



CUSU POLICY

A listing of the active policy passed by CUSU Council from the academic years 2013-14 to 2015-16, to be updated regularly. Policy is listed from the academic year prior to the active policy in order to make available recently lapsed policy, which students may wish to bring to CUSU Council to be renewed.

POLICY FROM 2015-16

EASTER II: 16TH MAY 2016

APPLICATION OF COUNCIL FREE BUDGET TO FUND EXAM-RELATED WELFARE EVENTS IN EASTER TERM

Proposed by the CUSU Welfare and Rights Team (proposition speech deferred to Chad Allen, GU President)

CUSU Notes:

1. That each Campaign Team has a discretionary budget of £400;
2. CUSU's system of participatory budgeting allows, among others, Officers, Teams, Autonomous Campaigns, student groups and students to request funds from the CUSU Council Free Budget, in order to meet the costs of running projects and/or campaigns;
3. That the CUSU-GU Welfare and Rights Officer is running 'The Big Chill' event this term;
4. That the CUSU-GU Welfare and Rights Officer plans to run 'Destress Fests' this term;
5. That each of these has, or is likely to, incur costs which cannot be met from the Welfare and Rights Team's discretionary budget;
6. That the Graduate Union is contributing half of the costs of the Big Chill and half of the costs of the 'Destress Fests'

CUSU Believes:

1. That each of these activities is important, and the remaining funding required should be funded by the Council Free Budget, as per the intended function of the Free Budget, and as other funding is not available.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To allocate £125 from the CUSU Council Free Budget to cover half the costs of 'The Big Chill';
2. To allocate £125 from the CUSU Council Free Budget to cover half the costs of the 'Destress Fests'.

MANDATING CUSU TO WORK WITH CAMBRIDGE AFRICAN-CARIBBEAN SOCIETY (CUACS) TO HOST AN ANNUAL ACCESS EVENT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF BLACK STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY

Proposed by Olivia Hylton-Pennant (CUACS President), seconded by Helena Blair (CUSU Access and Funding Officer)

CUSU Notes:

1. Black students at the University are extremely underrepresented accounting for 1.5% of all students (full-time and part time);
2. Black students at the University of Oxford are also extremely underrepresented; however, the University actively works with the Oxford African-Caribbean Society to address the issue;
3. The University of Cambridge currently has no relationship with CUACS to address the underrepresentation of black students.

CUSU Believes:

1. That current access initiatives do not do enough to address the issue that is a lack of black students;
2. That the University and CUSU should do more to support and encourage access initiatives targeted at attracting black students;
3. Currently, the most effective way to ensure that access initiatives meet the needs of black students is to work with CUACS;

CUSU Resolves:

1. To lobby the University to introduce an annual access event aimed at increasing the number of black students at the University of Cambridge;
2. To mandate that CUSU Sabbatical Officers work with CUACS to offer access initiatives that aim to increase the number of black students at the University of Cambridge, including an annual access event that works towards this resolve;
3. To assist CUACS to explore possible sources of funding to help cover costs for the annual event.

AMEND THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2016-17

Proposed by Sarah Gibson (CUSU LGBT+ president), seconded by Adrienn Jenei (CUSU LGBT+ Finance Officer).

CUSU Notes:

1. CUSU council free budget is proposed at £6000
2. The proposed funds allocated for CUSU LGBT+ in 2016-17 is £2000 while the net allocation from CUSU in 2015-16 was £2700.
3. The proposed CUSU LGBT+ publication budget for 2016-17 is £0
4. The CUSU LGBT+ publication [No Definition] was replaced in 2014 with Get Real
5. The proposed funds allocated for CUSU women's campaign in 2016-17 is £2500
6. CUSU LGBT+ has grown by 1/3 in the previous 2 years

CUSU Believes:

1. The ability of LGBT+ students to discuss their unique experiences is severely limited in the general media.
2. That the work CUSU LGBT+ does remains vital to tackling inequality across the university
3. The CUSU council free budget is not being fully utilised
4. The proposed budget is not sufficient to allow CUSU LGBT+ to maintain its current activities

CUSU Resolves:

1. To rename the budget line '[no definition] (publication)' to 'Get Real (publication)'
2. To reduce the CUSU council free budget by £500 and increase the CUSU LGBT+ publication budget by £500.

CUSU EU REFERENDUM

Proposed by Ben Gallant (bg340@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Damiano Sogaro

CUSU Notes:

1. On 23rd June 2016, the United Kingdom will hold a referendum on the country's membership of the EU;
2. The deadline to register for the EU Referendum is 7th June;
3. An estimated 80% of Cambridge University students will be eligible to vote in the Referendum;
4. The President of the National Union of Students (NUS), Megan Dunn, has joined the national campaign to keep the UK in the EU;
5. Universities UK, the organisation representing the UK's universities has not only joined the national campaign to keep the UK in the EU, but also launched the Universities for Europe campaign;
6. 103 UK University Vice Chancellors, including the Vice Chancellor of Cambridge, Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, highlighted their support for the UK to remain in the European Union in an Open Letter in the Sunday Times in February 2016;
7. A letter sent to the national press in March written by Professor Sir Alan Fersht (Master of Caius College) and signed by other college Masters and leading Cambridge academics (including Stephen Hawking), as well as academics from across the country, set out clearly that Cambridge University's academic community firmly back Remaining in the EU;
8. In Science and Research funding alone, in 2013 the University of Cambridge received £68 million in direct funding. Universities UK have calculated that across the UK, UK Higher Education receives just shy of £1 billion of direct funding from the EU;
9. The Erasmus programme has benefitted over 200,000 British students and over 20,000 British university staff to date. The number of UK students on the Erasmus programme has more than doubled since 2006/07;
10. EU students at UK universities generate £3.7bn for the UK economy and support over 34,000 jobs in all corners of the country, according to analysis from Universities UK;

11. Roughly 16% of Cambridge students are from EU member states (not UK), who could be significantly impacted by the discontinuation of the UK's membership to the EU.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the UK's continued membership of the European Union is therefore in the interests of the Cambridge University and its students;
2. It is time that Cambridge students are given the relevant information on the upcoming EU referendum with regards to how the UK's membership to the EU impacts their study and lives;
3. The UK's future relationship with the EU will shape the lives of everyone in this country, but none more so than its youngest generation;
4. The UK's membership to the EU is a benefit for Cambridge students.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To promote voter registration within the student body in the run up to the referendum deadline on the 7th of June;
2. To mandate the CUSU Sabbatical Officers to disseminate information and materials to Cambridge students about the Stay and Leave campaigns, with regard to information with particular relevance to Cambridge students;
3. Insofar as it is lawful to do so, for CUSU to highlight the benefits to students to vote to Stay within the European Union;
4. Alongside the dissemination of information, CUSU Sabbatical Officers will be mandated to seek the views of students with regards to how the EU has impacted their life as students.

ENSURING THAT CUSU SABBATICAL OFFICERS CAN LIVE AMONG STUDENTS

Proposed by Cornelius Roemer (cr492@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Chad Allen (GU President)

CUSU Notes:

1. That depending on their College, some CUSU sabbatical officers have access to College accommodation during their year with CUSU.
2. That therefore depending on the College sabbs will either student rent prices or much higher market rent prices
3. That the University recognises that high market rents are a significant problem for low income staff, who are paid at a similar rate to CUSU sabbs.

CUSU Believes:

1. That it is unfair for some sabbs to have less disposable income depending on College membership from Colleges that do not provide accommodation in town
2. That it may put people from less generous Colleges off running.

CUSU Resolves:

1. That CUSU sabbatical officers raise this issue with the University and Colleges at appropriate committees with a view to
2. Securing provision for CUSU sabbs to live in College provided student accommodation
3. Ensuring that such provision does not indirectly disadvantage current students, i.e. displace from their College.
4. Exploring options for wealthier Colleges to offer accommodation to sabbs from less wealthy students.
5. In particular, to raise the issue at Senior Tutor's committee and accommodation syndicate, emphasising that this is a student, not sabbatical-led proposal.
6. That the President reports back at the Council following the Senior Tutor's committee.

EASTER I: 2ND MAY 2016

APPOINTMENT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SELECTION GROUP

Proposed by Robert Cashman (CUSU Education Officer), seconded by Priscilla Mensah (CUSU President)

CUSU Notes:

1. It is a requirement of the CUSU Standing Orders that the two student members of CUSU's Board of Trustees are appointed by CUSU Council, following the recommendation of a selection group which will review applications for these roles;
2. A selection group with this purpose has not yet been established;
3. Volunteers were sought for the selection group at CUSU Council Lent III.

CUSU Believes:

1. Student members of CUSU's Board of Trustees play an incredibly important role in the governance of the Union;
2. It is important that the selection group and the Board of Trustees are committed to reflecting diversity in their membership;
3. It is important that student trustees be appointed as soon as is practically possible.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To establish a selection group consisting of the following:
 - a. At least two voting members of CUSU Council:
 - i. Charlie Chorley (CUSU Women's Officer)
 - ii. Ruth Taylor (HUS JCR President)
 - b. At least two sabbatical officers:
 - i. Priscilla Mensah (CUSU President, and Chair of the Board of Trustees) (Chair of the Selection Group)
 - ii. Robert Cashman (CUSU Education Officer, and Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees)

- c. At least two designated members of the CUSU Part-Time Executive:
 - i. Brendan Mahon (CUSU Chair)
 - ii. Audrey Sebatindira (Coordinator, FLY)
 - iii. Cornelius Roemer (Union Development Team)
2. For the selection group to prepare and issue information about the roles of student Trustees, and to open applications from the membership for these roles, as soon as is practically possible;
3. To approve extending the term of office of the current student Trustees until such time that the new student Trustees are in office.

ENSURING FAIR, EQUITABLE RENT NEGOTIATIONS AND PRICES WITHIN COLLEGIATE CAMBRIDGE

Proposed by Priscilla Mensah (CUSU President) and Eleni Courea (ec537@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. That the cost of rents within the Cambridge Colleges, and within the city of Cambridge are high (and in some cases considered economically unattainable) for Cambridge students;
2. Of those students who responded to the 2015 Big Cambridge Survey, 86% lived within College accommodation, and of these just over half (51%) were satisfied with value for money;
3. Of those students who responded to the 2015 Big Cambridge Survey, 45% of students said that finances had some impact on their time at University;
4. Mature and graduate Colleges express the most concern about finances, according to the 2015 Big Cambridge Survey;
5. During the Lent Term of 2015, the CUSU President undertook a series of rent workshops across Collegiate Cambridge. These sought to provide cross-Collegiate advice and tools for rent negotiations, so that negotiations take a long view of rent price trajectories, keeping all student groups and how they will be affected in mind;
6. The CUSU President 2015-2016 created a Rent Guide for College Representatives;
7. The CUSU President 2015-2016 created a template Equality Impact Assessment for College rent price increases (see attached template) which seeks to ensure Colleges explicitly address how a rent increase will affect the different economic situations of students within their College.

CUSU Believes:

1. Rent prices should not bar a student from applying to study at a College, nor bar a student from being able to complete their degree due to economic stress;
2. Any rent price increase proposed by a College should be equitable, fair and provide ample opportunity for student consultation and input before a final decision;
3. In the instance a College proposes a rent increase, the proposal should seek to critically and comprehensively evaluate how proposed increases will affect the varying economic and social groupings of students;

4. Simultaneous to any College rent increase deliberation, the necessary calculations should be made with regards to how much hardship or bursary support the College will need to offer;
5. Any ultimately decided rent increase should come with the necessary, pre-emptively calculated hardship or bursary support for the incoming year, any proposal which cannot assure this should be reconsidered;
6. No more than a certain percentage of a students' overall, annual income should be spent on accommodation so it is not likely to cause financial stress;
7. College representatives should feel empowered to ask their College to meet certain economic funding arrangements for students in the event of rent increases which tip over a certain point.

CUSU Resolves:

1. That CUSU, led by the CUSU President, should continue to make equitable, democratic rent price negotiations a priority and work both centrally through University Committees and with College JCR and MCR representatives on individual and collective action;
2. College JCR and MCR representatives embarking on rent negotiations should pay due regards to the equality impact rent assessment as a way of holding their College stakeholders to account on the rent increases they propose, and how they will potentially affect mature, postgraduate, disabled, international, those within receipt of Government maintenance support and 'squeezed middle' income students, among other identified economic student groupings;
3. CUSU should campaign with students against a College decision, where the above requirements have not been met, and a College so decides to proceed with an increase.

APPROVING THE SABBATICAL OFFICER CONTRACTS 2016-17

Proposed by Jemma Stewart (CUSU Coordinator), seconded by Priscilla Mensah (CUSU President)

CUSU Resolves:

1. To adopt the new Sabbatical Officer contracts and make them available to the newly elected sabbatical officers, as well as advertise to any prospective candidates for unfilled positions.

ASSISTING THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY IN THE PROVISION OF A VENUE FOR FRIDAY PRAYERS

Proposed by Burhan Ashraf (ba336@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Jemma Stewart (CUSU Coordinator)

CUSU Notes:

1. That since construction work has been taking place in the New Museums site, the Small Examinations Hall which was previously used for Friday prayers has been unavailable and the Islamic society has had to resort to hiring a hall in St Columba's Church at a cost of £660 a year;
2. That there are around 150-200 people who attend the Friday Prayers every week and the Muslim student population in Cambridge has been growing steadily such that space during Friday Prayers has started becoming an issue and is stretching the Islamic Society's resources;
3. That the nearest mosque in Cambridge is prohibitively far for students who have lectures before or after the prayer and does not have the capacity to cope with the demand from university members were they to go there.

CUSU Believes:

1. That students should not be placed under financial burden for wanting to exercise their religious beliefs;
2. That the University should provide adequate space for students of any religion to exercise their religious beliefs;
3. That students should not find great difficulty in balancing their religion with the hectic schedule that Cambridge demands, and should not be forced to choose between religious and academic commitments;
4. That it is important to assist minority groups within the university and display that Cambridge is a welcoming and amenable university to both current students and prospective ones who may be put off by lack of provisions related to their religious beliefs.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To assist the Islamic Society in finding an adequate University venue for Friday prayers;
2. To reimburse the costs incurred by the Islamic Society since the closure of the Small Examinations Hall (£660), from the CUSU Council Free Budget in this Academic Year;
3. To apportion a further £1320 should any future costs be incurred from this year's Council Free Budget.

OPENING NOMINATIONS FOR THE CUSU DISABLED STUDENTS' OFFICER

Proposed by Jemma Stewart (CUSU Coordinator, Returning Officer), seconded by Charlotte Chorley (CUSU Women's Officer, CUSU Elections Committee)

CUSU Notes:

1. That on 3rd February 2016, 19.6% of Cambridge University students voted for a full-time Disabled Students' Officer to join the full-time elected officer team;
2. That the CUSU Board of Trustees has met to approve the funding of the post, which is present in the proposed budget;

- That in preparation for the presentation of this motion to Council, the CUSU Coordinator (acting as Returning Officer for the CUSU Elections Committee) has the proposed timeline for election:

	2nd May	Motion to open nominations for the DSO passes
9am	3rd May (9am)	Nominations open
	12pm	9th May Nominations close
	9th May	Ballot set up
		Electoral roll available for checking
	4pm	11th May Electoral roll checking closes
5.30pm	11th May	Candidates' Briefing
	9am	15th May Campaigning period opens
	12am	16th May Voting opens
	7pm	18th May Voting closes
	19th May	Results confirmed

- That those on Elections Committee are unable to speak on any election or referendum taking place.

CUSU Believes:

- That the mandate of students to have a full-time Disabled Students' Officer is sufficiently large to ensure that the post is filled by the next academic year.
- That it is possible to elect a Disabled Students' Officer in the timeline outlined above to start the year with the rest of the CUSU Sabbatical Team.
- That the CUSU President's expertise and guidance is crucial at the current time, and so they should not serve on Elections Committee.

CUSU Resolves:

- That an Extraordinary Elections Committee, comprised of the CUSU Coordinator and CUSU Chair, along with three members co-opted by this group, will be formed;
- To open nominations for the CUSU Disabled Students' Officer as soon as possible, with the proposed timetable;
- To mandate the Extraordinary Elections Committee to seek guidance from the CUSU Disabled Students' Campaign to ensure that the election is conducted in a manner that is in line with the DSC Constitution.

DEFERRING THE ELECTION OF THE CUSU COORDINATOR

Proposed by Jemma Stewart (CUSU Coordinator, Returning Officer), seconded by Charlotte Chorley (CUSU Women's Officer, CUSU Elections Committee)

CUSU Notes:

- That the CUSU Coordinator position is currently unfilled, owing to the absence of candidates in the Lent 2016 Elections;
- That Article J.12 of the CUSU Constitution states that "In the event of a Sabbatical vacancy arising for which no nominations are submitted, the Council shall be

empowered to mandate the Sabbatical officers to temporarily employ a member of staff to carry out the non-representational elements of the post.”;

3. That CUSU is in the process of undergoing Constitutional review;
4. That, over the past three years, various attempts have been made to redesign or evaluate the effectiveness of the Coordinator role.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the role of CUSU Coordinator is outdated and unnecessary in the current climate of CUSU, with a strong staff support team to carry out the administration of the Union;
2. That the role is not attractive to potential election candidates, as demonstrated by the lack of candidates in both the 2014 Main Elections and the 2016 Main Elections;
3. That it causes unnecessary difficulties evaluating the effectiveness of a role within CUSU whilst there is a person in that role;
4. That there are few representational elements of the post of the Coordinator, save the presence on the University’s Sports Committee and Societies’ Syndicate (and various bodies beneath these);
5. That having the Coordinator position remain vacant whilst the Constitutional Review is undertaken would allow for a more honest and meticulous evaluation of the role without having to be concerned about the emotional wellbeing of a person in the role.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To defer the election of the CUSU Coordinator;
2. To transfer the mandated work of the CUSU Coordinator to relevant bodies:
 - a. To distribute the administrative work within the CUSU Staff Team;
 - b. To distribute the representative work within the CUSU Sabbatical Officer Team
3. To utilise the Constitutional Review being undertaken as an opportunity to critically evaluate the structure of the CUSU Sabbatical Team, most specifically with regards to improving the position of the Coordinator.

ENACT A REFERENDUM ON DISAFFILIATION FROM THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS (PART I)

Proposed by Jack May (jom24@cam.ac.uk) and Adam Crafton (ahc35@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. That the most recent NUS Conference has caused concern of anti-Semitism within the organisation of NUS among students and has been highlighted by the Jewish community, both in Cambridge and nationally;
2. That Malia Bouattia, the recently elected NUS President, has failed to apologise for previous anti-Semitic language, despite opportunities to do so;

3. That anti-Semitism is seriously damaging in an organisation that claims to represent all students.

CUSU Believes:

1. That CUSU should seriously reconsider its relationship with NUS;
2. That Cambridge students have a right to decide whether or not NUS can fairly represent their interests under Malia Bouattia's presidency;
3. That a re-evaluation of CUSU's affiliation to NUS is an immediate priority.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the CUSU Sabbatical Team to write an open letter to NUS, encouraging action to be taken on the concerns of anti-Semitism within the organisation;

ENACT A REFERENDUM ON DISAFFILIATION FROM THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS

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CUSU Resolves:

1. To take immediate steps to prepare for a referendum on CUSU's affiliation to the National Union of Students;
2. To ensure such a referendum takes place before the end of the academic year;
3. That in the event of disaffiliation, to hold an affiliation referendum every three years.

LENT III

CALL FOR A FULL INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF GIULIO REGENI

Proposed by the CUSU Sabbatical Officer Team 2015-16

CUSU Notes:

1. That the death of Giulio Regeni, a PhD student at the University of Cambridge, has been widely publicised in local and national media following his disappearance;
2. That both the University and an open letter signed by 4,600 academics and published in The Guardian, have called for a full investigation into Giulio's death;
3. That there is a UK Government & Parliament Petition calling for a full investigation of Giulio's death (<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/120832>).

CUSU Believes:

1. That students should be united in their call for a proper investigation into the death of a fellow student;
2. That there should be a complete and full investigation into Giulio Regeni's death.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To publicise the Students' Unions' Advice Service as a source of support to all students;
2. To mandate the CUSU Sabbatical Officers to sign the UK Parliament Petition calling for a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding Giulio's death;
3. To circulate this petition to JCR and MCR Presidents to be publicised to their constituent members;
4. To mandate the CUSU President to write an open letter, to be signed by JCR and MCR Presidents, student representatives and students, to the British & Italian Ambassadors to Egypt;
5. To mandate the CUSU Sabbatical Officers to circulate the petition to other students' unions.

