



Jasmine Cavalla  
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### **UCS Lent 2024 Meeting Minutes**

LCR, Clare College Memorial Court

5pm, 17th February 2024

A record of the UCS Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Sally, Jasmine, Dan, Molly, Emma, Luca, Mary, Ed, Patrick, Haley, Carys

*Welcome to everyone who is attending the open meeting!*

### **Updates from last meeting**

Constitution reform

- has started! however is a much longer job than anticipated
- the aim is for the next committee to finish this job

Net-zero

- college is aiming to go net zero by 2038, however this has now changed to 70% due to financial difficulties
- main barrier for net zero in college involves renovating the buildings again, which is very expensive
- however, lots of positive work done; 25% decrease in energy consumption due to green licence and good progress in postgraduate accommodation
- renovations in memorial court staircase by staircase starting next year
- main concern is funding through student rent increases, which will negatively impact students

Thanks to Sing-Wei, Dan, Mary and Flora for the events ran this week!

### **Updates from committees**

*Feedback/important information from any of the meetings attended by UCS members in the past week*

Old Court updates

- continuing with renovations; latimer room may be delayed in opening but should be ready for CME
- issues with buttry have been mostly fixed; still trying to fix issues with the lift

Other updates

- looking into a buttry in castle court (will send out consultation)
  - will also send out forms regarding diet options in the buttry currently
- head of health and safety are looking into wheelchair access into cellars

### **Yearbook proposal**

*Ideas for a potential yearbook; a lot of other colleges do this*

Maybe send an email to see if anyone would like to do this?

UCS third year opinion is somewhat mixed



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## **Balloting**

*Updates regarding this years balloting for rooms*

Balloting is ongoing!

Kinetics system hasn't worked this year, however will still have a second round of group balloting for the shared ballot number

Single balloting was not sent out along with group ballots- this was not supposed to happen and is being followed up

Rooms have also been remeasured, leading to some increases in price beyond the expected 4-5%

Calculations suggest green licences have gone up by 5%, when they're supposed to only go up by 4%

Overall consensus is that the balloting system is very confusing

UCS should send out the document filled with the pros and cons of all the rooms in castle court

## **Upcoming elections**

*Dates for the upcoming UCS elections*

This week, applications for president and vice president will be sent out (a week's deadline)

The next week, there will be committee applications

In week 7 there will be a hustings, followed by elections in week 7-8

A drive will be provided for previous committee manifestos

## **Pronoun badges**

*Dan has some pronoun badges*

How should they be distributed?

Idea is to leave them in a public area (not all of the ones we have), and to maybe get more for freshers week?

Some of the libraries in Sidgwick Site also have them!

## **Complaints about misogyny**

*Issues with misogyny and uncomfortable behaviour from staff*

Strange comments being made to students from maintenance workers within Clare and separate issue of workers still taking breaks outside old court. Priya to follow up on this.

No specific reporting system; when in doubt, people can go to the senior tutor in order for complaints to be dealt with

Appropriate welfare officers can also be helpful during this process!

College nurses are also good and can help with raising complaints

May be a good idea to put all the information regarding complaints in one place- maybe something on the website/a pinned instagram post?



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**Varsity article**

*Discussion around a Varsity article about dean Mark Smith's C of E Governing Body voting record*

UCS emphasises that we are all here for queer students and that it's okay to be shocked/concerned

However, a meeting with Mark was had by members of the UCS which confirms some of the news was sensationalised, and the article didn't contribute constructively to the situation. If people are concerned about this, they are able to reach out to members of the UCS, or Mark (in A2), for more information.

**AOB**

Still need people on the Tower Hamlets open day (primarily for BAME students) on Thursday!

*Meeting adjourned*