



# Union of Clare Students

**Sally Edser**  
President

Union of Clare Students  
Clare College  
Cambridge, CB2 1TL

Email: sme42@cam.ac.uk

## **UCS Lent 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Castle Court Common Room

14:00, 21st January 2024

A record of the UCS Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Sally, Emma, Ed, Patrick, Flora, Haley, Mary, Carys, Molly, Priya

### **Pre-meeting preamble**

Happy new year!

Thank you Barakah for sorting out society funding

### **Updates from last term**

- *Vegetarian pricing*

Aadarsh to continue pushing for cheaper vegetarian options. Previously, it was stated that the cost of meat-free alternatives has gone up, but a lot of times the substitution is just vegetables, which are cheaper (eg beetroot instead of salmon at the Christmas formal)

- *Ents committee*

There were a lack of applications when Flora sent out the form last term, but looks like the ents committee will be able to be reformed with Jess anyway this term

### **Anthony Nolan donor recruitment drive**

*Sally has been emailed about potentially holding a stem cell donor recruitment drive from the Anthony Nolan charity*

Would be good to have a recruitment drive/raise awareness about signing up as a stem cell donor. Molly has offered to look into it.

### **College bill payment deadline**

*There have been a couple of complaints about how short the notice is to pay the term's rent*

It's a problem, especially as lots of students don't know the exact amount they'll be paying (due to buttery and cafe bill). However, it was pointed out that they've been accommodating in the past for people who can't make the deadline, so no action needed at present.

### **Events this term**

- *Marriage formal*

Flora will be in contact with Lee and Arletta about this

- *BAME Open Day*

Haley and Libby working together on this, though Haley is very busy with Clare May Event.

Open day will probably take place in early Easter holidays, though date not fixed yet. Emma



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says the open day should talk about support for refugee students, as part of College of Sanctuary scheme

- *Women & Non-Binary formal*

Already an International Women's Day formal this term organised by Clare Gender Equality Movement, so this will be next term instead.

## **Sexual Assault Policy Changes**

*Couple of issues with the current Policy on Bullying and Harassment*

There's a bit of a discrepancy at the moment with external reports, as either college policy, the policy of the other college, or university policy could be employed. Additionally, external representation currently only guaranteed for the accused party under college policy. Carys says it would be useful to be in line with the university policy. Magdalene College Oxford's policy was pointed out as an example of a good policy.

Priya to take this further.

## **Gym harassment signs**

*Priya suggests putting up signs in Castle Court gym about appropriate behaviour and harassment*

Idea that it would make people feel more comfortable. Priya also to talk to SU Women's Officer to try to get these put in the uni gym too.

Flora also raised the point that a lot of people don't realise about the Castle Court gym's women and non-binary hours, or don't respect them. They're currently not very well sign-posted - it was suggested there could be an email and a social media post to highlight that they exist.

## **Period products updates**

*Priya raised idea of having period cup reimbursements*

Agreed that the UCS could reimburse students for purchasing period cups, as there have been similar things offered in the past. It was felt that it would be better to reimburse students purchasing them rather than the UCS ordering & distributing them.

Priya also announced that there is a new company providing period products (who are more inclusive in their branding), and that they will be added to the buttery toilets soon.

## **Accommodation updates**

*Lucas sent updates about accommodation*

A survey asking people to send room photos for the new rooms database will go out soon

Info about the balloting process will also go out soon

The UCS will produce a document that talks about the pros/cons of the 2nd and 3rd year accommodation before balloting begins, to help the freshers make an informed decision about balloting



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## **Events coming up**

### - *BAME Social*

Joint BAME event between colleges going to see a play (10% discount) with social afterwards. Haley can't currently organise it, so someone else (potentially Priya) to take over on it.

### - *LGBT history month events*

6th February Clare Dilettante Society is having an evening of 5-6 talks about how LGBT issues play into the speakers' subjects

There will be a queer cellars event soon

Mary discussing with Patryk about a queer party in the MCR

## **AOB**

### - *Discussion of gender expression fund*

The fund has been almost maxed out, but it was agreed that Mary could slightly exceed the budget if necessary. Mary also to singpost the university-wide gender expression fund

*Meeting adjourned*