LENT II

SUPPORT FOR PERSECUTED SCHOLARS

Proposed by Stefan Theil (st608@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Kaitlin Ball (kb558@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. That the Petition "Cantabs for Persecuted Scholars" (<https://www.change.org/p/university-of-cambridge-cantabs-for-persecutedscholars>) to the University of Cambridge has been opened to signatures on 13 January 2016;
2. That it has so far gathered 400 signatures from the Cambridge University community as of 15 January 2016;
3. That the associated crowdfunding effort "Bursary for Persecuted Student" (<https://www.gofundme.com/28svwxhw>) is seeking to raise funding for a one year bursary for an "at-risk" or refugee scholar to pursue a Masters degree at the University of Cambridge;

4. That the crowdfunding effort has gathered £ 145 in donations as of 15 January 2016;

CUSU Believes:

1. That it is vital for the University of Cambridge, the Faculties and Colleges to play their part in alleviating the current migration crisis in Europe;
2. That notwithstanding past efforts, the University of Cambridge, the Faculties and Colleges can do more to support the work of established charities;
3. That this support must be practical, and include: recognizing the importance of the work of charities such as Cara, providing a centralised coordination point, financial support for at risk academics, as well as housing and other support for accepted at-risk academics and their dependents;
4. That the goal of funding a scholarship for an at risk or refugee scholar to study for a masters degree at the University of Cambridge deserves support;
5. That welcoming persecuted academics is an investment in a future where one of the University's most cherished values; freedom of thought and expression; prevails and flourishes;

CUSU Resolves:

1. To call upon all the members of the University of Cambridge, students, faculty and alumni to sign the Petition "Cantabs for Persecuted Scholars Petition";
2. To mandate the CUSU Sabbatical Officers to sign the above mentioned Petition;
3. To call upon all the members of the University of Cambridge, students, faculty and alumni to consider donating to the associated crowdfunding effort "Bursary for Persecuted Student";
4. To encourage JCRs and MCRs to bring similar motions to their representative structures.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Proposed by Angus Satow (ajrs5@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Cornelius Roemer (cr492@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. The 31 colleges of Cambridge submitted a response to the freedom of information (Fol) commission's call for evidence, in which they argued for a categorical exemption
2. No such submission was made by the colleges of Oxford or Durham
3. Fol is an important element in scrutiny of college actions, both for student newspapers and student representatives
4. Fol already has safeguards in terms of both financial cost and commercial interests
5. The editorial opinions of both Varsity and the Tab are opposed to a categorical exemption
6. Arguments proposed by colleges include:

- “The burden on the Colleges is excessive. It is ultimately a financial burden, but also a significant deflection of skilled resources from the Colleges’ primary purpose of education”;
 - “The Colleges publish a great deal of information on their websites”;
 - “The Colleges have received many requests from journalists seeking to have their work done for them at the expense of the College.”
7. As far as we can see the National Union of Students made no submission, and consequently the commission may face an imbalance of viewpoints;
 8. That the University made a separate submission not calling for exemption from FOI requests.

CUSU Believes:

1. Freedom of Information is beneficial to students and enables important discussions to be had;
2. Spending on the order of 0.1% of college budgets on the provision of Freedom of Information for public scrutiny is reasonable;
3. The demand for an absolute exemption on the grounds of not being public bodies is unreasonable;
4. Universities are places for free debate in which the principle of intellectual discussion is held in high regard, and that exemption of Freedom of Information would harm this principle.

CUSU Resolves:

1. This issue should be discussed between JCRs, MCRs and colleges; CUSU and the university; and the National Union of Students and the Government, to ensure the student view is heard;
2. The CUSU President should lobby Cambridge MPs and the NUS to publically and vociferously oppose this move;
3. CUSU should scrutinise the colleges’ response and issue a response in turn by the end of February.

APPOINT CONNOR MACDONALD AS PART-TIME EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS OFFICER

Proposed by Connor MacDonald (cggm2@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Robert Cashman (CUSU Education Officer)

CUSU Notes:

1. That the two Part-Time Campaigns Officer positions on the Education Team remain unfilled;
2. That student academic success is inextricably linked to the mental health of and the welfare provided for students.

CUSU Believes:

1. That these Campaign Officer positions are invaluable, not just for CUSU but for the student body in general;
2. That education at Cambridge encompasses more than classroom and supervision learning, and that any approach to education must be holistic;
3. That Colleges and Faculties have conjunctive roles to play in regard to student academic success and student welfare;
4. That Colleges and Faculties should be held reasonably accountable for both the academic success and welfare of students;
5. That Faculty Reps need a wider range of tools at their disposal to gauge the needs of their Faculties;
6. That both quantitative and qualitative data is needed to assess the quality and provision of welfare and academic services.

CUSU Resolves:

1. That Connor MacDonald be appointed Part-Time Education Officer
2. That in his role, Connor MacDonald shall work collaboratively with Faculty Reps to create a survey system for the collection of opinions and views of students of both academic and welfare provision;
3. That in areas where such surveys do exist, it will be ensured that they are publicised and used by both Faculties and Colleges to improve resources offered to students;
4. That as Part-Time Campaigns Officer in the Education Team, he will also work with the Welfare and Rights Officer to encourage a welfare measurement scheme with Colleges, to supplement measurements of academic success;
5. That CUSU, through the Part-Time Campaigns Officer in the Education Team, creates a framework of accountability for both Colleges and Faculties through which to encourage action on the surveys and measurements described above.

MICHAELMAS IV (23RD NOVEMBER 2015)

SUPPORT FOR KEEP THE STREETLIGHTS CAMPAIGN

Proposed by Cornelius Roemer (cr492@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Sophie Bell (sb2031@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. That CUSU Council has already resolved to campaign against County Council's proposal to switch off streetlights in Cambridge;
2. That the campaign "Keep the Streetlights On: Cambridge" has been started recently to give a strong voice against the switch-off by uniting concerned individuals and creating a powerful movement;
3. That the campaign will have a two-pronged approach: firstly, engage the public through posters, demonstrations and the media. Second, provide constructive input to the discussion through research such as traffic censuses and scrutiny of literature.

CUSU Believes:

1. That a strong campaign is in the best interest of Cambridge students and thus CUSU;
2. That an independent campaign is best placed to incorporate the view of everyone affected, such as ARU and 6th Form students as well as local residents, which adds legitimacy to the campaign;
3. That CUSU's interests are represented and safe-guarded by having an elected Part-Time Executive Campaigns Officer in place on the campaign team as Liaison Officer.

CUSU Resolves:

1. That CUSU endorses the campaign through its various communication channels such as Facebook and emails;
2. That CUSU provides financial assistance to the campaign in the form of £600 from the Council Free Budget.

SUPPORT THE ZERO CARBON SOCIETY (RESOLVES 1)

Proposed by Angus Shaw (ajrs5@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Ellie Whitlock (elw49@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. That Cambridge Zero Carbon Society has launched a divestment campaign at the University, calling for divestment from fossil fuels, with 1700 signatures on their petition after two weeks;
2. That it is agreed across the world that global warming must not exceed 2 degrees Celsius, and that for this to happen 80% of current fossil fuel reserves must stay in the ground, resulting in warnings from HSBC and Mark Carney, the Governor of the Bank of England, of the moral and financial dangers of fossil fuel investments;
3. That the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership released a report earlier this year calling for "suitable finance" and "a just transition to a low carbon economy";
4. That CUSU passed a motion in November of 2013 calling for the University and its constituent colleges to "explicitly commit to pursuing low-carbon assets and withdraw their investments from companies whose main business is the extraction and/or production of fossil fuels";
5. That Zero Carbon staged a banner drop on Wednesday 4th November

CUSU Believes:

1. That it is morally wrong for the University to invest in fossil fuel reserves while leading the way in sustainability research;
2. That fossil fuel investments pose a financial risk to the University's endowment in terms of beached assets and the 'carbon bubble'.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To support Zero Carbon's divestment campaign.

SUPPORT THE ZERO CARBON SOCIETY (RESOLVES 2)

Proposed by Angus Shaw (ajrs5@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Ellie Whitlock (elw49@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

6. That Cambridge Zero Carbon Society has launched a divestment campaign at the University, calling for divestment from fossil fuels, with 1700 signatures on their petition after two weeks;
7. That it is agreed across the world that global warming must not exceed 2 degrees Celsius, and that for this to happen 80% of current fossil fuel reserves must stay in the ground, resulting in warnings from HSBC and Mark Carney, the Governor of the Bank of England, of the moral and financial dangers of fossil fuel investments;
8. That the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership released a report earlier this year calling for "suitable finance" and "a just transition to a low carbon economy";
9. That CUSU passed a motion in November of 2013 calling for the University and its constituent colleges to "explicitly commit to pursuing low-carbon assets and withdraw their investments from companies whose main business is the extraction and/or production of fossil fuels";
10. That Zero Carbon staged a banner drop on Wednesday 4th November

CUSU Believes:

3. That it is morally wrong for the University to invest in fossil fuel reserves while leading the way in sustainability research;
4. That fossil fuel investments pose a financial risk to the University's endowment in terms of beached assets and the 'carbon bubble'.

CUSU Resolves:

2. To uphold the principles of divestment wherever possible at University Committees and other meetings where appropriate.

SUPPORT THE ZERO CARBON SOCIETY (RESOLVES 3)

Proposed by Angus Shaw (ajrs5@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Ellie Whitlock (elw49@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. That Cambridge Zero Carbon Society has launched a divestment campaign at the University, calling for divestment from fossil fuels, with 1700 signatures on their petition after two weeks;
2. That it is agreed across the world that global warming must not exceed 2 degrees Celsius, and that for this to happen 80% of current fossil fuel reserves must stay in

- the ground, resulting in warnings from HSBC and Mark Carney, the Governor of the Bank of England, of the moral and financial dangers of fossil fuel investments;
3. That the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership released a report earlier this year calling for “suitable finance” and “a just transition to a low carbon economy”;
 4. That CUSU passed a motion in November of 2013 calling for the University and its constituent colleges to “explicitly commit to pursuing low-carbon assets and withdraw their investments from companies whose main business is the extraction and/or production of fossil fuels”;
 5. That Zero Carbon staged a banner drop on Wednesday 4th November

CUSU Believes:

1. That it is morally wrong for the University to invest in fossil fuel reserves while leading the way in sustainability research;
2. That fossil fuel investments pose a financial risk to the University’s endowment in terms of beached assets and the ‘carbon bubble’.

CUSU Resolves:

3. To apportion funds from the CUSU Council Free Budget to hire a coach to London for the March for Climate, Jobs and Justice on the 29th November – the cost will be £300 based upon a quote of £510 and donations from trade unions and the council.

SUPPORT THE ZERO CARBON SOCIETY (RESOLVES 4)

Proposed by Angus Shaw (ajrs5@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Ellie Whitlock (elw49@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. That Cambridge Zero Carbon Society has launched a divestment campaign at the University, calling for divestment from fossil fuels, with 1700 signatures on their petition after two weeks;
2. That it is agreed across the world that global warming must not exceed 2 degrees Celsius, and that for this to happen 80% of current fossil fuel reserves must stay in the ground, resulting in warnings from HSBC and Mark Carney, the Governor of the Bank of England, of the moral and financial dangers of fossil fuel investments;
3. That the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership released a report earlier this year calling for “suitable finance” and “a just transition to a low carbon economy”;
4. That CUSU passed a motion in November of 2013 calling for the University and its constituent colleges to “explicitly commit to pursuing low-carbon assets and withdraw their investments from companies whose main business is the extraction and/or production of fossil fuels”;

5. That Zero Carbon staged a banner drop on Wednesday 4th November, for which one member of the campaign group on Clare Bridge was sanctioned, with the disciplinary process still ongoing and a financial penalty expected.

CUSU Believes:

1. That it is morally wrong for the University to invest in fossil fuel reserves while leading the way in sustainability research;
2. That fossil fuel investments pose a financial risk to the University's endowment in terms of beached assets and the 'carbon bubble'.
3. That the right to protest and freedom of speech on campus is indispensable, and should be upheld.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To publicise and support a fundraiser for the student's fine if appropriate.

MICHAELMAS III (9TH NOVEMBER 2015)

ENCOURAGE THE USE OF ACCESS STATEMENTS

Proposed by Robert Corbyn-Smith (CUSU DSC Disabled Students' Officer), seconded by Richard Birkett (CUSU DSC Computing Officer)

CUSU Notes:

1. That without access information, disabled students cannot make informed decisions about the events they attend;
2. That a comprehensive access statement includes but is not limited to:
 - a. Describing access into, around and out of the venue or event. For example: whether there is wheelchair access, step-free access or stepped access; whether there are automatic doors; the wayfinding and signage available;
 - b. Describing the facilities the venue or event has. For example: whether there is an accessible or partially accessible toilet; whether there is an induction loop; the seating available;
 - c. Providing a named contact for all access enquiries.
3. That access statements are not, currently, widely used across the University;
4. That event providers may not be aware of how to provide access information or what information to include in an access statement;
5. That a short grace period will allow CUSU to develop and improve existing resources for event providers.

CUSU Believes:

1. That providing comprehensive and accurate access information is the first step in making all events accessible to as many students as possible;
2. That CUSU needs to do more to ensure disabled students are welcome at and encouraged to participate in events across the University, not just specific disabled students events;

3. That not providing access information when advertising events unfairly disadvantages disabled students, regardless of how accessible the event is.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To work with the Disabled Students' Campaign [DSC] to improve and publicise the access statement generator on the DSC website, and, following an open consultation of disabled students, establish guidelines on what an access statement should minimally contain by the end of Michaelmas 2015;
2. From the beginning of Lent term 2016, to include a comprehensive access statement with all CUSU organised events;
3. From the beginning of Lent term 2016, to refuse to advertise any event without a suitable accompanying access statement;
4. To mandate the CUSU Coordinator, working in conjunction with the DSC, to create a training session on the subject of hosting accessible events, to be delivered at the beginning of Lent term 2016 and open to all students of the University (but targeted specifically towards JCR/MCR/AC Officers and Society Committee Officers).

ERADICATE COLLEGIATE RANKING TABLES

Proposed by Priscilla Mensah (CUSU President), seconded by Robert Cashman (CUSU Education Officer)

CUSU Notes:

1. That there are 31 Colleges that constitute the University of Cambridge;
2. That without the Colleges, the University would be without a core provider of education to students;
3. That due to the founding of Colleges at different times, and with varying levels of resource, the Colleges that make up the University of Cambridge possess very different characters;
4. That the different Colleges endeavour to provide an equal standard of educational and pastoral provision, and that the University of Cambridge Prospectus for 2016 entry (p.111) states that 'no College is better...'

CUSU Believes:

1. That not enough is done to ensure that all Colleges are considered equal and that students at a College do not feel negatively impacted by perceptions of, or the level of resource and reputation of, their College;
2. That students are negatively impacted by contemporary academic metrics which pit students and more specifically their performance against each other in an attempt to suggest an overall academic inferiority, or superiority of students at one college or another;
3. That Collegiality suffers due to these metrics. This is harmful to University and departmental attempts to ensure that, regardless of College, all students are catered for in a fair system where there is equal opportunity to succeed;

4. That these metrics do not foster fair competition between Colleges, but rather foster an unhealthy and destructive culture which is contrary to efforts to target intercollegiate inequality.

CUSU Resolves:

1. That cross-collegiate academic metrics, such as the Tompkins Table (published in *The Independent* each year), and the ranked form of the Baxter Table (a confidential, internal rankings table), are damaging to efforts to ensure intercollegiate social and academic equality of opportunity;
2. The elected officers will work together and independently to campaign for the University to get rid of the Tompkins Table and amend the way in which other tables will be published;
3. That all students, and Colleges, stand on equal academic footing.

ASK FOR STUDENT REPRESENTATION ON THE UNIVERSITY BURSARS' COMMITTEE

Proposed by Harrison Gower (hjpg35@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Annie Magee (arm73@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. That the University Bursars' Committee is constituted of all College Bursars and is one of three main intercollegiate committees, along with the Senior Tutors' and Colleges' Committees;
2. That the Bursars' Committee agenda, papers and minutes are not made publicly available;
3. That, whilst there is CUSU representation on senior committees at the institution, currently we have no representation on the Bursars' Committee.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the Bursars' Committee is influential in University business and thus the lives of all students at Cambridge;
2. That a precedent has been set by having student representation on other University committees of great importance, including the above mentioned and the Education, Welfare & Finance, and Graduate Tutors' Committee;
3. That student representation on matters that affect students is absolutely necessary.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To ask all committees that would assist CUSU's ability to bargain with the University to present the motion "This JCR believes there should be student representation on the University Bursars' Committee" at an Open Meeting to their members.
2. To subsequently apply pressure to the University to allow a CUSU representative at the Bursars' Committee.

3. That non-confidential information, if such exists, is accessible and minutes are published (like University Council). To subsequently apply pressure for this to be done.

CAMPAIGN TO STOP PUBLISHING CLASS LISTS

Proposed by Poppy Ellis Logan (CUSU-GU Welfare and Rights Officer), seconded by Robert Cashman (CUSU Education Officer)

CUSU Notes

1. That in the last academic year there was a petition calling for students to be able to opt-out of class lists, which attracted over 1000 signatures;
2. That University Committees, including the General Board's Education Committee and the Senior Tutors' Education Committee have discussed the publication of class lists;
3. The University is looking to undertake a full consultation on the future of published class lists;

CUSU Believes

1. If the University is to move forward with this consultation it is important that CUSU has policy so that it can best represent the views of students;
2. That the current system of class lists denies students privacy with their results and is damaging for the welfare of many students.

CUSU Resolves

1. To campaign for the University to stop publishing class lists and to remove previously published class lists;
2. To work with other student campaign groups who are seeking to do the same.

SUPPORT THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY CALAIS REFUGEE ACTION GROUP

Proposed by Peter Martin (pm505@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Tom Tyson (tmt27@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. That the newly formed society, Cambridge University Calais Refugee Action Group, plans to make multiple trips to Calais to volunteer in the refugee camps;
2. That the charity CalAid, based in Calais, has received a large amount of donations and supplies over the last month, but does not have enough people in Calais to sort through the supplies and distribute them;
3. That over 350 Cambridge students have already expressed an interest in travelling to Calais to help, working in conjunction with CalAid;
4. That, given that the CUSU Minibus Scheme is currently out of action, the cost of travel to, and accommodation in, Calais would cost each student around £50 to volunteer for one weekend;

5. That CUCRAG has organised one trip of 10 people to Calais and is planning its next trip for the 13th-15th November;
6. CUCRAG notes that including a £210 subsidy for the costs (provided by Amnesty International fundraising), each student on the trip paid £53 each to cover all of their expenses;
7. That CUCRAG is distinct from, but working in association with, CCrag (Cambridge Calais Refugee Action Group), a Cambridge residents based group, which has different organisational structures not easily fit for University students given that most residents have their own cars and greater resources to go to Calais.

CUSU Believes:

1. That as winter approaches, the refugees in Calais would benefit from our direct assistance in helping to ensure supplies are distributed from the CalAid warehouses and that shelters are built;
2. That due to the potentially high costs of transportation, CUSU is prepared, along with other funding bodies such as Amnesty, to help to help enable students to travel to Calais and volunteer during this period of crisis.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To apportion £800 of the CUSU Council Free Budget to Cambridge University Calais Refugee Action Group (CUCRAG) in recognition of the urgent nature.
2. To only use the money to subsidise the trips for members of CUSU.

MICHAELMAS II (26TH OCTOBER 2015)

SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL DEMO FOR FREE EDUCATION

Proposed by Ben Platt (bjp34@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Helena Blair (CUSU Access and Funding Officer, access@cusu.cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. The challenges of poverty, debt and lack of future that face many students who graduate today;
2. That the government plans to worsen the situation of students by cutting maintenance grants for students from lower income families;
3. That NUS Conference 2015 voted to campaign for free education, the creation of jobs with a living wage and security, an end to cuts, and rebuilding public services, funded by taxing the rich, business and the banks;
4. That a coalition of student unions and student campaigns, supported by NUS, are organising a national demonstration on Wednesday 4th November under the slogan "Free Education and Living Grants for All: No Barriers, No Borders, No Business";
5. That the cuts to higher education are more extensive than just the abolition of maintenance grants, and often disproportionately affect disadvantaged groups of

students such as the closure of the Access to Learning Fund, and the proposed cuts to the Disabled Students' Allowance.

