



Union of Clare Students

Jasmine Cavalla
Secretary

Union of Clare Students
Clare College
Cambridge, CB2 1TL

Email: jc2359@cam.ac.uk

UCS Michaelmas 2023 Meeting Minutes

Castle End Meeting Room, Clare College Castle Court

14:15, 8th October 2023

A record of the UCS Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jasmine, Haley, Patrick, Flora, Dan, Ed, Lucas, Molly, Luca, Emma, Sally, Mary

Freshers Week mop up

Sally thanks the UCS committee for freshers week.

There is a document in the freshers folder for the UCS committee to direct feedback for next years' committee

Also need to rearrange catch up inductions for gym and punts (can't be discussed as the relevant people aren't present)

Formal prices

It has been announced that formal prices and buttery prices have gone up, and they are removing the BYOD policy in favour of paying for the college's own wine

Emma brings up that there are students from other colleges that take part in formals e.g. choirs, and it was found that the buttery charge less for formals than on Upay (£9.30 compared to £12); good argument for suggesting that vegetarian meals cost college less and therefore should cost less, also has lower carbon footprint, etc.

Sally points out that vegetarian formals have in the past been slightly cheaper on Upay

Guest prices have risen from £18 to £25

General buttery prices have also gone up

Brought up that Aadarsh could have a meeting with Lee in order to potentially negotiate cheaper prices-

A nicely worded email from the UCS may potentially be a better way to negotiate (show the statistics from the form that Aadarsh sent out to students and the overwhelming feedback against the increase)

The UCS committee should help to draft a letter to those responsible for the increase over the next few days (around Tuesday)

There has been no consultation with the UCS and this decision will have an impact on students due to the cost of living crisis, etc.

Events next term

Important that we keep events going

Dan is planning LGBT+ events this term

Haley needs stewards for black history month events this term

It has been brought to Flora's attention that stewards need training before stewarding

May be worth bringing up steward training to Neil (Sally)



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Prayer room

The prayer room is now open and in W2

Haley and Barakah are planning on buying stuff for prayer room

Emma has requested an instagram post showing the prayer room

There are still some gowns and other miscellaneous items that are stored in there (such as cups)

Haley has asked if there can be a sign for the prayer room; however Sally points out that college don't want people to misuse the prayer room and 'overadvertise' it

Clare Ents

Sally says that it would be nice to revitalise the Clare ents committee, which stopped running last year

Flora will send out an email asking for committee members to sign up

Issues getting names changed on database/crsid/above doors

Big issues with getting crsid changes or getting their name changes

Mary asks if college have a process for name changes above doors; Sally says that this normally occurs halfway through the year

Jasmine says that getting onto UCS mailing lists, accessing upay, etc. is extremely difficult for those who have changed their crsid

Luca may try to get updated lists so that those who have changed their crsid can get emails

Haley asks if college holds onto personal emails; Sally says that they shouldn't have access to this unless necessary (though are added onto camsis and checked every year through the sign up verifications)

Also issue with the need to show their legal ID in order to change crsid; issue for people who may not have legally changed their name

Open meetings?

Constitutionally mandated to have open meetings once a term

Emma says this would be a chance for people to ask questions and raise issues

People may not turn up to open meetings

Sally says that we should advertise one in order for people to propose motions for the UCS to vote on

Could hold the meeting in a larger room so that more people can show up

Should ask other people from other colleges how they run things so that we can use their ideas

Could also inspire new UCS applicants

Sally suggests later this term for the next open meeting

Times for meeting this term



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Sally suggests another 'when to meet' for the UCS to suggest times for regular meetings

AOB

Rooms problems

- The college is moving to a new database system to upload pictures and so it's easier to make complaints/ask for changes
- Lucas has been promised photos will be uploaded for each room
- Mary has suggested maybe uploading photos of decorated rooms; Lucas says that photo uploads may occur during term time
- Sally says that the UCS a few years ago organised a tour for castle court for first years before the group ballot; something like this may be helpful
- Sally says it's worth having a form/letter to send to accommodations office around week 5/week 6
- Dan mentions an issue with freshers accommodation and freshers not being adhered to
- Molly mentions general issues with the ranking system not being standardised (on the rooms database); college are working to change this

Sports grounds

- we currently don't have a sports ground as it's now being rented out for the foreseeable future
- issue with communication; we were told there were building works
- we are able to use Queens, however there are four other colleges also using Queens

Computing issues

- a sizeable amount of the printers in Clare are no longer working
- the printer in the library also has a new system

UCS Website

- will be up soon!!

Summary of action points

Rearranges need to be made for catch up gym/punt inductions

UCS committee should draft a letter for the relevant parties regarding formal price increases

Meeting adjourned