student body voting for a simultaneous increase in rent and buttery prices to meet the increased cost of fees that would be ongoing if Clare chose a different tracker. College is not currently running a surplus so doesn’t have cash on hand to meet these costs. Tarn suggested seeking a longer-term meeting in the middle whereby Clare pledged to divest once it returned to a budget surplus; this was met with approval in the meeting and Dan will discuss options with interested groups, such as the ever-hardworking Clare Sustainable Investment Society.

The college admissions report was heard at college council. The most relevant points were: Clare has exceeded Cambridge/Office for Students targets for widening participation; a steady decline over the years in offers to link area applicants; Clare taking part in UCAS adjustment for the first time (offering 2 places to applicants from target demographics who weren’t offered a place in January); changes to the format of Open Days; and the suggestion that the Open Days be used to generate online content for people. Katie said that she had heard on the Access Tour that it’s hard to know how many Clare link area applicants end up at other colleges, which is a good point.

CUSU continues its investigation into the legal position of the KFC (which by law has been rolled into rents at Clare since those extra fees aren’t legal anymore).

Permission was granted at college council for the Clare Garden Party (fronted by our own VP Natalie) to go ahead in the gardens later this year! Watch this space.

**CUSU Reports**

Natalie will produce a report into the CUSU Council that took place this week, which was apparently very long, very heated, and a bit tedious. Dan volunteered that a couple of the main motions were a motion for CUSU not to work with Socialist Workers Party (SWP) front organisations due to their history of rape apologism and other terrible things, as well as a motion to support UCU members if they go on strike. Though the UCS did not discuss these motions, Dan and Nat agreed to support these motions.

**Freshers’ Week**

Dan thanked everyone who had helped out with freshers’ week and passed on glowing praise from members of the college staff. Dan also used this opportunity to praise Katie and David for putting on a better, wider range of programmes than some other colleges this year according to fresher feedback. It was agreed that Dan would add a questionnaire about freshers’ week to the Big Clare Survey (due soon) to pre-empt some of the (constructive) criticism that would come about during the next elections to the UCS.

The UCS was shocked and appalled to hear that Beth and Eloise toiled away running a joint punt mixer with Christ’s and Jesus in which no Clare freshers turned up and the Christ’s and Jesus representatives left Beth and Eloise to do much of the work. Though happy to run events with these JCRs again, the meeting was still inclined to seek revenge somehow.

**Officers’ Feedback: Welfare**

David said that Bake Off screenings were meant to begin tonight but were derailed by issues booking the Riley. Apparently the members of college responsible for the Riley don’t really want to be the one to deal with the UCS no so tend to pass David on to someone else. The screenings may end up in the Latimer Room. Eloise suggested a meeting face-to-face to hash out use of the Riley.

David also reported that puppy therapy is looking more and more like it will happen and that Caius have volunteered a room for it!

Katie reported that yoga would resume on Thursday and volunteered some plans for Week 5 (which, for the freshers’ who haven’t given up reading this, is notorious for the Week 5 blues). Before the meeting there was talk of a Yellow Week (or something-else-not-Blue Week) with a bumper crop of welfare events to combat these blues.

The welfare team are meeting with Helen and Nick to discuss finding a college counsellor for Clare; Helen will be resuming her usual services very soon. Harry will join this meeting.

Someone emailed Katie asking if we’d be interested in taking on many, many consent-themed coasters. We all agreed that we’d love to take them (so look out for a replacement for your meningitis-themed coaster very soon). Dan will also look at getting a hold of some of the green challenge water bottles to give out free to Clareites.

Dan suggested a possible partnership for Clare welfare with a stall in the market, a la crepe van deal, so keep an eye out for news! David and Katie discussed when they would next use their golden tickets with the crepe van (they may be in the pocket of Big Crepe), making everyone else jealous.

**Officer’s Feedback: Buildings**

Eloise met with Brenan, the Head Porter, about the storage situation in Colony. The UCS will take responsibility for getting rid or taking possession of the many, many janky old things in there. Current students who have things stored in there, particularly MML and AMES students on their year abroad, will be offered storage for free by the college, which is very good news and the best case the UCS was hoping for. Dan and Eloise will work together to take care of this.

**Officer’s Feedback: Academic Affairs**

Tarn asked Dan whether there had been any news on the proposal to have a study space in Colony, which they had discussed over the summer. Dan will work on the proposal more and Tarn will liaise with the lovely Clare library team. Somehow this spiralled into a discussion of embarrassing incidents when trying to leave the library (like thinking you’ve pushed the button and walking into the door, or trying to pull rather than push because it’s a handle) which I think (and hope) everyone can relate to.

On an unrelated note, Tarn also asked whether we could look into arranging a porters and bedders formal; the meeting agreed this would be a cool thing to look at. We also agreed to upload a copy of the Meet the Porters board (in Colony and Mem Court plodges) online so that everyone knows the porters better.

**AOB**

Dan met with the last UCS VP Rebecca about the living wage campaign in college. In the very near future there will be a working group, and perhaps a society, to embed the campaign in college and give it more of a presence. Will be a priority this year.

Dan was asked whether KeepCups are happening, to which Dan was very happy to say that yes, they might actually happen. Marie Bouvier contacted Dan over the summer about this and Dan has supplied her with various options, brands, and price points.

We discussed stash: Clare Puffers are being looked into at the moment and should hopefully be arranged soon. David asked about the start-of-term stash orders which Dan confirmed could go ahead soon.

The card for Peter, the porter knocked off his bike, went missing but a replacement was subsequently arranged so that’s all good and everyone’s very happy he’s well on the road to recovery!

The UCS is signed up to a new app for fundraising which we’ll share more news about soon!

*Meeting adjourned at 17:55*