CUSU Believes:

1. After the General Election, there are clear opportunities to make substantial gains for students, if we put out a clear message and mobilise a movement;
2. That we should campaign for the same demands as NUS: free education and living grants for all to end student debt, and decent jobs with a living wage and job security for all.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To campaign on these themes over the next year with the slogans "Fund free education and living grants for all" ;
2. To support the national student demonstration taking place on the 4th November;
3. To organise transport to the demonstration and mobilise students for it;
4. To also emphasise how cuts, unemployment and debt hit the most oppressed groups in society hardest;
5. To campaign equally against those cuts that target members of disadvantaged groups.

ACTIVELY CAMPAIGN AGAINST CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S PROPOSED STREETLIGHT SWITCH OFF

Proposed by Cornelius Roemer (cr492@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Damiano Sogaro (ds674@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. That Cambridgeshire County Council has proposed to switch off streetlights in what it deems residential areas between midnight and 6am from the 1st of April 2016 to cut costs;
2. Amongst the proposed streets to be plunged into darkness are a number of pathways that are highly frequented by students and other residents even well after midnight, such as Trinity Lane/Garret Hostel Lane/Burrell's Walk, on the way from the City Centre to Robinson and Fitzwilliam Colleges;
3. While data mentioned but not properly referenced by County Council purportedly shows that late-night streetlight switch-offs don't increase crime, subjective safety feeling is strongly affected on badly lit paths;
4. That the County Council has proposed to allow 'individual communities' to jump into pay for electricity at a cost of around 12 GBP per lamp per year.

CUSU Believes:

1. That there is consensus amongst students that streetlights in the student-populated wider city need to stay on during the night. This is the case, specifically because many of the areas in which will be switched off are lived in by students, who are likely to be returning home after midnight. Students living on the

periphery are affected in particular, yet as a student body we should all show solidarity;

2. That comparing the costs with the benefits of street lighting on frequented pathways is strongly in favour of the benefits and that the proposed policy is thus ludicrous and irresponsible;
3. That students have not been properly consulted about the policy change;
4. That it is a responsibility of the state to provide street lighting, whether County or Council finances is irrelevant to students;
5. That nonetheless, if the state does decide to switch off relevant streets, it is in the interest of the University and Colleges to pay for the lights as otherwise current students will feel insecure and prospective applicants will be put off.

CUSU Resolves:

1. That the CUSU Executive Committee supports the existing petition to County Council informing Council of CUSU's disagreement with the policy and takes part in the City Council's consultation on the matter;
2. That the CUSU Executive Committee actively lobbies against the policy with elected County and City Councillors. To this end, a new petition is launched that allows students and local residents to air their disagreement with the switch-off policy;
3. That the CUSU Executive Committee publishes Councillors positions and voting record on this issue to allow students to take this into account at future Council elections;
4. That the CUSU Executive Committee enters into negotiations with the University and inter-collegiate committees to make contingency plans for the case that County goes through with the policy.

INCREASE DEMOCRATIC LEGITIMATION OF CUSU BUSINESS THROUGH CUSU COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT

Proposed by Cornelius Roemer (cr492@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Damiano Sogaro (ds674@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. That the majority of CUSU Council business is currently administrative or very particular in nature;
2. That the attendance at CUSU Council is undesirably low;
3. That Students feel there is a lack of involvement in CUSU policies and that they lack democratic legitimation;
4. The reputation of CUSU is low, especially compared to other JCRs and University Student Unions;
5. That not all policies of elected officers necessarily have broad agreement amongst students despite their election - election success does not mean endorsement of all policy proposals;
6. That the CUSU Executive's constitutional role is to execute motions passed by Council, the governing body. There is a substantial difference between the

election of an individual and their policies. CUSU elections are concerned with the election of individuals. Any proposed policies need to be ratified by Council.

CUSU Believes:

1. That there is a lack of scrutiny of CUSU Executive policies that extends beyond sabbatical elections;
2. That low attendance at CUSU Council is due to a lack of engaging motions;
3. That broad and engaging debates of CUSU policies at CUSU Council are desirable and strengthen the democratic process and student satisfaction. Student politics would benefit from more debates;
4. Elected CUSU officers are doing what they think is in the best interest of students, yet there needs to be affirmation of their policies through a representative body;
5. CUSU Council through its broad participative basis is ideally suited to fulfil the role of body of scrutiny and affirmation.

CUSU Resolves:

1. Accepts that changes to existing policies should be mandated, subject to further discussion;
2. To keep an up to date archive of accepted and current motions;
3. To keep the website up to date;
4. To bring more motions from CUSU internally.

SUPPORT THE CAMBRIDGE CALAIS REFUGEE ACTION GROUP

Proposed by Maddie Tait (mmt37@cam.ac.uk), seconded by Anya Draycott (amid2@cam.ac.uk)

CUSU Notes:

1. The Cambridge Calais Refugee Action (CCRA) is a group of people who live in and around Cambridge working to help the refugees living in the camp in Calais. Their aim is to raise awareness of the situation and to provide practical help to the refugees by fundraising and organising donations of clothing and other items;
2. The CCRA does not have a donation point in the centre of Cambridge;
3. Our new building move, there is now social space shared with the Graduate Union;
4. Our capacity as a student body to give a platform to groups such as CCRA and to coordinate large numbers of students quickly;
5. In August there were 5,000 recorded people living in Calais camps and around 39,000 people have attempted to cross from Calais to Britain in the last year;
6. The existing Jules Ferry centre and adjoining slum does not fulfil the resident refugees rights of access to clean water, safe housing and food;
7. Student donations through CCRA will enable students to contribute whatever they can towards improving the quality of life of the thousands living in Calais slums.

CUSU Believes:

1. That we should support efforts by charities in providing and coordinating the response to the 'Refugee Crisis'

CUSU Resolves:

1. To work with the CCRA to provide donations to refugees in camps across Europe;
2. To provide storage for student donations;
3. To work with CUAL, whose college reps will organise in-college collection points in order to make donation points more accessible to students;
4. To work with volunteers from CUAL, other concerned/interested charitable university societies, and any interested students, to transport and organise donations for CCRA.

APPOINT STUDENT TRUSTEES

Proposed by the Student Trustee Selection Group

CUSU Notes:

1. The Selection Group tasked with recommending the appointment of student trustees was established at the first meeting of CUSU Council in Easter, its membership being as follows:
 - Helen Hoogewerf-McComb (CUSU President)
 - Rob Richardson (CUSU Education Officer)
 - Amelia Horgan (CUSU Women's Officer)
 - Brendan Mahon (CUSU LGBT+ President)
 - Robert Corbyn-Smith (CUSU DSC Co-Chair)
2. That the Selection Group received applications from 9 students for 2 positions;
3. That Student Trustee appointments, if approved, will take immediate effect until Tuesday 19th April 2016.

CUSU Believes:

1. That applications were of an exceptionally high standard, representing students with a broad range of experiences which could contribute to the effective operation of the CUUS Trustee Board in the interests of CUSU's members.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To appoint Jon Wall to the CUSU Board of Trustees as a student trustee;
2. To appoint William Marks to the CUSU Board of Trustees as a student trustee.

POLICY FROM 2014-15

EASTER I (4TH MAY 2015)

INCREASE STUDENT INPUT INTO CUSU'S BUDGET

Proposed by Helen Hoogewerf-McComb (CUSU President) and Jemma Stewart (CUSU Coordinator)

CUSU Notes:

1. That a number of students' unions across the country are implementing 'participatory budgeting' which allows students to discuss and debate how funding should be allocated, rather than simply being presented with a fixed budget determined by officers;
2. That changes to CUSU's Standing Orders in February 2015 introduced Campaigns Officers to CUSU's executive structure;
3. That the budget prepared by the Coordinator for 2015/16 includes a reduction of Executive Team budgets and a significant expansion of the Council Free Budget.

CUSU Believes:

1. That CUSU's funding priorities should be set by the student body as a whole, not just by a small group of elected officers;
2. That Campaigns Officers, by their nature, are difficult to assign budgets to under CUSU's traditional funding system as it is unclear when CUSU's budget is drawn up which campaigns will be selected by students and what resources they will require;
3. That those outside of the CUSU executive should also have the opportunity to seek funds from CUSU for projects and campaigns which students support and which further CUSU's charitable aims;
4. That it is important to introduce a structure which allows the funds within Council Free Budget to be distributed to campaigns and projects responsibly and with maximum student input.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To hold CUSU's Michaelmas Term Open Meeting after the election of CUSU's Campaigns Officers, with allocation of Council Free Budget funds as the first agenda item;
2. To implement a bidding process by which students can submit funding bids and have them deliberated on by attendees, within the context of other bids submitted;
3. To aim to assign the balance of the Council Free Budget, minus £1000, to campaigns and projects through this bidding process;
4. To work with elected Campaigns Officers to determine the resource requirements of their campaigns and support them in developing their budgets and bids;
5. To advertise the opportunity for campaign funding to the student body, with clear guidelines for what sort of activities CUSU would be able to fund and support for those who wish to develop a bid;
6. To promote the Open Meeting widely to all students to ensure as many people as possible take part in decisions about the allocations of these funds.

Proposed by Brooke Longhurst & Anna Parker

CUSU Notes:

1. Sport is an integral part of the University of Cambridge community
2. The ability to participate in sport has been shown to benefit students in a wide range of areas, including physical health, mental health, community building, and retention rates in degree programs.
3. There are currently significant differences in funding, resources and attitudes toward women, transgender women and genderqueer in sport, that act as barriers to their participation and success.

CUSU Believes:

1. In the eradication of gender-based disadvantages at Cambridge.
2. All students should be given equal access to participate in College and University level sport.
3. It is important that equal access to sport is supported by the attitudes of members of the university community.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To support the We Sport Women in Sport campaign, by the amount of 100 GBP, in order for the campaign to purchase stickers that promote the campaign, to be included in pamphlets given out at varsity matches. This will allow the project to reach a wide variety of individuals already in the sporting community.
2. To look into the ways sport at Cambridge excludes trans women.

LENT III (16TH FEBRUARY 2015)

PROVIDE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR ENDING ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Proposed by Joanna M. Lawrence & Amelia Horgan

CUSU Notes:

1. That 1 in 4 women are victims of domestic violence, and men also can be;
2. That women ages 16-24 are at the highest risk for being victims of domestic abuse;
3. That misconceptions about the nature of relationship abuse are held by the general public, abusers, and especially victims;
4. That the University of Cambridge is lacking in readily available information for students or staff about recognising or seeking help for one's self or others in cases of abusive relationships;
5. That seeking help can be very difficult for victims both emotionally and physically;

CUSU Believes:

1. That no one should be victim to emotional or physical abuse;

2. That the University and Colleges have a responsibility to provide for the health and safety of their students;
3. That the University and Colleges are able to provide information and support that would help students avoid and escape abusive relationships;

CUSU Resolves:

1. To place posters in toilet stalls in all Colleges with information on recognising and seeking help for victims of abusive relationships;
2. To equip all college porters and tutors with information about how to support students who approach them for help, including how to access community services;
3. To provide training opportunities for porters and tutors in understanding and dealing with such situations.

FIGHT THE USE OF UNPAID INTERNSHIPS

Proposed by Helen Hoogewerf-McComb & Rob Richardson

CUSU Notes:

1. That, despite the UK having a national minimum wage, there are around 15,000 people in the UK working as unpaid interns;
2. It is increasingly common for employers in certain sectors to demand a period of unpaid work experience in order to gain entry to paid employment;
3. More than 1 in 3 graduate interns are working in unpaid positions;
4. That the estimated cost of a 6-month internship is £5,556 in London and £4,728 in Manchester, exclusive of transport costs;
5. That 74% of Britons believe that a young person in their family could not afford to take up an unpaid internship.

CUSU Believes:

1. That paid internships can be a valuable experience for many students and graduates, while also providing significant benefits to employers;
2. That, by relying on interns having access to their own financial resources, unpaid internships favour the wealthy and prevent those who are less well-off from accessing work in many industries;
3. That current use of unpaid internships takes unfair advantage of minimum wage exemptions for voluntary positions;
4. That the current situation will prevent many Cambridge students from pursuing the careers they would wish, or leave them struggling to make ends meet as they attempt to enter the job market;
5. That change is needed to prevent exploitation of young people and recent graduates and to ensure fairness in entry to all sectors of the job market.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To provide information to students to help them understand their rights and options regarding unpaid internships;
2. To campaign for legislative change to prevent minimum wage exemptions for volunteers from applying to long-term internships;
3. To work with national organisers such as NUS and Intern Aware to lobby Parliament and political parties to adopt this stance.

LENT II (2ND FEBRUARY 2015)

REFORM THE STRUCTURE OF THE CUSU EXECUTIVE

Proposed Helen Hoogewerf-McComb & Rob Richardson

CUSU Notes:

1. That, following consultation, with members of Council and the CUSU Executive, the Standing Orders have been redrafted to reform the structure of the CUSU Executive

CUSU Believes:

1. That the proposed changes will improve the functioning of the Executive.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To adopt the newly drafted Standing Orders, as amended at the previous meeting of CUSU Council.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Proposed by Fred Jerrome & Seconded by Holly Higgins

CUSU Notes:

1. Changes to the way in which voter registration works has resulted in many people being removed from the Electoral Register without their knowledge, and thus denied the ability to exercise their vote
2. Particular social groups are worse affected by this change to Individual Electoral Registration (IER), one of them being students, due to the transient nature of their accommodation
3. The number of students in Cambridge who have disappeared from the electoral register is estimated at 2000 but is likely higher

CUSU Believes:

1. That students are not a homogenous bloc but there are common interests and experiences of the group that should be voiced

2. That it is important for students to have the opportunity to vote (or not), rather than to be forced into disenfranchisement by a lack of awareness of procedural changes
3. That as a students' union representing the interests of its members, CUSU has a duty (i) to promote awareness of the changes to the registration process and (ii) to encourage students to register to vote and (iii) to exercise their vote in an informed manner
4. This duty also falls on JCRs and equivalent college-level representative bodies who have a regard for the welfare and responsibilities of their studentry

CUSU Resolves:

1. To run its own voter registration campaign
2. To support non-partisan and cross-party efforts to register students to vote
3. To work with Cambridge University and Cambridge City Council to this end
4. To provide funding of up to £750 from relevant budgets to enable student voter registration
5. To make its non-financial assets available, including but not limited to: computer equipment, publicity facilities, and representative capabilities, in order to increase student voter registration rates
6. To bring attention to National Voter Registration Day (February 5 2015) and the connected Meaning of Your Vote event (February 9 2015).

LENT I (19TH JANUARY 2015)

END WEEK FIVE BLUES

Proposed by Adam Robertson and Seconded by Oscar Addis

CUSU Notes:

1. That the 'Week Five Blues' - a week of intense anxiety, worry, and often sadness - are seen as a regular and normal fixture of Cambridge undergraduate life.
2. That most universities allow their students a 'reading week' during the middle of term, to relieve pressure and give students time to rest and reflect.
3. That Cambridge has a very high incidence of mental health problems.
4. That the "End 'Week Five Blues'" initiative seeks to draw attention to the unnecessary pressure put upon Cambridge students by encouraging students to refuse to hand in work during Week 5 Lent term.
5. That this wouldn't mean students were encouraged to not do their work, but simply to not hand it in.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the way in which Cambridge terms are structured negatively impacts the mental health of some of its students.

2. That it is possible to have longer terms without any serious disruption to the functioning of the University.
3. That student mental health is an issue that needs to be taken more seriously by the University and its constituent colleges.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To support the #endweek5blues initiative.
2. To inform senior tutors at every college of the initiative.
3. To raise awareness of the goals of the project and related issues around student mental health.

REFORM THE STRUCTURE OF THE CUSU EXECUTIVE

Proposed Helen Hoogewerf-McComb & Rob Richardson

CUSU Notes:

1. That, following consultation, with members of Council and the CUSU Executive, the Standing Orders have been redrafted to reform the structure of the CUSU Executive

CUSU Believes:

1. That the proposed changes will improve the functioning of the Executive.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To adopt the newly drafted Standing Orders, as amended at this meeting of CUSU Council.

CREATE A PART-TIME STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE POSITION

Proposed Helen Hoogewerf-McComb & Rob Richardson

CUSU Resolves:

1. To amend the redrafted CUSU Standing Orders to include the following under Article G.12(v):
 - A. The Part-Time Students Representative, who shall be a part-time student and represent the interests of students within the University who pursue courses on a part-time basis

CREATE A MATURE STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE POSITION

Proposed Helen Hoogewerf-McComb & Rob Richardson

CUSU Resolves:

1. To amend the redrafted CUSU Standing Orders to include the following under Article G.12(v):

- B. The Mature Students Representative, who shall be a student who began their current degree after the age of 21 if an undergraduate student or 25 if a graduate student, and shall represent the interests of those within the University meeting this definition of mature students

CREATE A STUDENT PARENTS REPRESENTATIVE POSITION

Proposed Helen Hoogewerf-McComb & Rob Richardson

CUSU Resolves:

1. To amend the CUSU Standing Orders to include the following under Article G.12(v):
 - C. The Student Parents Representative, who shall be a student with the responsibilities of parent or guardian of a child, and shall represent the interests of those raising children during their studies

AMEND THE FACULTY FORUM CONSTITUTION

Proposed Helen Hoogewerf-McComb & Rob Richardson

CUSU Resolves:

1. To replace Article E of the redrafted Standing Orders with the amended Faculty Forum Constitution, subject to approval by the Faculty Forum

MICHAELMAS IV (1ST DECEMBER 2014)

REMOVE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE MOTION TO BOYCOTT EDE & RAVENSCROFT, THAT WAS PASSED LAST COUNCIL, FROM CUSU POLICY

CUSU Notes:

1. That since the motion to boycott Ede & Ravenscroft over their sale of fur was passed, it has come to light that the motion contained information that might be construed as misleading
2. That the initial motion implied that Ede & Ravenscroft imported farmed fur from abroad
3. That Ede & Ravenscroft have since repeatedly denied this
4. That once the legitimacy of the information concerned had become apparent, student media that had reported on the initial motion were contacted and asked to correct any pieces that reported the information concerned
5. That CUSU policy should be guided by clear facts wherever possible, and this potentially misleading information in the initial motion is likely to have influenced the decision made by Council

CUSU Believes:

1. That the issue raised by the inclusion of potentially misleading information in the motion should be highlighted to Council
2. That the decision to pass the motion at the previous Council meeting should no longer stand
3. That all recommendations passed by the motion in question should be removed from CUSU policy

CUSU Resolves:

1. To remove all 'Resolves' from the motion passed at the previous Council from CUSU policy
2. To continue to monitor student media and where necessary ask for any misleading information published based upon the motion in question to be corrected
3. To work with the initial proposer to manage any potential ramifications of this issue, and to offer support and advice in future campaigning

EXTRAORDINARY CUSU COUNCIL MICHAELMAS (10TH NOVEMBER 2014)

REVIEW SUPPORT FOR THE FREE EDUCATION DEMO ON NOVEMBER 19TH

Proposed by Helen Hoogewerf-McComb (CUSU President), seconded by Amelia Horgan (CUSU Women's Officer)

CUSU Notes:

1. At the first meeting of Michaelmas term, Council passed the motion "Supporting the National Demo for Free Education";
2. At the time of passing the motion, NUS UK were in support of the demo;
3. On the 4th November, the NUS UK Full-Time Officers released a statement saying they were withdrawing support from the demo on the basis of an 'unacceptable level of risk' (<http://beta.nusconnect.org.uk/shape-our-work/articles/statement-from-the-national-president>);
4. On the 6th November, NUS UK released a further statement outlining their motivations for withdrawing support from the demo (<http://nusconnect.unioncloud.org.uk/shape-our-work/articles/statement-from-nus-president-to-students-unions>);
5. That NUS Scotland and NUS Wales both continue to support the demo;
6. That the plans for the event have been approved by the police.

CUSU Believes:

1. That, whilst there are inherent risks for those taking part in protests and demonstrations of this kind, it is important that students are protected from an unacceptable level of risk;
2. That students should have opportunities to demonstrate their support for Free Education without feeling unduly unsafe;
3. That the original decision of CUSU Council to support the motion was made without full awareness of NUS UK's safety concerns;

4. That it is important to evaluate CUSU's support of the event in light of these concerns;
5. That Cambridge students would likely continue to attend the event were CUSU to withdraw support but without the safety benefits that CUSU could provide.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To continue to support and provide transport for students to attend the Free Education Demo on November 19th;
2. To inform CUSU members attending the event of potential risks and, while not taking responsibility for individuals' safety during the event, to take steps to support students engaging safely with the demonstration;
3. To organise a complementary event within Cambridge for those who are unable to attend the National Demo or would not feel safe doing so but would like to demonstrate support for Free Education.

MICHAELMAS II (3RD NOVEMBER 2014)

POSTPONE PART-TIME EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

Proposed by the CUSU Sabbatical Team

CUSU Notes:

1. Elections for the Part-Time Executive are due to take place at the third meeting of CUSU Council in Michaelmas Term;
2. With the exception of the Ethical Affairs Campaign, many positions in the CUSU Part-Time Executive have remained empty for a number of years;
3. Despite increased publicity during 2013-14, a significant number of vacancies in the Part-Time Executive remained a serious problem.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the Part-Time Executive should be an effective way to become involved in the campaigning and representational work of CUSU;
2. That the current complicated structure of the Part-Time Executive presents a barrier to students getting involved with issues that they care about through CUSU;
3. That a restructure is necessary to maximise the effectiveness of the Part-Time Executive;
4. That it would be preferable to postpone the Michaelmas elections until after a restructure has taken place.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To postpone the elections of the Part-Time Executive until the second round of Part-Time Executive elections, held at the fourth meeting of CUSU Council in Lent Term;
2. To conduct research into the redevelopment of the Part-Time Executive, including consultation with students about what they would like from these roles;

3. To prepare a proposal for the restructure of the Part-Time Executive to be presented at the first CUSU Council Meeting of Lent Term.

SUPPORT OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE UNIVERSITIES SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

Proposed by Rob Richardson (CUSU Education Officer), seconded by Amelia Horgan (CUSU Women's Officer)

CUSU Notes:

1. That proposals by Universities UK (UUK) to reform the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) will significantly diminish the value of pensions held by university staff, in addition to displacing risk onto individual employees;
2. That UCU members have voted in favour of an assessment boycott beginning 6th November 2014;
3. That the University of Cambridge is one of 69 universities that will be affected by the action;

CUSU Believes:

1. That university staff are entitled to a pension that both reflects their contribution to Higher Education and that does not have its conditions significantly altered mid-way through their career;
2. That in the long-term, proposed changes to USS will harm the university's ability to attract gifted teachers and academics, disproportionately affecting women and minority groups, and could damage the quality of the education students here will receive;
3. That the proposed changes will harm the prospects of many current Cambridge students who will hope to pursue a career in academia;
4. That although the assessment boycott may cause disruption to some students, the motivations of staff for taking industrial action are sound;
5. That UUK should reconsider its intentions to reform USS and, subject to further consultation, search for a solution which appropriately values the fundamental contribution of university staff to HE.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To promote discussions between UCU and UUK to ensure students are not adversely affected by any action taken by members of UCU;
2. To closely monitor the progress of the proposed changes to USS;
3. To communicate with appropriate figures where necessary in order to convey support for the rights of the staff who are fundamental to the education of Cambridge students.

SUPPORT SPORTS PROVISION AT CAMBRIDGE

Proposed by Jemma Stewart (CUSU Coordinator), seconded by Helen Hoogewerf-McComb (CUSU President)

CUSU Notes:

1. That the University Council established a Review Committee to investigate University Sport in November 2012, which issued its report (*A review of the governance and management arrangements for sport within the University*, November 2013) that was later approved by University Council;
2. Some Recommendations of the report include:
 - a. Reforming the Sports Syndicate into a Committee which reports jointly to the University Council and General Board;
 - b. Devising a vision and strategy for sport in the University;
 - c. Determining what funding is required to deliver this strategy for sport and to bid for funding to meet this requirement from the University and Colleges;
3. That 27 members of the Regent House requested that the University Council's Report on the subject (which would begin implementation of the recommendations) be put to a vote at the Regent House, scheduled for the second half of November;
4. That, with sufficient signatures from certain CUSU and GU Sabbatical Officers and Presidents of JCRs and MCRs, students may submit a flysheet outlining their position to those voting;
5. That students engaged in sport have voiced support for the implementation of the Review's recommendations and the need for more to be done, notably in a series of articles in The Blue Bird (www.bluebirdnews.co.uk)

CUSU Believes:

1. That for many students at Cambridge, sport represents a significant contribution to their educational and personal development;
2. That a lack of overarching strategy has resulted in poor support for sport within the University, compared with other Higher Education Institutions;
3. That the implementation of the Review's recommendations would benefit students who participate in sport throughout the Collegiate University;
4. That further work will be required to ensure that students' interests continue to be at the heart of developments in sport provision at the University.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To circulate a redrafted 'placet' & 'non-placet' flysheet to JCR and MCR Presidents for them to choose which to sign;
2. To reach out to members of the Regent House encouraging them to vote 'placet' in favour of the report;
3. To provide support and resources to students campaigning for improved sports provision within the University.

MICHAELMAS I (20TH OCTOBER)

SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL DEMO FOR FREE EDUCATION

Proposed by Ben Platt, seconded by Johannes Woolf

CUSU Notes:

1. That a broad coalition of national student organisations - including the Student Assembly Against Austerity, the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts and the Young Greens - have come together to organise a national demonstration on Wednesday 19th November under the banner of 'Free Education - No Fees, No Cuts, No Debt';
2. The Tory-led government have launched massive attacks on students - including the trebling of tuition fees, the scrapping of EMA and education cuts;
3. The Coalition government wants to deepen these attacks with plans to sell off the student loan book and further slash education budgets in the pipeline;
4. NUS National Conference 2014 voted to "oppose and campaign against all methods of charging students for education - including tuition fees and a 'graduate tax' which is nothing more than a euphemism for 'student debt'" and to launch a campaign for free education.

CUSU Believes:

1. There is an alternative to this failing experiment in fees and marketization: free education is the only way to tackle the student debt crisis and as Germany's decision to scrap tuition fees this year clearly shows it is entirely affordable - it's just a question of priorities.
2. The General Election (in May 2015) gives us a clear opportunity to raise the demands and concerns of students, and to put serious pressure on MPs over the months ahead, and that this national demo has a key roles to play in this.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To support the national student demonstration taking place on Wednesday 19th November;
2. To organise transport to the demonstration to ensure the maximum participation of students from our University;
3. To support NUS' new campaign for free education - as voted for at NUS National Conference 2014.

SUPPORT THE 'GOOD NIGHT OUT' PROJECT

Proposed by Amelia Horgan (CUSU Women's Officer), seconded by Helen Hoogewerf-McComb (CUSU President)

CUSU Notes:

1. That sexual harassment of LGBT+ people is a very serious and very common problem within night-time venues in Cambridge, as evidenced by the joint CUSU Women's Campaign and Varsity survey last year;

2. That the Good Night Out project, a national scheme founded by the NUS Women's Officer and Hollaback London, has recently launched;
3. GNO provides training for club and bar staff on how to deal with harassment, and encourages them to sign up to pledge promising to take sexual harassment seriously. It has successfully signed up and trained several large venues across the city.
4. That the cost of training and signing up to the scheme is £250 per year.

CUSU Believes:

1. That harassment should play no role in University life;
2. That CUSU should work to eliminate harassment and discrimination in all its forms;
3. That the GNO project offers a useful way of countering harassment and educating night-time venues about the difficulties and harassment faced by women and LGBT+ people at their events;

CUSU Resolves:

1. To sign up to the pledge ourselves, and ensure it is in place and relevant staff are trained, especially for any 'ents' events we may hold in the future;
2. To fund training for the Women's officer and relevant members of the CUSU Women's Campaign Committee and CUSU Executive, which would enable us to train bar and club staff (including college 'Ents' teams) on how to deal with sexual harassment;
3. To allocate £250 for the training from the Council Free Budget for this year, and to budget for this expense in future years.
4. To publicise the Good Night Out project, and to encourage local venues - both within colleges and within the town generally - to sign up.

Appendix:

GNO Pledge: "If something or someone makes you feel uncomfortable, no matter how minor it seems, you can speak to any member of staff and they'll work with you to make sure it doesn't have to ruin your night."

POLICY FROM 2013-14

EXTRAORDINARY CUSU COUNCIL EASTER (23RD APRIL 2014)

HOLD A REFERENDUM ON CUSU'S CONSTITUTION

Proposed by the CUSU Sabbatical Team

CUSU Notes:

1. The Ethical Affairs Chair position is not a full-time role;
2. The Ethical Affairs team is a productive force for change in Cambridge University, and a very active part of CUSU;

3. Society committees have provided feedback to CUSU indicating that they have limited access to training, space and funds;
4. Autonomous Campaign members have provided feedback to CUSU indicating that they want more sabbatical support.

CUSU Believes:

1. CUSU should be more involved in students' everyday lives and student groups activities;
2. Providing support for student groups and campaigns should be a key priority for CUSU;
3. Students should have a greater say in the directions of their students union.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To hold a referendum opening on the 28th April in order to introduce the following changes to the CUSU constitution and standing orders
 - Introduce a Campaigns and Societies Officer replacing the CUSU Coordinator role, to be elected by by-election in Easter term 2014
 - i. This role will replace the current Coordinator role, whose non-representative responsibilities will transfer to non-elected staff and CUSU's trustees
 - ii. They will support Autonomous Campaigns, Ethical and Environmental Campaigns led by students, and student societies
 - Introduce CUSU Societies Support
 - i. Opening up the possibility of student groups becoming affiliated with CUSU associated groups
 - ii. Making supporting societies one of CUSU's key priorities
 - Increase the freedom of student reps to change CUSU
 - i. Remove the bureaucracy that currently prevents CUSU Council from changing CUSU should it wish to
 - ii. Give student reps on CUSU Council the power to affiliate associated groups to CUSU and create sub-committees
 - Introduce better student oversight into CUSU's finances
 - i. Move finance governance into CUSU's Standing Orders and create a scrutiny group of student reps to oversee CUSU's spending.
 - Make CUSU more transparent by moving information about trustee accountability into the constitution
2. To conduct informative YES and NO campaigns open to any student wishing to get involved, and to give fair and impartial advice to students on the advantages and disadvantages of the constitutional changes.
3. To re-open nominations for the role of CUSU Coordinator, as defined in the existing governing documents, in the event that the referendum should not pass.

LENT IV (10TH MARCH 2014)

ADDRESS ISSUES AROUND EXAM CELEBRATIONS

Proposed by Helen Hoogewerf-McComb (CUSU/GU Welfare and Rights Officer),
seconded by Jia Hui Lee (CUSU Education Officer)

CUSU Notes:

1. That many students publicly celebrate the end of exams outside of examination halls;
2. That recent years have seen increased attention on these celebrations, both from University and College officials and the national press;
3. That the University has the ability to fine students involved in these celebrations and chose to exercise this power last year.

CUSU Believes:

1. That students should have the right to celebrate the end of their exams;
2. That, in doing so, students should be respectful of others, in particular the general public;
3. That otherwise celebrations run the risk of souring relations with local residents and promoting a Cambridge stereotype which could damage access efforts.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To communicate to students the need to be respectful during celebrations, particularly those occurring on public property;
2. To work with the University and Colleges to provide students with alternative opportunities for exam celebrations;
3. To campaign to prevent undue or unfair penalties being levied against students involved in exam celebrations.

STOP PAYDAY LOANS; SUPPORT CREDIT UNIONS

Proposed by Fred Cotterill, seconded by Holly Higgins

CUSU Notes:

1. Payday lenders offer short term loans at high interest rates;
2. Those who take out payday loan often roll over their debt;
3. Research undertaken by the National Union of Students (NUS) shows that some student groups are more likely to access payday loans. These include parents, student carers, LGBT students and others;
4. Payday lenders have been banned from advertising on 7 campuses across the UK;
5. Payday lenders have recently targeted students, who are often financially vulnerable;
6. There is already an effort to promote Credit Unions in Cambridge.

CUSU Believes:

1. Payday lenders often target the poorest and most vulnerable people in society;
2. The students' union and university have a responsibility to provide sensible and safe financial advice;

3. Credit unions offer low interest short term loans which are an alternative to payday lenders.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To conduct research into the prevalence of payday loan/other short term credit use among students at the University of Cambridge;
2. To source information for students about the dangers of borrowing from payday lenders, already available support for students in debt, and the promotion of credit unions as a sustainable alternative;
3. To establish links with similarly concerned campus and community groups already working to the ends of this campaign;
4. To lobby the University of Cambridge to ban payday lending companies and their advertisements from campus, on the institution website and any institution publications;
5. To invite Cambridge credit unions to run a stall at future Freshers' Fairs;
6. To prevent any payday loans companies from advertising with CUSU in the future.

SUPPORT LECTURERS

Proposed by Jia Hui Lee (CUSU Education Officer), seconded by Felicity Osborn (CUSU President)

CUSU Notes:

1. That nationally lecturers have seen their pay fall in real terms by 13% over the last four years while Vice Chancellors have received an average of 5.1% in pay rises;
2. That the pay dispute between lecturers and their university employers has gone on for almost a year;
3. That the unions, including the University College Union (UCU) have taken substantial industrial action for fair pay, including full-day and partial-day strikes;
4. That despite this substantial industrial action, the national Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA) has yet to return to the negotiating table;
5. That there are limited forms of actions that lecturers can take and that as a last resort, UCU's national Higher Education Committee has agreed to escalate action by calling for a marking boycott to begin on 28th April 2014;
6. That the marking boycott is not to call for a specific pay rise but to persuade UCEA to return to the negotiating table;
7. That UCEA has yet to indicate that they will return to negotiations.

CUSU Believes:

1. That lecturers and staff should be fairly remunerated in order to ensure a quality educational experience;
2. That a stringent double-marking system is required to maintain the standard and quality of a Cambridge degree across all subjects;
3. That UCEA should return to the negotiating table as soon as possible to avoid disruption to the marking process or delay graduation for students;

4. That the best way forward is to take proactive and preventative action to avoid a marking boycott.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To reiterate its support for fair remuneration for lecturers to ensure a quality education experience for students;
2. To set up a petition for students to sign to call on the UCEA and the University of Cambridge to return to the negotiating table so as to avoid disruption to the marking process;
3. To mandate the CUSU sabbatical officers to draft a letter detailing students' concerns to Cambridge University and the UCEA;
4. To raise the issue at University committees, via elected student representatives, asking that the University uses its leverage with UCEA to persuade them to return to the negotiation table.

LENT III

DEVELOP A TIME TO CHANGE PLEDGE WITH CUSU, THE UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGES

Proposed by Helen Hoogewerf-McComb (CUSU-GU Welfare and Rights Officer),
seconded by Flick Osborn (CUSU President)

CUSU Notes:

1. That NUS research has shown that 92% of students experience feelings of mental distress during their studies and 20% consider themselves to have a mental health problem;
2. That only 17% of students experiencing mental distress have accessed support through their institution;
3. That Time to Change is England's biggest programme to end the stigma and discrimination faced by people with mental health problems;
4. That to date at least 30 English universities and Students' Unions have signed a Time to Change Pledge, committing to an action plan to tackle mental health stigma and discrimination;

CUSU Believes:

1. That it is important for CUSU to make a public commitment to tackling mental health-related stigma and discrimination;
2. That establishing a clear action plan to address mental health issues will help to ensure the continuity of CUSUs efforts and aid development of future initiatives;
3. That a public commitment and action plan from the University and Colleges on the issue of mental health would benefit students through improvements to services and student experience;

4. That such an action plan from the University and Colleges would make it easier for students to identify areas of weakness and campaign for change;

CUSU Resolves:

1. To develop a Time to Change Pledge Action Plan to promote mental wellbeing amongst CUSU's membership and staff;
2. To present the Pledge Action Plan for approval at a future Council;
3. To campaign for the University and Colleges to make their own organisational pledges to tackle mental health stigma and discrimination.

SUPPORT THE NASMA E-PETITION ON MONTHLY STUDENT LOAN PAYMENTS

Proposed by Sam Ruiz (CUSU Access and Funding Officer), seconded by Jia Hui Lee (CUSU Education Officer)

CUSU Notes

1. That HE students in the UK mostly receive their financial support payments in three termly instalments, and that this is principally due to the fact that payments were originally received in cheque form from students' individual local authorities;
2. That the NUS' Pound In Your Pocket research showed that students want to be paid more frequently, in either weekly or monthly instalments;
3. That, since 2007, Scottish students have been paid their student support in monthly instalments;
4. That many students, particularly in their first year, have difficulty with budgeting, and it is not uncommon for students to run out of money at the end of term;
5. That, as part of National Student Money Week, the National Association of Student Money Advisers (NASMA) has launched a petition on the government e-petitions site calling for all student finance payments to be made monthly, rather than termly;
6. That the termly bill structure in Colleges could make monthly finance payments unmanageable for many students.

CUSU Believes

1. That, although feedback from Scotland on the monthly payments system has been mixed, it would be a positive step forward for the issue to be discussed in England;
2. That a system of monthly payments would be preferable for some students, but not all, and as such the ideal situation would be that students are given a choice about how often and when their payments are made;
3. That we should still support the NASMA petition in order to encourage wider discussion of the issue, although the petition calls for all payments to be made monthly and this isn't necessarily ideal for all students.

CUSU Resolves

1. To support the NASMA e-petition and advertise it to JCRs and MCRs, as well as to all students through social media and the CUSU bulletin;
2. To contact NASMA expressing our concerns, and suggesting that a choice be offered to students between termly and monthly payments;
3. To explore with the Colleges whether or not they would be open to charging rent monthly in the event that students did receive their support monthly.

LENT II (10TH FEBRUARY 2014)

PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR POSITIVE INVESTMENT CAMBRIDGE

Proposed by Sara Stillwell, seconded by Jonas Knapp

CUSU Notes:

1. That Positive Investment Cambridge, formerly CUSRIC (Cambridge University Socially Responsible Investment Coalition), is a broad-based coalition, mainly composed of students, which campaigns for the university and colleges to invest their endowments in ways that do not contradict the social responsibilities of our institution;
2. That Positive Investment Cambridge is affiliated to CUSU through three Socially Responsible Investment Officers, who were elected at CUSU Council in Michaelmas Term 2013;
3. That Positive Investment Cambridge continues to work closely with CUSU and represent student opinions on this issue;
4. That it is CUSU policy to: campaign for responsible investment within the University, to support CUSU members who wish to encourage their colleges to invest responsibly, and to lobby the university and its colleges to explicitly commit to pursuing low-carbon assets and withdraw their investments from companies whose main business is the extraction and/or production of fossil fuels;
5. That Positive Investment currently requires financial support to the value of £400 for the purposes of mobilising action through awareness campaigns, for such purposes as printing, food to incentivise students to attend events, materials for visual campaigns etc.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the way that the endowment of the university is spent necessarily reflects the values of the institution;
2. That Positive Investment Cambridge, and the issue on which it is focused, has a sufficient level of student support and CUSU affiliation/alignment for the organisation to be a good candidate for CUSU funding;
3. That there are few clear sources from which Positive Investment Cambridge can obtain funding;
4. That CUSU can provide funding for student campaigns which it has voted to support;

5. That Positive Investment Cambridge as a campaign would likely be buoyed through an injection of funding to launch public campaigns.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To provide Positive Investment Cambridge with £400 for them to spend to further their aims.

RENEEW CUSU'S EXTERNAL AFFILIATIONS

LENT I (27TH JANUARY 2014)

EDUCATE STUDENTS ABOUT NUS' CARE.DATA PROGRAMME

Proposed by Chris Kerr (CUSU Open Portfolio Officer - Digital Rights)

CUSU Notes:

1. That NHS England's new "care.data" programme will see medical records uploaded to a central repository and sold to third-party bidders;
2. That records will be uploaded to "care.data" unless the subject (or a family member on their behalf) explicitly instructs their GP not to upload the records;
3. That the "care.data" programme is distinct from the "Summary Care Record" and is intended purely for non-medical uses;
4. That, while the records provided to third parties will be "anonymised", studies have shown that combining the research data with publicly available information will allow re-identification in many cases;
5. That there has been adverse reaction to this programme from civil liberties groups and the media, with even research-oriented groups likely to benefit from the data expressing concern about the lack of consent;
6. That the NHS has only sent out one copy per household of their information leaflet about "care.data" and that this leaflet provides misleading instructions on the procedure for withholding consent;
7. That students living in shared or college accommodation are therefore at risk of not being informed about this programme, its consequences and the procedures for opting out;
8. That local GPs contacted as part of preparing this motion expressed their support.

CUSU Believes:

1. That gathering research data from medical records without the informed consent of the subject constitutes a violation of the 1947 Nuremberg Code and the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki;
2. That transmitting medical records to others, without patient consent and for purposes other than the patient's own medical treatment, constitutes a violation of the Hippocratic Oath;

3. That the procedures adopted by NHS England for publicising the “care.data” programme entail a serious risk of neither informing patients nor obtaining their consent;
4. That this risk is elevated for students living in shared accommodation.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To create a page on the CUSU website with links to relevant information from campaign groups and from the NHS itself, and contact details for local GP practices;
2. To publicise this page in the CUSU weekly e-mail bulletin and otherwise;
3. To, so far as is compatible with porters' regulations on mass leafleting of pigeonholes and feasible given volunteers' time, put a copy of medConfidential's information leaflet and opt-out form in every student's college pigeonhole.
4. To allocate the necessary funds (at most £200) from the CUSU Free Budget to pay for printing and other costs of carrying out Resolves 3.

MICHAELMAS IV (25TH NOVEMBER 2013)

CONDEMNING THE PRIVATISATION OF THE STUDENT LOAN BOOK

Proposed by Flick Osborn (CUSU President), seconded by Ani Brooker

CUSU Notes:

1. That pre-2012/13 student loan legislation requires that interest rates for income contingent loans should not exceed one percentage point above the highest base rate of a specified group of major banks, thereby protecting students through this “low interest cap”;
2. That under the above model, the interest rate for the student loan had been 1.5% for three consecutive years;
3. That the low interest cap no longer applies to students who started in 2012/13, meaning they are charged an interest rate that is three percentage points higher than RPI;
4. That therefore new students are charged 6.6% interest compared to 1.5% (under the low interest cap) for students who started before 2012;
5. That as of 2012/13 the student loan repayment threshold is a salary of £21,000 p.a. before tax;
6. That the House of Commons Student Loans Statistics paper for 2011/12 states: “An aim of the student support system is to ensure that the upfront costs do not deter potential students”;
7. That the intention to sell off income-contingent loans was re-iterated in the 2013 Spending Round;
8. That estimated average fee levels from 2012/13 imply that Home students who take out average maintenance and fee loans will have a typical debt on graduation of just over £40,000.

CUSU Believes:

1. That students contribute significantly to the success of the UK economy;
2. That privatisation of the student loan book could greatly increase repayment interest rates;
3. That the prospect of private loans may deter prospective students from access backgrounds applying to Higher Education Institutions.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the CUSU sabbatical officers to work with the University to combat the privatisation of student loans;
2. To coordinate a cross-college awareness raising campaign about the dangers of privatising student loans;
3. To lobby MPs, particularly Julian Huppert, to stand against such a change.

REFORMING CUSU COUNCIL

Proposed by the CUSU Democracy and Development Team

CUSU Notes:

1. That according to the Constitution D.1, Council is “the principal representative, policy-making and administering body of the CUSU” and “shall have primacy in all matters pertaining to the CUSU”;
2. That constitutionally Council is quorate when 25% of voting members registered with the Chair are present;
3. That all ordinary members of CUSU are welcome and encouraged to attend Council meetings;
4. That Council attendance of voting members during Michaelmas Term 2013 to date has averaged 24.5 of a possible 117; (not including Mich II)
5. That nine motions have been proposed to Council to date this year, of which four were written by ordinary members of CUSU.

CUSU Believes:

1. That an effective and accessible central body is essential for the students’ union;
2. That Council should provide a forum for constructive, balanced debate about a wide variety of issues affecting students;
3. That structures and procedures at Council could be improved to increase attendance of both voting and ordinary members of CUSU.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To invite feedback from all voting members of Council about its structure and procedures through a thorough survey;
2. To mandate the sabbatical officers to present a plan for Council reform to the first meeting of Council in Lent term 2014.

SUPPORTING THE 3RD DECEMBER STRIKE ACTION

Proposed by Mordecai Paechter, seconded by Kevin Chang

CUSU Notes:

1. That since 2008, cuts have been made to public spending including, but not limited to, education;
2. That as a result of this, University staff have, since the beginning of 2008, suffered a real terms pay cut of 13%;
3. That staff are being offered a 1% pay rise this year with inflation remaining at 2.7%;
4. That the University employers (Universities and Colleges Employers Association), meanwhile, are sitting, at a national level, on an amassed surplus of more than £1.1 billion;
5. That the squeeze on staff pay comes at a time when pay and benefits for university managers increased, on average, by more than £5,000 in 2011-12, with the average pay and pensions package for vice-chancellors hitting almost £250,000 according to the annual Times Higher Education-Grant Thornton pay survey;
6. That as a result of this, both academic and non-academic staff from UCU, Unison and Unite unions went on strike on 31st October 2013;
7. That many of our lecturers are members of UCU and that many academic support staff, library, administrative and other workers are members of Unison and Unite;
8. That, with their demands unmet, the unions have called a second day of strike action on December 3rd 2013;
9. That the National Union of Students is actively supporting the strikes.

CUSU Believes:

1. That any attack on academic job security and conditions is deleterious both to academic and student interests, making it more likely that the 'student experience' will be qualitatively worse;
2. That lecturers who have voted to take industrial action in defence of their jobs and working conditions should be supported by students;
3. That the short-term disruption caused by the strike is far outweighed by the intensely disruptive longer-term prospects for job security and quality of education;
4. That the pay and conditions of university staff are being squeezed as part of wider changes to education in Britain that has seen cuts to courses, an increase in tuition fees; and that the struggle by staff for decent pay therefore concerns students.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To publicly support all university staff taking strike action on December 3rd 2013;
2. To take concrete steps to build solidarity with UCU, Unite and Unison, support in public statements, and other measures;
3. To organise a joint open-meeting with representatives of UCU, Unison and Unite to inform students about why the strike is happening and what they can do to support it;

4. To include news of the strike in the CUSU bulletin and create a Facebook event, and in these ways encourage members to contact their academic supervisors about the strike to provoke discussion;
5. To provide information on why students might not want to cross the picket lines, and why they might wish to join them; and for CUSU to support students joining the picket lines by providing t-shirts and placards and sending a speaker to speak on behalf of CUSU at the strike.
6. To publicly support all university staff taking strike action on December 3rd 2013;
7. To send delegates to the local Trades Council and to picket lines to offer practical support for the strike on the December 3rd 2013, and for further action against cuts to university and HE funding.

MICHAELMAS III

OPPOSE THE IMMIGRATION BILL

Proposed by Jite Gu (iCUSU President), seconded by Felicity Osborn (CUSU President)

CUSU Notes:

1. That just over 10% of Cambridge University undergraduates students are international, while up to 70% of taught postgraduates are international;
2. That the Bill introduces a healthcare surcharge of up to £200 for anyone remaining in the UK for more than 6 months, which is a precondition of entry;
3. That international students may not require £200 worth of medical service each year;
4. That for many international students, particularly postgraduates, with families this healthcare charge is multiplied;
5. That landlords and agents are given responsibility to carry out immigration status checks on any adult to whom they let a property;
6. That the Bill proposes to increase visa fees and to do so more than once annually;
7. That the Bill removes the right to appeal for international students who apply for a visa or visa extension in country;
8. That 50% of in-country appeals were upheld last year and that 70% of these were due to errors in the application process;
9. That Julian Huppert, MP for Cambridge, is sitting on a public bill committee scrutinising the Bill and suggesting amendments to government ministers;

CUSU Believes:

1. That international students should not be unfairly burdened to provide Government income;
2. That international students contribute greatly to the academic and extra-curricular life of Cambridge students;
3. That an extra charge to access the NHS might deter future Cambridge applicants;
4. That immigration status checks by landlords may lead to racial profiling and unwelcome stereotyping of international students;

5. That discrimination by landlords may mean international students struggle to rent accommodation;
6. That the right for international graduates to work and study further in the UK should be better protected;

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate iCUSU and the CUSU Sabbatical Team to send a letter to Julian Huppert opposing the Bill, signed by international societies and JCR/MCR committees on behalf of their college;
2. To encourage all members to join National Union of Students' 'Don't shut the door on international students' online campaign;
3. To organise a petition, signed by individual students, to be sent to the Government when the Bill progresses to the House of Lords;
4. To collaborate with other students' unions to raise awareness of the Bill on CUSU social media channels.

ENCOURAGING DIVESTMENT FROM NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES

CUSU Notes:

1. That the University has public commitments to make continued efforts to reduce its environmental impact by implementing policies and procedures that contribute to a reduction in the University's carbon footprint. As the Cambridge Zero Carbon Society has noted, "in December 2007, the University signed the Cambridge Climate Change Charter (...), which acknowledges the increasing impact of climate change and makes a commitment to tackle this issue. Initiatives include energy conservation and efficiency within buildings, high environmental standards for new buildings, a requirement that all new large buildings generate at least 10% of their energy from on-site renewables, and engaging in research and local and national initiatives on climate change.";
2. That the University and its college has an endowment of nearly £5 billion. Whilst no information about the university's portfolio is publically available, Freedom of Information requests have shown that colleges across the board have direct and indirect investments in fossil fuel companies including BP, Exxon Mobil, Gazprom, Lukoil, Royal Dutch Shell and BHP Billiton;
3. These are among the world's 200 largest fossil fuel companies by proven carbon reserves, and that these reserves are well in excess of the amount of carbon that can be safely burned to have a chance of staying below 2 degrees Celsius of global warming;
4. That Carbon Tracker's "Unburnable Carbon 2013" report, co-authored with LSE's Grantham Research Institute, highlights the overvaluation of fossil fuel reserves and the huge long-term financial risks of investing in fossil fuels;
5. That People & Planet, in partnership with 350.org and others, has launched a Fossil Free UK campaign, calling on UK higher education institutions to divest from fossil fuels and sever their links with these companies;

6. That six higher education institutions in the United States, in addition to seventeen cities, various investment banks and pension funds, and numerous faith groups have already committed to divesting from fossil fuels for both moral and financial reasons.

CUSU Believes:

1. That, as recently outlined by the IPCC's 5th Assessment Report, warming is unequivocal and the dominant cause of change is anthropogenic. An absolute upper limit on greenhouse gas emissions is necessary to ensure a safe and stable future for the economy, the planet and all people on it;
2. That the fossil fuel industry, by extracting, processing, promoting and facilitating the use of, selling and profiting from fossil fuels, as well as by having a major influence on government policy, is complicit in causing global climate change and its catastrophic impacts;
3. That we must do everything in our power to rapidly reduce the global use of fossil fuels and expand clean energy alternatives such that the University's and its colleges' endowments be economically and environmentally sustainable;
4. That the University should be a role model in society, acting responsibly and helping create a safe future that is better for everyone;
5. That all investments are statements about the future, and Cambridge's current policies endorse a future of greater environmental degradation and perilous further dependence on fossil fuels.
6. That the University's commitment to tackling climate change should extend to its investment portfolio, as well as its own operations and research priorities.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate CUSU officers to lobby the university and its colleges to explicitly commit to pursuing low-carbon assets and withdraw their investments from companies whose main business is the extraction and/or production of fossil fuels. This also implies divesting from direct ownership of any commingled or mutual funds that contain fossil fuel holdings;
2. To mandate the Ethical Affairs Team to coordinate and put resources toward a high-profile Fossil Free campaign around fossil fuel divestment on campus, including the dissemination of information about the University's investments and the companies it invests in;
3. To mandate the Socially Responsible Investment Officer(s) to push the University for greater transparency over its investments;
4. To mandate the Ethical Affairs Chairs to actively work with People & Planet and other external organisations involved in fossil fuel divestment and related campaigns;
5. To support and encourage other student unions to submit similar policies and launch their own Fossil Free campaigns.

SUPPORT POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS

Proposed by Helen Hoogewerf-McComb (CUSU/GU Welfare & Rights Officer), seconded by Jia Hui Lee (CUSU Education Officer)

CUSU Notes:

1. That the University are increasing graduate numbers by 2% per annum for the foreseeable future;
2. That postgraduate research students (PGRs, the majority of whom are PhD students), expressed concerns surrounding opportunities to teach and supervise during an open meeting organised by CUSU and the GU in August 2013;
3. That these students also expressed concern about the systems which are currently in place for changing their supervisor.

CUSU Believes:

1. That PGRs need better representation across the University;
2. That all PGRs should have access to transparent and fair procedures regarding teaching and supervising, regardless of their department and faculty;
3. That PGRs should not be prohibited from continuing their research if seeking a change of supervisor.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To organise further open meetings and consultation with PGRs;
2. To mandate the CUSU President to scrutinise the University's proposed Code of Practice for graduate supervisions and to submit a report on said Code of Practice to the Council in due time;
3. To mandate the CUSU sabbatical officers to produce summary material of the graduate handbook for PGRs regarding procedures for teaching and supervision opportunities;
4. To investigate existing procedures across departments for managing PGRs' complaints particularly with reference to changing supervisor.

SUPPORTING SOCIETIES

Proposed by Flick Osborn (CUSU President), seconded by Dom Weldon (CUSU Coordinator)

CUSU Notes:

1. That the University's current provision for societies is solely to allow them to register with the Junior Proctor and to allow registered societies to apply for ad-hoc or annual grants from the Societies Syndicate, which is largely underused;
2. That within the Collegiate University at present there exists no support, training or robust and easily accessible oversight system for the development of student societies;

3. That Cambridge is home to around 750 clubs and societies covering a vast array of interests which all contribute to the richness of the student experience at Cambridge;
4. That CUSU puts on the annual Societies Fair, which is the biggest Fair of its kind for societies in the UK and which this year was expanded and improved in an effort to provide the best possible service to students.

CUSU Believes:

1. That societies are an essential part of the student experience in Cambridge and are of value to CUSU, the University and most importantly to all students;
2. That more students should be empowered to engage in student activities such as those of student societies, clubs and sports teams;
3. That students who engage in these activities deserve support to make their society the best it can be;
4. That CUSU is best placed to cost-effectively provide such support directly to students in favour of other organisations including the University.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the CUSU Coordinator to liaise with the Junior Proctor to research and report to Council the full extent of the support currently available for clubs and societies at Cambridge and how this can be improved for the benefit of the University and students;
2. To consult with student committees throughout Michaelmas term to determine the support they would benefit from receiving;
3. To present a paper detailing those findings to CUSU in Lent term.

A PERMANENT LIVING WAGE OFFICER

Proposed by Flick Osborn (CUSU President), seconded by Barney McCay

CUSU Notes:

1. That the CUSU Women's Campaign chose the Living Wage Campaign as one of their five priorities for the year;
2. That several Colleges have recently become fully adherent to the Living Wage but many have not;
3. That the cost of living is consistently increasing.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the Living Wage is a fair way of paying workers so that they can choose how they spend and should not be exchanged for other benefits;
2. That it is powerful when students, staff and academics work together;
3. That CUSU needs a permanent Part-Time Executive role dedicated to furthering this campaign until every College pays the Living Wage.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To add the following to G.8 of the CUSU Standing Orders:
 - (viii) Living Wage Officer
 - a) Shall be elected by the Council at the Third meeting of Michaelmas Term
 - b) Shall lead CUSU campaigns and activities involving the payment of the Living Wage to all collegiate University employees
2. To allocate £300 of the Council Free Budget to resource the Living Wage Campaign.

OPPOSING THE LOBBYING AND TRANSPARENCY BILL

Proposed by Jia Hui Lee (CUSU Education Officer), seconded by Flick Osborne (CUSU President)

CUSU Notes:

1. That the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Bill contains measures to regulate campaigning carried out by charities, community groups, and students unions;
2. That the Bill does not regulate huge donations to political parties from individuals;
3. That the cap on spending for political purposes as defined by the Bill will limit charities and students unions' ability to contribute significantly to democratic debate on issues of public concern;
4. That requiring registration of a charity or student union intending to spend on 'election material' will add an administrative burden and limit free speech;
5. That the definition of what spending counts towards 'political purpose' is vague and open to misinterpretation.

CUSU Believes:

1. That student unions are key contributors to democratic debate on issues of public concern such as access to higher education and graduate employment;
2. That the work of CUSU will be subjected to self-censorship and its ability to carry out its work will be limited by this Bill;
3. That charities and campaigns are significant ways through which students today engage in politics.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To provide resources and information for students on the impact of the proposed Bill;
2. To work with the National Union of Students (NUS) and the Commission on Civil Society and Democratic Engagement to oppose this Bill in its current form;
3. To work with and lobby Julian Huppert, MP for Cambridge, to prevent this Bill from becoming law in its current form.

LAPSED POLICY FROM 2012-13

This section includes policy passed at CUSU Councils held in 2012-13 that have now lapsed, which CUSU members may wish to bring back as CUSU Policy.

EASTER I 2013

SUPPORTING CITIES FIT FOR CYCLING

CUSU Notes:

1. On Wednesday 24 April The House of Commons published the 'Get Britain Cycling report', making 18 recommendations which call on the Government to make Britain's streets safer and more inviting for cyclists.
2. These recommendations include:
 - Creating an annual cycling budget equivalent to £10 per head of population,
 - Funding cycling through health, education, sport and business budgets as well as transport budgets,
 - Extending 20mph zones in towns,
 - Limit the use of HGVs on busy urban streets at peak hours.
3. The Times has launched the *Cities Fit for Cycling* campaign to encourage people to sign their online pledge and the government e-petition (see appendix) which calls on the Prime Minister to implement the recommendations in the House of Commons' report.
4. 46% of adults cycle at least once per week in Cambridge.

CUSU Believes:

1. That cycling provision could be improved in Cambridge and nationally to ensure better safety for cyclists.
2. In the promotion of cycling as a healthy way to travel.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To support the *Get Britain Cycling Report*.
2. Send out the link to the pledge and e-petition in the next CUSU Bulletin.

'IMPOSSIBLE' (LILY COLE)

CUSU Notes:

1. That Lily Cole, a King's alumna, has a Yunus Social Business project, "Impossible" which she plans to do a closed beta-launch of in Cambridge University (before a wider national launch):
2. That Cole has approached KCSU and CUSU for advice and support regarding publicising the project amongst the student population.
3. That Cole wants to invite any Cambridge students who would like to see the idea work at scale, to be active participants in the design of the idea through usage and/or feedback.

4. That KCSU has passed a motion at an Open Meeting supporting the project, and hence mandating its Officers to bring this motion.

CUSU Believes:

1. That, if successful, the project could be beneficial to the student body, promoting social cohesion and helping students help one another.
2. That, if successfully developed within and by the Cambridge student body, the project could be beneficial to promoting social cohesion in communities beyond Cambridge.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To support the project and its launch in Cambridge.
2. To encourage JCRs and MCRs to support and publicise the project within their Colleges.

NO MORE PAGE 3

CUSU Notes:

1. Many Colleges provide The Sun newspaper for their students.
2. The Sun has a tradition of having a pornographic and objectifying image of a topless woman on Page 3. This is accompanied by a section entitled 'News in Brief' which presents a misogynistic view of women as lacking intelligence.
3. This year has seen the launch of the national "No More Page 3" campaign that seeks the removal of Page 3 from The Sun newspaper because of the sexist nature of this page.
4. The Students' Union at The London School of Economics and the Students' Union at Sheffield University have both passed motions to boycott the newspaper while it retains the pornographic Page 3.
5. The End Violence Against Women Coalition (EVAW) has repeatedly highlighted the sexualisation of women in the media and popular culture as a 'conducive context' for violence against women
6. Women's Aid has shown that, in the UK, 1 in 4 women will be a victim of gender based violence during their life time.
7. Even David Cameron acknowledges that Page 3 is not suitable for children.
8. There are around 800 student parents in this University.

CUSU Believes:

1. That this Student Union is committed to equality, and therefore opposes sexism.
2. That Page 3 may have direct effects on how women perceive themselves. It reinforces a single beauty ideal that many women do not meet and resultantly may make women feel uncomfortable and unconfident.
3. That Page 3 may have direct effects on how women are perceived by others. It implies that women are primarily sexual objects for visual consumption whilst diminishing their intelligence. There is the risk that this encourages sexist attitudes towards women that are still very prevalent in this university.

4. That images like these legitimise objectification of women and therefore contribute to a normalisation of sexual violence.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the CUSU President to ask JCR and MCR representatives to inform the CUSU Women's Officer whether their College provides the Sun for students.
2. To encourage JCR and MCR Presidents to support subsequent negotiation about boycotting The Sun in Colleges until the pornographic Page 3 is removed.
3. To support the national No More Page 3 campaign.

CELEBRATING POSITIVE CHANGE

CUSU Notes:

1. Students enact positive change every day in Cambridge.
2. JCRs, MCRs and individual student officers spend a lot of time finding solutions to problems and running campaigns.

CUSU Believes:

1. We rarely celebrate the positive outcomes in our Colleges and Faculties, which we create as a student body.
2. An informal awards event in May week would be a nice way to relax and celebrate positive change in our Colleges and University.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To set up a Student Awards programme and run it as a pilot this year, as per Annex A.
2. To appoint one JCR Officer, one MCR Officer, one Faculty Rep and one member of the CUSU Executive to form a panel of Judges.
3. To encourage students to nominate their peers for the following Awards:
 - a. JCR Committee of the year
 - b. MCR Committee of the year
 - c. Student Officer of the year
 - d. Campaign of the year
4. To present the Awards at the CUSU Garden Party on the 17th June.

STUDENTS DESERVE BETTER - A NEW WELFARE CAMPAIGN

CUSU Notes:

1. That Colleges are tasked with the welfare of students; however, that the welfare provisions across the colleges varies wildly, in, for example, the availability of a college nurse.
2. That students who approach the Student Advice Service for support often flag up similar issues relating to the welfare structures in colleges.

3. That there are systemic problems with tutors, who do not receive any kind of mandatory training in welfare support.
4. That whilst it may be common knowledge among students as to where the weaknesses in college welfare provisions lie, there is not enough hard statistical data to support a substantive argument for making changes.
5. That, in the Vice Chancellor's Q&A session last week, the VC acknowledged the concerns that students had about inequalities in college welfare, and encouraged them to engage in changing it.

CUSU Believes:

1. That it is unfair that two students on the same course but at different college should have access to unequal welfare provisions.
2. That the tutorial system as it stands is not fit for purpose; and, furthermore, that tutors should be trained individuals who can provide adequate support for students.
3. That it is necessary to gather as much information as possible from as many students as possible to ensure that CUSU is campaigning on the right issues, and flagging up these as matters of concern to the University via CUSU's membership of University and intercollegiate committees.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the CUSU Welfare & Rights officer to gather as much evidence on student's experience of college welfare systems via an online survey.
 - a. To produce a report to the University flagging up the major issues that this survey reveals.
 - b. To share the data of the survey with JCR and MCR committees, in order to support changes they may wish to make to their colleges.
 - c. To produce a report for CUSU Council by the end of Michaelmas on where the weaknesses lie
2. For members of council to encourage their JCR/MCR to take part in the survey and publicise it accordingly.

DISABLED STUDENTS AND ATOS

CUSU Notes:

1. ATOS is a French IT company who have been awarded a £400m contract to perform disability assessments
2. ATOS uses a computer system to assess disabled people's 'fitness to work' for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).
3. This assessment consists of tick-boxes on a screen, and it doesn't allow for any medical or qualitative evidence.
4. 31 of the 123 centres used by Atos for conducting WCA do not have ground floor access for wheelchair users.
5. 40% of ATOS decisions to declare disabled people fit for work have been overturned when appealed.

6. That NUS Disabled Students' Campaign is encouraging students unions to pass motions condemning ATOS.

CUSU Believes:

1. That ATOS's conduct and role in disability assessment is concerning, and that it has an impact on the lives of disabled students.
2. That the recent shakeup of disability benefit will have a real impact on the lives of current and future disabled students.

CUSU Resolves:

1. That CUSU should work with NUS Disabled Students Campaign to campaign against ATOS.
2. That CUSU should write to Julian Huppert MP and request that he raise concerns about ATOS in Parliament.
3. That CUSU should not enter into any partnership with ATOS whether that be them delivering accredited courses or recruiting employers at our University.
4. That CUSU should encourage the University to condemn ATOS for their harmful role in disability assessment.

AFFILIATION TO THE CHARITY FINANCE GROUP

CUSU Notes:

1. CUSU is a registered charity and, along with being financially accountable to its membership, has a statutory obligation to coordinate its finances in the interests of the its charitable objects, ensuring transparency, accuracy, and appropriate compliance takes place; charity law places extensive requirements on the proper coordination of finances.
2. CUSU is a small charity with a large turnover.
3. Elected officers and officer/student trustees often change annually and are expected to understand accounts and respond to financial problems, often without any prior experience.
4. Professional peer networks are good ways to access existing experience in other organisations and gain support from peer organisations.
5. The Charity Finance Group (CFG) exists to provide services to its member charitable organisations and is currently offering students' unions eleven months membership for the price of six months (£77 for eleven months).
6. The CFG provides the following types of support to its members: professional development, a network of other charity finance professionals, online resources, specialist groups, publications and up-to-date information materials, financial experts and specialist advice. The CFG also lobbies government on behalf of its members in regard to charity finance legislation and regulations, which have the potential to impact its membership.

CUSU Believes:

1. The CFG would be a useful organisation for CUSU to affiliate to and standards of operation at CUSU would be raised by its membership of CFG.
2. Support from the CFG would contribute to greater diligence in CUSU's financial operations on behalf of members.
3. Elected officers and appointed trustees would benefit from having access to the support available via CFG (and as such, so would CUSU's student members).

CUSU Resolves:

1. To affiliate to CFG using money from the Council Free Budget.

LENT IV 2013

COLLEGE FEES FOR PART-TIME STUDENTS

CUSU Notes:

1. That part-time graduate students pay a College Fee at 20% the full-time rate;
2. That part-time graduate students are often in Cambridge for far less than half of the time, and are able to take advantage of far less than a notional 'half' of what Colleges offer to full-time, resident students;
3. That the Bursars' Committee has tried to increase the part-time Graduate College Fee from 20% to 50% of the full-time rate for next year;
4. That the Bursars have been forced to retreat from this plan;
5. That the Colleges have, coincidentally, now sought to produce a document outlining what a part-time graduate student can receive for their College Fee;
6. That such a document could clearly be used as justification for increasing part-time College Fees;
7. That the document drafted by the Colleges was exaggerated, and has been sent back to be rewritten.

CUSU Believes:

1. That it would be extremely difficult to justify charging part-time students as much as 50% of the full-time Graduate College Fee;
2. That the onus is on the Colleges to provide such a justification;
3. That it would be entirely irrational for the Bursars even to seek to increase College Fees for part-time students until the Colleges have clearly articulated what such students genuinely receive for the College Fees they currently pay.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To continue campaigning to improve support for our part-time, non-resident students, and to make absolutely explicit our formal opposition to College Fee increases for part-time students on the basis of the points in CUSU Believes.

THE FUTURE OF GRADUATE COLLEGE FEES: DEMANDING A TRANSPARENT PROCESS

CUSU Notes:

1. That the Bursars have been developing proposals to radically change the structure of College Fees for graduate students, which could include increases of thousands of pounds per year for some categories of students and create the first distinctions between home and international students and arts and science courses in the College Fee rate that graduate students pay;
2. That there is no student membership of the Bursars' Committee or its powerful student fees subcommittee;
3. That no part of the discussions or development of the Bursars' proposals have involved students;
4. That this process has not only failed to produce proposals that students can have confidence in, but has also failed to produce proposals that the Colleges themselves can support;
5. That the new working group tasked with continuing the development of the Bursars' proposals includes Bursars but lacks student members as well.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the Bursars' attempts to develop proposals in secret on this hugely important issue have spectacularly failed;
2. That it is, in general terms, entirely unacceptable for such important discussions to be had, and important decisions to be made, about students' experiences in Cambridge in secret;
3. That students must be represented as these discussions continue, and it is not enough for the Bursars merely to occasionally ask other committees that do have student members for their views on the outcome of discussions that Bursars have already concluded.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To condemn the process the University has allowed the Bursars to follow in developing their proposals on the future of Graduate College Fees so far;
2. To reiterate CUSU's specific demand for student representation upon the Bursars' Committee and its important sub-committees;
3. To begin a transparent consultation exercise with our own members to explore the range of views on this important issue for the future of graduate study in Cambridge.

IMPROVING SUPPORT FOR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**CUSU Notes:**

1. That student representation on Faculty Boards and Councils of Schools is at least consistent across the University;
2. That the structures of student representation at more local levels within the University– including of Department Committees, Teaching Committees, Staff-

- Student Consultative Committees, Liaison Committees, year reps' groups and others—are not consistent from Faculty to Faculty;
3. That the University lacks centrally-compiled information about what these structures even are and who has the different roles in each Department or Faculty, and so has no mechanism by which to contact these student representatives;
 4. That the University claims to the outside world that it fully engages its students 'because all core academic committees have student members';
 5. That there is a difference between the University having a student on a committee with an important issue on its agenda and meaningful engagement with students about that issue;
 6. That comprehensive coordination, training, support and development of student representatives is vital in order to achieve the latter;
 7. That other universities give students' unions the funding to employ teams of staff to work with student representative networks;
 8. That central support from the University for Department, Faculty and School student representatives is minimal, and local support is variable and typically limited;
 9. That the University has grudgingly conceded this, and CUSU has secured funding for a (single) new staff role that will focus upon coordination, training, support and development of our networks of student representatives.

CUSU Believes:

1. That achieving the new CUSU role—and the University's admission that it has a responsibility to fund it—is significant progress, but;
2. This progress does not go far enough;
3. That all students in representative roles should be able to expect comprehensive coordination, training, support and development to enable them to have maximum impact;
4. That this will not happen without significant further success towards securing a block grant from the University—the way that every other university in the UK funds its students' union;
5. That the achievement of CUSU Believes 3 should be a priority as part of the block grant campaign.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To take advantage of the opportunity afforded by the new role to combine coordination, training, support and development of student representatives with significant university-level campaigns to achieve rapid change in individual Departments and Faculties to an extent that CUSU has never before been able to achieve;
2. To continue campaigning for a block grant in general and enhanced resourcing in particular for all student representatives as outlined in CUSU Believes 3.

MENTAL WEALTH CAMPAIGN BUDGET

CUSU Notes:

1. That the Mental Wealth Group does not have a substantial budget of its own at time of writing
2. That Mental Wealth have, in conjunction with CUSU, organised two years worth of Mental Health Week on a limited budget.
3. That the absence of a clear source of funding impedes Mental Wealth in some its projects.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the work of Mental Wealth is invaluable to awareness raising among Cambridge students about various aspects of mental health.
2. That Mental Wealth should be supported financially by CUSU.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To allocate £200 from the Council Free Budget to the Mental Wealth Campaign use in future campaigns and initiatives.

LENT III 2013

SUPPORT THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING CAMPAIGN

The University of Cambridge is the wealthiest University in the UK, with a total capital value of £1.7 billion (2012) in the Endowment Fund. There is currently no oversight nor means of tracking how the Endowment Fund is invested. This means that there is a danger that University funds, entrusted to third party fund managers, are being invested in arms, environmentally damaging fossil fuels, and conflict zones. A Responsible Investment Policy would increase transparency in Cambridge's investment decisions, and it would provide oversight by a reformed University Executive Committee. This policy would not jeopardise its long-term competitive returns.

The mission of the University of Cambridge is to contribute to society, education, and research, and a responsible investment policy would align the University's investments with these goals. It would also reduce the possibility of future reputationally damaging protests due to University investments in environmentally degrading or human rights violating activities.

CUSU Notes:

1. That the University's mission is "to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence," and that "all the resources of the university are ultimately applied for this charitable purpose."¹.

¹ The University's Core Values and Mission: Notice, Cambridge University Reporter 20012001, p. 226. Available at: <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/200102/weekly/5863/4.html>

2. That “the primary fiduciary responsibility of the Council in investing and managing the University’s endowment and other investment assets is to maximize the financial return on those resources”².
3. That the global quantity of assets engaged in sustainable and responsible investment practice is growing. In the United States, the overall total of SRI assets in 2012 is \$3.74 trillion, a 22% increase since year-end 2009. Although no similar data is available for the United Kingdom, the UK is the country with the second highest number of signatories to the UN Principles of Responsible Investment, an initiative that gained 178 signatory asset managers, asset owners, and service providers in 2012 alone, bringing the total number of signatories to 1071³.
4. That numerous other educational institutions, including several Cambridge Colleges, and the Universities of Oxford⁴, St. Andrews⁵ and University College London⁶ have explicit Responsible Investment policies. Among the Ivy League universities in the U.S., Harvard [7]⁷, Brown [8] and Columbia [9] University have some form of explicit commitment to sustainable and responsible investing, but not the University of Cambridge.
5. That the Charity Commission guidance states that an “ethical investment policy may be entirely consistent with this principle of seeking the best returns”[10].

CUSU Believes:

1. That the University is obliged to take into account considerations regarding the ethical nature of its investments, in alignment with its mission statement in (1) above.
2. That the University’s Statement of Investment Responsibility is no explicit SRI policy, but rather a loose set of nonbinding principles without a proper review mechanism.
3. That as a prestigious and influential national institution Cambridge University has a particular obligation to set an example of socially responsible behaviour.
4. That the University is uniquely poised to invest and manage its endowment according to sustainable and responsible investment practices. With a network of distinguished researchers and policymakers, innovative research centres, and a mission to contribute to society, the University can lead and shape the way institutional investors can obtain competitive returns while building a more sustainable future.
5. That the university should implement an investment policy which better synchronises its commitment to freedom of thought and expression, freedom from discrimination and environmental stewardship, along with its practical mandate.

² Statement of Investment Responsibility, Cambridge University Reporter 23 July 2009. Available at: <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/200809/weekly/6158/4.html>

³ See the Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investment’s Report on Sustainable and responsible Investing Trends in the United States 2012 for a more detailed breakdown by SRI strategy. Available at: <http://ussif.org/resources/pubs/documents/USSIFTrends2012ES.pdf>. Also see the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment 2012 Annual Report. Available at:

<http://www.unpri.org/files/Annual%20report%202012.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/committees/srirc/>

⁵ <http://www.standrews.ac.uk/foi/financialresources/investments/>

⁶ http://www.ucl.ac.uk/finance/finance_docs/investment_policy.htm

⁷ <http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2012/12/socialresponsibility/>

CUSU Resolves:

1. To encourage the University to pursue a greater and more explicit commitment to SRI practice, in the form of a Responsible Investment policy that outlines strategic investment principles that incorporate environmental and social considerations consistent with the research and educational mission of the University.
2. To encourage the University to reform the Executive Committee, the subcommittee under the University Council tasked with vetting donations to the University, so that it may review investment decisions.
3. To mandate the Ethical Affairs Team to work with the University to screen investments and encourage direct engagement with firms and active ownership.
4. To mandate the Ethical Affairs Team to work with University investment team to foster greater transparency over its investments, and to pursue a more active relationship with its stakeholders.
5. To mandate the SRI Officers to develop a workable investment policy to present to the University Executive Committee on the 3rd May, 2013, on the basis of suitable input from the student body.
6. To publicise this campaign widely through CUSU's networks and to provide funding for the printing of posters.

LENT II (2013)

REMOVAL OF ELECTORAL LABELS

CUSU Notes:

1. That candidates running in the CUSU cross campus elections can submit an electoral label of no more than 30 characters under C.3 of the Standing Orders
2. That candidates cannot share language in their electoral labels

CUSU Believes:

1. That electoral labels were of use when candidates were able to run on slates and could share electoral label language
2. That electoral labels have little value on their own as a candidate's manifesto cannot be summarised in 30 characters
3. That electoral labels may be used as an excuse not to read candidates' manifestos

CUSU Resolves:

1. To remove section C.3 from the Standing Orders and therefore remove the requirement for electoral labels.

CUSU EXECUTIVE STANDING ORDERS UPDATES

CUSU Notes:

1. The CUSU Executive Teams (of part-time students, headed by sabbatical officers) are a crucial part of the organisation, leading CUSU's policy work and activities.

2. The Standing Orders section on the Executive is out of date. Some posts are not in the right Teams, and election arrangements have changed.

CUSU Believes:

1. That having an up-to-date Executive section of the Standing Orders will make how the CUSU Executive works clearer to students.
2. This will allow current officers to make the most of their roles and provide accurate information for those thinking of running for a role in the future.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To make the relevant changes to the CUSU Standing Orders laid out in the Appendix A.

COUNCIL REFORM

CUSU Notes:

1. There has been a general perception over the past couple of years that CUSU Council does not work as efficiently or effectively as it could do.
2. Last year a survey and consultation with the Democracy and Development Team took place on how to improve CUSU Council.
3. The Democracy and Development Team have used last year's findings, consultation with various student groups (and some new ideas) to create a proposal for Council Reform.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the Democracy and Development Team's recommendations address the problems which have been experienced at Council meetings.
2. That Council meetings will become more efficient and accessible when the changes have been implemented, encouraging increased and focused participation.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To approve the list of recommendations from the CUSU Democracy and Development Team in Appendix B.
2. To make the relevant changes to the CUSU Standing Orders laid out in Appendix C.
3. To mandate the Democracy and Development Team to consider following the logic of these changes with Open Meetings too.

LENT I (30TH JANUARY 2013)

ANTI-ENGLISH DEFENCE LEAGUE DEMONSTRATION IN CAMBRIDGE

CUSU Notes:

1. The English Defense league (EDL) is planning a demonstration in Cambridge on February 23, 2013
2. In July 2011, the EDL marched through Cambridge to protest a proposed mosque. Two Muslim men were attacked by EDL supporters in the Cambridge City center despite the police presence
3. Many Cambridge University students, especially women, were afraid of venturing out and indeed the police were noted to escort some across Parker's Piece, citing safety concerns

CUSU Believes:

1. The EDL is an organisation espousing xenophobic and racist ideology
2. No-one should bear harassment on grounds of colour, creed or race
3. Students should be able to pursue their studies and daily activities without fear of harassment or racial targeting
4. The community and University of Cambridge are one in standing together against any who would divide us
5. The need is eternal for good people to stand up early against any attempt to fan hatred and division

CUSU Resolves:

1. The CUSU President should post a statement on the CUSU website condemning the EDL march planned to take place in Cambridge, on behalf of CUSU
2. CUSU should support the counter-march taking place on the same day
3. The CUSU Welfare Officer should liaise with the police and relevant authorities to keep students well-informed and safe.

INDUCTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEW STUDENTS

CUSU Notes:

1. That induction arrangements for new students tend to assume that new students arrive at the start of the academic year;
2. That some students do not begin their courses at the start of the academic year.

CUSU Believes:

1. That Cambridge can be complicated to navigate;
2. That to be able to get the most out of a course of study in Cambridge it is important that new students are enabled to navigate the various sources of support, resources and procedures that exist here;
3. That students should not be disadvantaged as a result of beginning their courses at points other than the start of the academic year.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To make the improvement of induction arrangements for new students an explicit CUSU policy.

TEACHING AND PASTORAL TRAINING FOR ACADEMIC STAFF

CUSU Notes:

1. The limited training and development opportunities available for teaching staff;
2. The lack of adequate training for Tutors in issues, skills or knowledge of the sources of support available to their students;
3. The lack of requirement for teaching qualifications in the recruitment of teaching staff.

CUSU Believes:

1. The University recruits some of the best academic staff in the world;
2. Some of them are better at some things than others;
3. The University does not provide sufficient opportunities to ensure that all academics are at the same high level in all of the areas of their responsibilities.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To explicitly reaffirm CUSU's support for the creation and improvement of training and development opportunities for academic staff.

MORE YEAR ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

CUSU Notes:

1. That the University is required to renew its Erasmus arrangements;
2. That undergraduates outside of Languages, Law and Engineering currently have very limited opportunities to spend an academic year abroad;
3. That taught graduate students currently have very limited opportunities to spend periods of study abroad;
4. That many other UK universities offer more opportunities for 'international mobility' for their students than exist in Cambridge;
5. That international mobility is an even bigger part of the educational culture in many of the best universities outside the UK.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the option of an educationally productive year abroad should exist for more undergraduates;
2. That it would be valuable for CUSU and the University's Access work for there to be the option of spending a year abroad as part of more undergraduate courses;
3. That fitting components of study abroad into the structure of taught graduate courses in Cambridge would be more complicated but should happen more often where it would be educationally valuable.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To continue to campaign to protect current international mobility opportunities and for the expansion of such opportunities to more students;

2. To seek to use the specific opportunity of Erasmus renewal to increase the proportion of students able to spend years abroad;
3. To conduct further work into the detail of potential improvements in international mobility opportunities for graduate students.

CUSU EXECUTIVE SO UPDATES

CUSU Notes:

1. The CUSU Executive Teams (of part-time students, headed by sabbatical officers) are a crucial part of the organisation, leading CUSU's policy work and activities.
2. The Standing Orders section on the Executive is out of date. Some posts are not in the right Teams, and election arrangements have changed.

CUSU Believes:

1. That having an up-to-date Executive section of the Standing Orders will make how the CUSU Executive works clearer to students.
2. This will allow current officers to make the most of their roles and provide accurate information for those thinking of running for a role in the future.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To make the relevant changes to the CUSU Standing Orders laid out in the Appendix A.

COUNCIL REFORM

CUSU Notes:

1. There has been a general perception over the past couple of years that CUSU Council does not work as efficiently or effectively as it could do.
2. Last year a survey and consultation with the Democracy and Development Team took place on how to improve CUSU Council.
3. The Democracy and Development Team have used last year's findings, consultation with various student groups (and some new ideas) to create a proposal for Council Reform.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the Democracy and Development Team's recommendations address the problems which have been experienced at Council meetings.
2. That Council meetings will become more efficient and accessible when the changes have been implemented, encouraging increased and focused participation.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To approve the list of recommendations from the CUSU Democracy and Development Team in Appendix B.

2. To make the relevant changes to the CUSU Standing Orders laid out in Appendix C.
3. To mandate the Democracy and Development Team to consider following the logic of these changes with Open Meetings too.

MICHAELMAS IV (2012)

CUSU LOVES: QUALITY ASSURANCE

CUSU Notes:

1. That the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) are conducting an 'Institutional Review' of Cambridge this academic year;
2. That the QAA will make a binary judgement upon 'academic standards' - whether or not the basic level required to get a Cambridge degree meets national minimum standards;
3. That the QAA will make a gradated judgement upon:
 - (a) the quality of 'learning opportunities' - the teaching, academic support, pastoral support, learning resources and staff training in Cambridge;
 - (b) 'enhancement' procedures - the presence and effectiveness of deliberate steps to improve the quality of learning opportunities in Cambridge;
 - (c) 'public information' - the completeness, reliability and usefulness of information published for students, prospective applicants and others;
4. That the QAA will offer a commentary, but not a judgement, upon 'student involvement in quality assurance and enhancement';
5. That the QAA will issue recommendations to the University.

CUSU Believes:

1. That quality assurance is exciting;
2. That Cambridge's academic standards probably meet national minimum standards;
3. That
 - (a) the general quality of learning opportunities in Cambridge is high, and that problems are less with their average level than with their consistency; though
 - (b) the University lacks the procedures by which it might adequately assure itself of the quality of much of its provision, especially that provision made through the Colleges;
 - (c) induction arrangements are focussed upon students of traditional course structures following a conventional academic year, to the exclusion of and detriment to the minority of students who do not fit into this category;
 - (d) complaints and appeals procedures are often archaic and lack the most basic time limits within which students can expect to learn of a conclusion; and
 - (e) student membership of significant committees is inadequate, and the unlimited formal power for the chair of any meeting to declare any item of

business to be reserved (secret from students) at his/her discretion is unacceptable;

2. That
 - (a) the decentralised autonomy by which Cambridge works is positive in very many respects; but
 - (b) Cambridge's devolved autonomy undermines central attempts to ensure the application of good practice, especially concerning teaching and assessment; and
 - (c) Colleges can unduly limit students' abilities to participate in valuable activities to enhance their education beyond their course as part of an inappropriately narrow focus upon academic performance, and the University lacks the ability to prevent this;
3. That
 - (a) the public information published by the University that is of most relevance to prospective applicants is excellent; but
 - (b) a wide range of information concerning procedures, rules and costs that apply to students differently across the Colleges are not satisfactorily clear;
 - (c) the accessibility and clarity of information published for current students concerning complaints and appeals procedures is unsatisfactory; and
 - (d) the procedure of the University's annual planning round (by which core funding can be applied for) - and of student access to it in particular - limits the opportunity for enhancement proposals that have come from the student body to be appropriately considered (on their merits, against other proposals for spending, on a level playing-field);
4. That student involvement in quality assurance and enhancement is severely limited by the absence of resourcing by the University for training, coordination and support of student representatives;
5. That it would be helpful for the QAA to issue recommendations to the University that would address the issues above.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the CUSU Education Team, working with the QAA volunteer group, to render these beliefs effectively in CUSU's 'Student Written Submission' (SWS);
2. To present more detailed articulation of the elements above to 'points of discussion' at CUSU's Michaelmas Open Meeting, and to use this to fine-tune the SWS in line with the beliefs above;
3. To reject the option to make a confidential submission of the SWS to the QAA, and instead to make it publicly available.

MICHAELMAS III (2013)

ETHICAL BANKING FOR CUSU

CUSU Notes:

1. Standing Orders G.8 (vi) (b) "The Socially Responsible Investment Officer [...] shall lead CUSU campaigns and activities involving the ethical investment of CUSU [...] funds.";
2. The string of scandals over the past year, ranging from submitting false interest rates to the LIBOR panel to money laundering for violent criminal gangs and terrorists, which between them have left no major bank untouched;
3. That the NUS has recently endorsed the Move Your Money campaign, which promotes switching bank accounts to ethical providers.

CUSU Believes:

1. That depositing money in a bank account constitutes an investment, and that such investment should not be exempt from CUSU's ethical principles;
2. That CUSU's handling of its own finances should follow the highest ethical standards so as to set a positive example to the University and its colleges, JCRs, MCRs, clubs and societies, and to CUSU's members;
3. That, while operational issues mean that an immediate switch to a more ethical provider would come at an unacceptable cost, CUSU should have a long-term aim to minimise or where possible eliminate all relationships with any financial institutions deemed unethical by CUSU policy.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the SRI Officer, the Coordinator and the Financial Administrator to formulate a policy regarding the selection of bank accounts and other investments on ethical principles, and to present this policy for approval by Council no later than Lent IV 2013;
2. Subject to the approval of the ethical policy mentioned in Resolves 1, to mandate the Coordinator and Financial Administrator to follow the ethical policy whenever they choose a provider for a new account and, wherever reasonably practicable, to minimise CUSU's use of existing accounts with institutions deemed not to comply with the policy.

ACADEMIC WORK SET DURING FRESHERS' WEEK

CUSU Notes:

1. That the University has set no defined period as 'Freshers' Week'.
2. That the period addressed by this motion as 'Freshers' Week' covers the students' arrival at Cambridge to the commencement of lectures.
3. That some supervisors set work, for first year students, with deadlines during or immediately after Freshers' Week.

CUSU Believes:

1. That Freshers' Week is a stressful period for first year students.
2. That, during Freshers' Week, first years should be concentrating on settling into college life and socialising with other members of college.

3. That academic work is both time consuming and stressful and is an unwelcome addition to the Freshers' Week experience.
4. That the setting of work intended for completion during Freshers' Week should, where possible, be avoided.
5. That work that is reasonable and necessary to a specific subject should be set to allow its completion before the students' arrival, allowing them equal access to the orientation and social events provided during Freshers' Week.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the CUSU Education Officer to make this position clear to the University, Directors of Studies and general academic staff.
2. To encourage college JCRs and MCRs to apply pressure to Senior Tutors and Directors of Studies to ensure that first years are not pressured to work during Freshers' Week
3. To mandate the CUSU Education Officer to provide support to JCRs and MCRs in carrying out this duty and to assist in negotiations with academic staff if this is necessary.

SUPPORTING STUDENT CARERS

CUSU Notes:

1. That many students act as carers during their time at University; either for a family member, or for a friend.
2. That on average 6.5 million people act in a caring capacity in the UK alone. Whilst there is no breakdown of this number to reflect how many of these are students in HE, it is logical to assume that it is a significant proportion.
3. That student carers received no financial support from the government if they are receiving student financial support already - this is in spite of the high costs associated with acting as a carer.
4. That a student carer can put themselves and their studies under considerable strain by virtue of supporting a loved one or friend. Carers UK suggests that the average carer works around 20 hours a week.
5. That students are not encouraged by the University to disclose if they are in a caring role in the same way that they might disclose a disability, and there there is no procedure for supporting this students.
6. That cuts to social care provision make it difficult for students from less well-off backgrounds to find professional carers for loved ones.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the lack of support for student carers is unacceptable.
2. That the absence of statistics relating to student carers is evidence of how under-represented they are as a group.
3. That carers often do not chose to be in the situation they are in, and that they should not be forced or encouraged to give up caring responsibilities if they cannot.

4. That student carers should not have to suffer academically or personally through acting as a carer.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the CUSU Welfare & Rights Officer to:
 - a. Look into ways to support and campaign for the rights of student carers
 - b. To create a policy document, through consultation with student carers, calling on the University to provide appropriate support.
 - c. To call on the University to publicise the Access to Learning Fund as a potential source of money for student carers.
 - d. To publicise services that support carers to students.
2. To raise awareness about the issue of student carers, through leaflets, posters, and the student press.
3. To lobby the Council and Julian Huppert to campaign, locally and nationally, respectively, for better provisions for student parents.
4. To work with the NUS Womens Campaign, and the NCAFC, to ensure that the student movement is campaigning for support for student carers.

MICHAELMAS II (22ND OCTOBER 2012)

UPHOLDING SAFE SPACE POLICY AT CUSU COUNCIL

CUSU Notes:

1. 10% of the undergraduate and 45% of the postgraduate student community of the University of Cambridge are non-EU/UK students.
2. According to clauses A1 and A3 in CUSU constitution ,CUSU represents all students regardless of their nationality, race, political affiliation, religion, sexual orientation, and gender.
3. CUSU has an existing Safe Space policy that strives to maintain an open atmosphere of debate and discussion at CUSU Council without fear of intimidation or discrimination regardless of belief or background
4. A comment made about the grammar of a motion submitted to CUSU Council Michaelmas I 2012 (for which an apology was offered following an objection to the comment)
5. A remark made at council describing non-fluency in the English language as a disability
6. That it denounces all forms of racism.

CUSU Believes:

1. Equality and democracy are key values held by CUSU.
2. CUSU is a democratic body that encourage should participation and freedom of speech.
3. Disparaging, mocking remarks are unhelpful to debate and do not serve to maintain an atmosphere of respect and tolerance
4. Making mistakes in writing or speaking English is not a disability.

5. It is the responsibility of the chair of CUSU to aid students in writing motions, ensure Safe Space is upheld and no-one is discriminated against during Council and Open meetings,.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To reaffirm its Safe Space Policy and ensure current and future CUSU Chairs are aware of and trained in its implementation.
2. To mandate the CUSU Chair and/or President to send a formal apology to members of Council and iCUSU for the remarks made Michaelmas I about disabilities and international students.
3. To mandate the CUSU Chair or Secretary to ensure motions are of a reasonable standard of English before being added to the agenda and, if not, to take reasonable steps to ensure they are.

STUDENT PARENT REPRESENTATION

CUSU Notes:

1. That there are around 900 students with children in this university.
2. That the University has a commitment to ensuring student parents are not disadvantaged as a result of their status.
3. That student parents have different needs from students without children.
4. There are access issues for prospective students with children.
5. That CUSU has, since September, been working with a student parent working group to identify the issues faced by student parents.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the issues student parents face can be resolved but they require someone dedicated to the job.
2. That the person best placed to understand the issues will be a student parent.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To create the post of Student Parents Representative within the Welfare Team.
2. To hold an election for this post.
3. To ensure that the person who runs for the post is themselves a student parent.
4. To mandate the Student Parent Representative to write a regular blog about life at Cambridge University in order to make it clear that it is possible to be a student parent at this University. This blog will be posted on the access page.
5. To investigate funding needs with the appropriate officers and, if necessary, to bring a motion proposing the allocation of funding to Council by the end of Michaelmas term.

COMMUNICATIONS AND CUSU OPEN MEETINGS

CUSU Notes:

1. That any student can attend and participate in CUSU Council;
2. That CUSU has a weekly bulletin during term time which goes to every student on Sunday nights;
3. That currently agenda papers and notification of when and where CUSU Council is taking place, only goes to CUSU Council voting members and members of the Executive;
4. That CUSU Council is now on a Monday, so agenda papers, venues and dates should all be known by the time the CUSU Bulletin goes out on Sunday night;
5. That occasionally the 'CUSU Council' Page on the website with details of agendas, times and dates of Council and minutes are not fully updated;
6. That feedback to students about what has been going on in CUSU Council does not always happen via their representatives;
7. That when motions and amendments are brought too late to be included in the agenda, it is often hard for CUSU Members who were not present at Council and Open Meetings to work out exactly what was under discussion and what text eventually passed or failed at vote.

CUSU Believes:

1. That all students should have access to when and where CUSU Council is and what is on the agenda;
2. That the more students that attend CUSU Council, the more student voices will be heard;
3. That feedback to students about what is going on in CUSU Council is important, as this is CUSU's ultimate decision-making body.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the CUSU President to put notice of the date, time and venue of CUSU Council on the CUSU Bulletin on the Sunday before Council, and to include a link to the online agenda and supporting documentation;
2. To mandate the Chair and Secretary to place the final version of the agenda and the confirmed minutes on the website as soon as possible;
3. To put a link to the CUSU Website on the Bulletin when confirmed minutes have been uploaded;
4. To give this high priority on the bulletin;
5. To mandate the CUSU Chair, CUSU Secretary and CUSU Coordinator to ensure that agendas, minutes, times and venues of CUSU Council continue to be updated on the CUSU website;
6. To do the same for all Open Meetings.

TIMING OF OPEN MEETINGS

CUSU Notes:

1. Section E.8 of the constitution which contains: 'Dates, times and venues of Meetings shall be decided by the Chair'
2. That there has not been a quorate open meeting for some time.

CUSU Believes:

1. Students would be more likely to attend a CUSU Open Meeting not held at the very end of full term.
2. Holding a CUSU Open Meeting early in Michaelmas full term would give first year students the chance to engage with CUSU soon after they arrive.
3. The CUSU Open Meeting in Easter term should be held in the first three weeks of full term.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the Chair, in consultation with the Democracy & Development Team, to consider carefully the timing of Open Meetings based on the believes of this motion.

SKY TV: SUBSCRIPTION FEES**CUSU Notes:**

2. That a number of Common Rooms in Cambridge subscribe to Sky TV as a service to their members;
3. That Common Rooms do not benefit financially from this arrangement;
4. That Sky TV nevertheless treat Common Rooms as commercial operations - such as pubs or bars - and accordingly charge a commercial rate of approximately £4,400 annually;
5. That, relative to Common Room expenditure, this is a significant amount of money.

CUSU Believes:

1. That Sky TV have failed to distinguish between student-run, membership-based college Common Rooms and full-scale commercial operations such as pubs or bars;
2. That Sky TV have therefore failed to understand the Oxbridge collegiate system;
3. That £4,400 is a significant financial burden for Common Rooms, taking resources away from welfare provision, support for clubs and societies, and other Common Room activities;
4. That some Common Rooms are currently unable to justify expenditure on Sky TV at all;
5. That Sky TV are not charging Common Rooms appropriately;
6. That many students benefit from and enjoy the services offered by Sky TV.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the CUSU President to contact Sky TV on behalf of the Common Rooms to negotiate a fairer charge for their services;
2. To invite each Common Room (in the person of the President or a deputy) to add their signature to the initial correspondence;

3. To coordinate these efforts with the Common Room Support Officer and other appropriate members of the Executive of Oxford University Students' Union (OUSU).

A RIGHT TO USE COMPUTERS IN EXAMS

CUSU Notes:

1. That students must ordinarily use pen and paper in exams unless they have a specific requirement to use a computer as a result of a disability;
2. That, in the outside world, electronic word processing is now the norm, and handwriting is a skill that is increasingly rarely used in most fields of employment;
3. That, in most Triposes, students tend to spend the entire year submitting work to supervisors electronically, with minimal practice writing anything by hand;
4. That some supervisors actually insist upon receiving work in an electronic format, refusing to mark work that has been handwritten;
5. That the illegibility of handwritten exam scripts causes significant problems and delays in the marking process;
6. That examiners receive a perfectly clear script to mark when it has been produced electronically;
7. That, when scripts have been produced electronically, examiners can electronically annotate them easily and clearly, and also forward both scripts and annotations on to external examiners in an unambiguously clear way;
8. That many institutions have become 'paperless' in an effort to support the environment;
9. That, even if subsequently printed for marking purposes, the production of most exam scripts electronically would result in the examination system using substantially less paper than at present.

CUSU Believes:

1. That for students who spend the year submitting written work electronically, the necessity to revert to pen and paper for exams can cause undue stress;
2. That mature students, who have often spent several years using electronic word processors as part of previous careers, are especially disadvantaged by the requirement to handwrite exams;
3. That, since the skill of handwriting neatly and legibly is not an indicator of knowledge, understanding or the ability to develop an argument, it should not be an expectation in—or a skill assessed by—the examination process;
4. That all students should have the right to use computers in University exams;
5. That students exercising this right would not need to be concerned with neatness or legibility of presentation

CUSU Resolves:

1. To encourage the University to provide the facilities to give all students the choice to write exam papers using either pen and paper or a keyboard and monitor.

EDUCATION IS ABOUT MORE THAN ACADEMIC WORK

CUSU Notes:

1. That CUSU continues to campaign to defend the right of students to take advantage of the full range of opportunities that studying in Cambridge offers;
2. That the specific policy underlying such efforts titled 'Extra Curricular Activities' is lapsing;
3. That many students still find themselves unduly pressured to devote time to their academic work to an extent that is detrimental to their broader personal development.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the educational experience in Cambridge is about much more than the content of academic courses;
2. That students do indeed have the right to judge for themselves how they balance their academic and extracurricular activities;
3. That, in particular, students should not require permission' from their College to engage in extracurricular activities;
4. That academic room balloting can create perverse incentives that encourage students to focus too narrowly on academic work to the detriment of their broader personal development;
5. That the lapsing policy should therefore be renewed.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To (continue to) campaign to defend the right of students to take advantage of the full range of opportunities that studying in Cambridge offers;
2. To (continue to) offer CUSU's full support to Common Rooms who wish to campaign to safeguard or improve provision or support for extracurricular activities within their College.

FEES FOR STUDENTS SPENDING ACADEMIC YEARS ABROAD

CUSU Notes:

1. That there are a large number of Cambridge degree courses which involve the opportunity to spend an academic year abroad;
2. That the ways students spend these years abroad range enormously, from relatively unstructured programmes of work experience to programmes of full-time university teaching;
3. That some students spending years abroad are therefore charged 50% tuition fees for very little discernable teaching, whereas others are charged 50% tuition fees for no less teaching than they would be charged 100% tuition fees for back in Cambridge;

CUSU Believes:

1. That the level of tuition fees payable by Cambridge students spending years abroad does not correspond to the level of teaching they receive (from Cambridge or any other university);
2. That differences in the costs of courses with years abroad also have access implications (i.e. implications upon the proportions of applicants they receive from different backgrounds);
3. That the real costs to students of studying years abroad are complicated by UK (and EU) rules as well as by the differential provision of bursaries to students in different subject areas;
4. That this issue is sufficiently complicated for the development of new policy to require significant consultation.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the CUSU Education Team and the CUSU Access and Funding Team to take joint responsibility for the development of fair and coherent policy on the charging of fees to students who spend academic years abroad.

FAIRTRADE STATUS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CUSU Notes:

2. The CUSU Ethical Consumerism campaign to gain Fairtrade status for Cambridge University.
3. Existing CUSU policy on the need for its stash to be Fairtrade whenever possible.
4. The five goals to be met by a university in order to gain Fairtrade status:
5. The Student Union and the university or college authorities both create a Fairtrade policy incorporating these five goals.
6. Fairtrade foods are made available for sale in all campus shops. Fairtrade foods are used in all cafés/restaurants/bars on campus. Where this is not possible, there is a commitment to begin to use Fairtrade foods in these establishments as soon as it becomes possible to do so.
7. Fairtrade foods (for example, coffee and tea) are served at all meetings hosted by the university or college and the Student Union (or equivalent), and are served in all university or college and Student Union management offices.
8. There is a commitment to campaign for increased Fairtrade consumption on campus.
9. A Fairtrade Steering Group is established, on which there sets a representative from the catering department, the university authority, the SU executive, an appropriate SU society.
10. That due to its collegiate system, in order for Cambridge University to gain Fairtrade status, two thirds of the Colleges must gain this accreditation individually. However, university sites such as the University Centre already follow the requirements above.
11. That five colleges - St Catherine's; King's; Pembroke; Jesus; Fitzwilliam - already have Fairtrade status, whilst several others are currently in the application stage or have applications pending.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the defence of human and workers' rights is of paramount importance and in line with both CUSU's and the University's core values.
2. That buying Fairtrade produce provides support to some of the most marginalised producers in the world, by guaranteeing their basic rights and protecting them from the injustices of the global trade system.
3. It is important that students understand the implications of their buying choices and be part of a Union which upholds the values of Fair trade.
4. That gaining Fairtrade status for Cambridge University would be a valuable achievement in that it would see an increase in Fairtrade consumption within the university and raise awareness about the importance of Fairtrade.
5. That CUSU should lead by example, and have policy that coheres with its campaigns, and therefore needs to adopt a Fairtrade policy.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the CUSU Ethical Consumerism Officer, with the help of the Ethical Affairs team, to:
2. Produce a document to explain the case for Fairtrade, and the process of applying for Fairtrade status to Cambridge Students.
3. Produce an annual report, to be presented to Council in Lent Term, outlining the progress towards the University Fairtrade Status goal and highlighting likely challenges and obstacles to be faced by the succeeding Ethical Consumerism Officer.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

CUSU Notes:

1. CUSU Lapsing Policy on Holocaust Memorial Day.
2. Holocaust Memorial Day is commemorated internationally on 27th January each year.
3. Holocaust Memorial Day aims to remember the victims and survivors of the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and those affected by subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and during the ongoing atrocities in Darfur (Holocaust Memorial Day Trust).
4. A variety of events are organised each year within Cambridge, by University societies and Cambridge City Council for Holocaust Memorial Day.
5. CUSU officers, teams and autonomous campaigns affirm the importance of diversity and equality in the Cambridge community and take proactive steps to ensure that the University is an inclusive place for every student.

CUSU Believes:

1. It is important that students respect and celebrate the differences between individuals and communities, based upon the notion of universal dignity and equal rights and responsibilities for all its citizens.

2. It is important to raise awareness and understanding of the events of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides as a continuing issue for all humanity, based on a recognition that it could happen again anywhere and at any time, unless we ensure that our society opposes discrimination, persecution and racism.
3. That Holocaust Memorial Day events and resources provided by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust are a good way for students to challenge prejudice and remember what can happen when racism and discrimination are left unchecked.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To continue to support local Holocaust Memorial Day events and activities, and in doing so to remember all victims of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides.
2. To denounce all forms of Holocaust Denial.

STUDENT REPRESENTATION

CUSU Notes:

1. Lapsing policy: Peterhouse Student Representation and Bursars' Committee Representation.
2. The University has allowed student representation on its Council since 1975.
3. Some Colleges, including St John's and Peterhouse, still do not allow student representation on their own College Council or Governing Bodies.
4. The existence of the Bursars' Committee, as referred to by the Reporter (Special No. 4 (Members of University Bodies), p78, 2007), the minutes of several College committee meetings and discussions with Cambridge City Council.
5. Cambridge students are denied representation on the Bursars' Committee and access to its agenda, minutes and work plan.
6. Cambridge students are represented on the Joint Advisory Committee (a joint subcommittee of the Bursars' and Senior Tutors' Committees) by the CUSU President and GU President.

CUSU Believes:

1. Students should be represented on their College's Council or Governing Body by elected common room officers.
2. Students should be represented on the Bursars Committee by a CUSU sabbatical officer.
3. Student representation on these bodies would increase CUSU's ability to support JCR/MCRs and campaign on student matters - particularly those involving rents, facilities and regulations.
4. Student representation on these bodies would give JCR/MCR representatives a better negotiating position with regards to room rents.
5. That dialogue between students and Colleges is a better way of solving problems than imposing policy on students without consultation.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the Democracy and Development Team to support JCR/MCRs in their attempts to gain representation on College Councils and Governing Bodies.
2. To campaign for CUSU representation on the Bursars' Committee through relevant channels.

YOUTH FIGHT FOR JOBS

CUSU Notes:

1. Youth Fight for Jobs was launched through a "March for Jobs" to the G20 meeting in London on 2nd April.
2. Youth Fight for Jobs is backed by three major Trade Unions which are the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), Communication and Workers' Union (CWU), and the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union (RMT).
3. The lecturers' union, the UCU, predicts that across the country this term university managements will carry out £65 million worth of cuts, resulting in up to 6,000 redundancies.
4. In July 2009, 600,000 young people left school, college and university swelling the ranks of unemployed youth. Youth unemployment now stands at around one million.
5. Youth Fight for Jobs has called for a national demonstration in London on the 28th November under the slogan of "For Real Jobs - For Free Education."
6. The Youth Fight for Jobs campaign calls for a programme of government job creation and for an end to job losses. It is campaigning around three main demands: For the right to a decent job for all, with a living wage of at least £8 an hour; abolition of cheap labour apprenticeships, for all apprenticeships to pay at least the minimum wage, with a job guaranteed at the end; abolition of university fees.
7. CUSU policy "Education - a right not a privilege."
8. CUSU policy "Protests."

CUSU Believes

1. Students' Unions have a particular responsibility in campaigning on the gap between qualified young people and available jobs.
2. Students' Unions have a responsibility to campaign against cuts and job losses in the education sector, to preserve high quality education.
3. It is urgent that we contribute to building a mass campaign that opposes the lifting of the cap on top-up fees, and also opposes all university fees and fights for a decent education system and for decent jobs for all.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To support the Youth Fight for Jobs campaign and add our name to the list of sponsors.

COMPLAINTS

CUSU Notes:

1. The importance of transparent, clear and well administered University complaints procedures;
2. That there are several complaints procedures available to students in the University (not even including complaints procedures in each college);
3. The role of the CUSU Student Support Officers (Welfare, Education and Women's) in providing information, support and advice to students making complaints;
4. Currently, some University complaints can take up to or longer than a year to resolve;
5. That Cambridge is one of the few Universities in the Russell Group that does not place time limits on the resolution of complaints;
6. That the national best practice outlined by the NUS charter on institutional complains and appeals procedures argues that institutions should normally resolve complaints and appeals within three months.

CUSU Believes:

1. We have a right to study free from discrimination, harassment and bullying and in the event where this is not upheld or compromised by inappropriate behaviour every student has the right to complain about this informally and/or formally;
2. It is important that every student should have access to support and advice when deciding whether, and how, to make a complaint;
3. A robust, clear and transparent University Complaints Procedure is necessary and the following issues should be considered when making such improvements:
 - a. Improved guidance and information on the website as well as FAQs and information sheets on the process to improve support for students throughout the process;
 - b. A robust informal process so complaints can be resolved through an informal process before it escalates further;
 - c. A time limit on resolution and communication to the student in the event the timescale is not upheld;
4. That the University should review its complaints procedures and make the necessary changes as outlined in CUSU Believes 3;
5. That all of the above applies to college complaints procedures, and that these should be freely available to students.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the CUSU Welfare and Education Officer to continue to:
 - a. Campaign for a review of all University Complaints processes, as per the principles in CUSU Believes 2
2. To provide guidance and support to Common Room committees to review college complaint procedures and campaign to ensure they are in line with the principles above;

DISABLED STUDENTS ACCESS

CUSU Notes:

1. That numerous societies organize events in venues without access for disabled people and/or fail to make reasonable adjustments so everyone can take part;
2. That societies do not usually advertise the accessibility of a venue or event (e.g. level access, a hearing loop, accessible toilets, documents available in large print/different coloured paper);
3. That disabled students may spend undue effort trying to establish whether they will be able to access an event, be missing out on events because they are not accessible or experiencing significant disadvantage because of insufficient accessibility;
4. That there currently is an Access Guide to the university, available online and in hard copy, but it is not always detailed enough about venues where events are held to allow bookings to be made taking access into account;
5. That the Equalities Act requires CUSU to make 'reasonable adjustments' for disabled people and such adjustments ought to be considered in advance, as well as making sure there is a way for disabled students to ask for further adjustments, if needed.
6. That eliminating disability discrimination in Cambridge is in the ethos of "Cambridge University Stands Up".
7. That many college buildings remain inaccessible to physically disabled students.
8. That disability comes in many forms, not all of them physical.

CUSU Believes:

1. In the social model of disability.
2. Disability issues can best be tackled by removing barriers such as
 - a. prejudice and stereotypes
 - b. inflexible organisational procedures and practices
 - c. inaccessible information; and
 - d. inaccessible buildings and transport"
3. That disabled students are valued in their contribution to Cambridge University and should not be knowingly excluded from full participation in university life.
4. Therefore, CUSU should take an active role in trying to identify and remove disabling barriers across all its practices, and to encourage others to do the same, in order to promote equal treatment for disabled students.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the CUSU Disabled Students Officer and the CUSU Welfare Officer to produce a guide to organizing accessible events, and make it available via the CUSU Website;
2. To mandate the CUSU Coordinator to distribute a PDF of this guide around all of the Cambridge University societies, JCRs and MCRs. To attach this to an email explaining the beliefs of this motion;

3. To actively encourage University groups and societies to do ensure that all events they organise are accessible to disabled people (including, but not limited to, booking accessible venues), unless it is wholly unreasonable to do so;
4. To provide assistance for groups and societies who seek to improve access for disabled people at their events;
5. To engage with inaccessible venues to encourage them to make reasonable adjustments;
6. To encourage University groups and societies to include information about levels of accessibility when advertising events.
7. To mandate the CUSU Welfare Officer to work with JCRs and MCRs to encourage better access arrangements in their colleges

UP FRONT FEES

CUSU Notes:

1. A number of JCRs and MCRs have previously complained of sudden and significant changes to the way in which colleges collect money from their students;
2. Some colleges require international students to pay course fees up front instead of paying in termly instalments;
3. A number of colleges require a deposit at the start of each year and this is often not advertised to prospective students;
4. These deposits are often taken at the start of the first term of the first year and not returned until the final term of the final year.

CUSU Believes:

1. The payment requirements for some international and College fees are not well advertised to current students or incoming students, who are only made aware of this requirement upon arrival in Cambridge;
2. Colleges have a responsibility to ensure that any significant changes to payment of college bills/course fees are effectively communicated to those affected;
3. That presenting students with unexpected bills can cause unnecessary financial and emotional stress particularly among new students, who incur a higher number of significant one-off charges;
4. That not all students are able to produce thousands of pounds with only a few weeks' notice;
5. Taking unexpected deposits from students at a time when they incur a significant number of one off costs and may not have received their bursary or student loan income is unfair;
6. That requiring all students to pay a significant upfront deposit disproportionately affects students of low incomes and disadvantaged backgrounds, in particular independent students and young carers;
7. Furthermore, it is detrimental to Access.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the CUSU Access team to use the College Database to gather initial comparative data on up-front fees from colleges, and to run a separate initiative to gather this data if it is not forthcoming on the College Database;
2. To mandate the Common Room Support Officer to subsequently compile a report on up-front charges and fees levied by colleges on students;
3. To support individual JCR and MCR Committees in using this report during discussions with their specific colleges regarding their up-front fees.

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENTS POLICY

CUSU Notes:

1. That, whilst the Statement of Investment Responsibility (Reporter, 2008-09, 20 July 2009) is to be welcomed, it does not constitute a Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) policy, but simply reaffirms the position set out in "CC14–Investment of Charitable Funds: Detailed guidance" namely, recognising that 'the University may balance against its primary responsibility considerations of the ethical nature of investments'.
2. That Charities Law does impose certain constraints under 'fiduciary responsibility but that under current legislation more could be done regarding responsible investment than is done at present.
3. That many other Universities have full SRI policies in place, some of which have been in place for many years. Examples include: Oxford, St Andrews and Manchester in the UK, and Harvard, Stamford, UPenn, and Brown in the US.
4. That the UK financial sector has an extensive responsible investment sector with specialist managers able to provide a broad range of SRI options. There are also a growing number of UN sponsored initiatives which emphasise the importance of responsible finance, the most important of which being: the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI), launched 2005, and the UNEP FI Human Rights Guidance Tool for the Financial Sector, launched 2007.
5. That the university considers not only its choice of investments, but also its choice of fund managers and their remuneration arrangements, to be a commercial secret. (Council Executive Committee Minutes 30 March 2012)

CUSU Believes:

1. That the University should have a SRI policy which reflects its mission and core values (Reporter 2001-02, p. 226.. These include: freedom of thought and expression, freedom from discrimination, and concern for environmental stability.
2. That key stake-holders must be consulted in the development of such a policy, including but not necessarily limited to students, academics, alumni and the University's investment team.
3. That ethical investment cannot be reduced to a simple rule such as excluding a certain class of companies, but is instead an ongoing process of using a combination of direct dialogue, voting at shareholder meetings, and if necessary divestment, to persuade companies to support an investor's social or ethical goals.

4. That transparency both in the choice of investments and in voting at shareholder meetings is a key part of any commitment to socially responsible investing.
5. That if the University chooses to delegate all or part of its investment responsibilities to external fund managers, it should publish sufficient information to allow members of the University to hold their performance, both ethical and financial, to account.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To continue campaigning for responsible investment within the University.
2. To make the University more aware of best practice with regard to responsible investment.
3. To continue regularly requesting the University for information regarding its investments and its arrangements with fund managers, and to publish this information on the CUSU website if it is not publically available elsewhere.
4. To continue supporting CUSU members who wish to encourage their colleges to invest responsibly.

DEMANDING PROPERLY FUNDED HIGHER EDUCATION

CUSU Notes:

1. The current Government's HE funding policies and cuts;
2. Government pressure in favour of:
 - a. Moves towards 'fast-track' degree courses;
 - b. Focusing on employment-relevant skills rather than academia for its own sake;
3. That cuts are also likely to continue, across the sector, resulting in:
 - a. Course and department closures;
 - b. Reductions in staff and resources per student and thus a decline in quality of teaching;
 - c. An even stronger impetus towards fee rises, notwithstanding the effects of core-and-margin policy;
4. That CUSU currently has policy against both tuition fees and rises in fees.

CUSU Believes:

1. That cutting funding to HE, especially in a time of recession, is foolish short-termism, since:
 - a. Education is a strong foundation for long-term economic and social improvement;
 - b. It will result in a large number of unemployed former university staff and would-be students, and protracted unemployment not only is costly and damaging in the present but frequently results in long-term problems for the individuals affected and for society;
 - c. It will cause general economic damage, in particular to many HE institutions themselves;

2. That compressed degrees are attractive to some students, but for the following reasons and others must not reduce the availability of standard (three/four-year) and academically-oriented courses for those students who wish to take them:
 - a. Academics in research-intensive institutions rely on vacations to do research, so any encroachment of teaching into the summer in particular will either damage their research or result in pressures to shift teaching loads to non-research posts, which both undermine research-led teaching;
 - b. There will be fewer opportunities to engage with extracurricular activities, which (quite apart from their personal and community value) are just as vital to the development of many students' skills and abilities;
3. That learning and knowledge are not just tools to get a job, but are fundamentally and intrinsically worthwhile to the individual and to society, and that losing sight of this and turning universities into institutions that focus solely on skills sought by employers would be an immense betrayal of students, staff and society;
4. That the harmful effects of a high and variable fee market include its tendency to:
 - a. Push students without significant personal wealth away from elite universities or even away from HE altogether;
 - b. Force students into compressed courses and other poor quality but less expensive 'choices';
 - c. Undermine the financial viability of offering student loans at below-market rates;
5. That shortfalls in funding should not be made up for by damaging educational quality, closing departments and courses, or squeezing students with fees, but by fair progressive taxation;
6. That concentrating resources in 'elite' institutions and leaving the rest to founder is not an acceptable solution either;
7. That the present attacks on the nature of HE are both represented and encouraged by its inclusion as of June 2009 in what is basically a business department, and that this ridiculous and offensive state of affairs ought to be rectified with the return of HE to a governmental department whose primary responsibility is education and/or research (but not under Michael Gove);
8. That access to education should be considered neither a privilege nor solely an economic investment, but a right.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To adopt the principles expressed in "Believes" as policy and continue to condemn the current brutal cuts to HE funding and marketisation of the HE system.

EXPLOITING ASPIRATIONS

CUSU Notes:

1. The recent growth in the number of organisations charging prospective applicants for advice, help with their application and interview preparation.
2. These organisations often employ current students.

3. These organisations have contacted common room Access Officers and, Communication Officers, and Presidents as well as individual students in order to advertise jobs and promote themselves.
4. These organisations have no official link with or endorsement from the university and no special knowledge of, or insight into the admissions process.
5. The Cambridge Admissions Office (CAO) and CUSU offer information, advice and guidance to any prospective applicant individually as well as at open days and other admissions events entirely free of charge.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the university's admissions policy is fair and transparent.
2. These organisations perpetuate negative stereotypes about the admissions process.
3. These organisation undermine the work of individual access teams across the University
4. They are making profits by exploiting the fears of prospective students, either indirectly through advertising or directly through charging prospective students for their services, and as such are contributing to the marketisation effect within higher education, more generally, within the country .
5. Negative stereotypes, perpetuated by these organisations, deter people from applying to Cambridge.
6. The suggestion that there are back doors into Cambridge is both untrue and harmful to access.
7. The value of individual students' opinions on course structure and the admissions process are best exercised within the existing structure of college and university open days, and a variety of disseminated materials including alternative prospectuses.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To reject requests to work with these organizations
2. And to write to them and explain why,
3. And in doing so request a caveat on the individual pages of their websites that 'This website has no association with the University of Cambridge, its colleges, its affiliated institutions, its faculties, its departments, its students, its lecturers, its staff, CUSU, the Cambridge Admissions Office or the GU'
4. To investigate schemes and initiatives to provide more support for applicants when preparing for interview.
5. To mandate the CUSU Access and Funding team to seek stronger condemnation of these groups from the University.
6. To encourage JCRs/MCRs and students not to participate in schemes run by these organisations.

SOCIAL CARE AND EDUCATION FOR DISABLED STUDENTS

CUSU Notes:

1. In the last year the government has cut £900m from disability benefits and social care.
2. This has had a considerable impact on the lives of disabled people including disabled students.
3. CUSU's commitment both to disability rights and to making the University of Cambridge as accessible as possible.
4. That many people will require social care to be able to attend University.
5. That Cambridgeshire County Council already only provides social care for cases where the need is deemed to be 'substantial' or 'critical'.

CUSU Believes:

1. That if disabled people are to be able to attend University, social care needs to be prioritised.
2. That social care funding is inadequate, or only just adequate, as it is, and any cuts will have potentially disastrous effects for the lives, freedoms and ability to pursue education of disabled people, in Cambridge and elsewhere.
3. That due to the profound importance of social care for the rights of disabled people, including the right to education; its maintenance should be prioritised.
4. That our commitment to disability rights and making the University of Cambridge as accessible as possible obliges us to draw attention to the impact of cuts for access, and to do our very best to campaign against future cuts and work to alleviate current cuts.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To mandate the CUSU Welfare Officer and the CUSU Access Officer, in consultation with the Disabled Students' Campaign, to:
2. Write a letter to Julian Huppert and Cambridgeshire County Council re-emphasising the crucial role that social care plays in enabling disabled people to access University, and urging them to oppose future cuts to social care.
3. Issue a press release, highlighting both our and the University's commitment to access for disabled people, and drawing attention to the crucial role played by social care provision in facilitating the right to education for disabled people.
4. To mandate the CUSU Welfare Team to work with the CUSU Disabled Students' Campaign to raise awareness of the relationship between social care provisions and the right to education.
5. To mandate the CUSU Executive to work with the University to ensure that no student of the University of Cambridge, whether prospective or current, is deterred from studying or continuing to study here by lack of adequate social care.
6. To mandate the CUSU Executive to work with the NUS and the National Campaign against Fees and Cuts to seek to ensure that disability rights remain a priority for the student movement.
7. To mandate the CUSU executive to lobby Cambridgeshire County Council and local government to prioritise social care over expenditure of less fundamental importance in other areas and pressure the University administration to do the same.

LAPSING POLICY

CUSU notes:

1. The renewal of lapsing policy to Michaelmas CUSU Council 1.

CUSU believes:

1. Term has not allowed for Teams to meet to discuss this before Michaelmas Council
2. Consideration of lapsing CUSU policy should be led by the entire part-time executive, not just the sabbatical officers.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To renew all lapsing policy until Michaelmas CUSU Council 2.

APPOINTMENT OF STUDENT TRUSTEES

CUSU Notes:

1. The Selection Group tasked with recommending the appointment of student trustees was established at CUSU Council earlier in Easter Term, its membership being as follows:
 - a. From the sabbatical team: Gerard Tully and Morgan Wild (President and Education Officer)
 - b. From members of Council: Ruth Graham, Ben Wheawell and Will Oram (Women's Officer, Homerton Union of Students President, and Queens' JCR President)
 - c. From the part-time executive: Rosalyn Old and James Counsell (President-elect and Membership Engagement Officer)
2. That the Group received ten applications, of which six were called to interview, and two are now recommended for appointment.
3. That Standing Orders require that the Democracy and Development Team present the recommendations of the Group to Council for approval. Only members of the Democracy and Development team also sitting on the Group took part in the selection process.
4. That the term of office for these transitional appointments will be from the confirmation of the CUSU Council Michaelmas 1 2012 minutes to the 22nd April 2013, inclusive.

CUSU Believes:

1. That the standard of the applications were exceptionally high, including many students with impressive achievements, charitable and third sector experience, and compelling reasons for their appointment, giving the Group a very difficult decision.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To appoint Imogen Schön to the CUSU Board of Trustees as a student trustee.
2. To appoint Thomas Towers to the CUSU Board of Trustees as a student trustee.

NUS NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION**CUSU Notes:**

1. That at the last NUS conference in April the NUS voted to hold national demonstration.
2. That the NUS has planned 'Demo 2012 - Educate. Employ. Empower' for the 21st November 2012 in London.
3. The NUS Demo 2012 website describes that the idea of the demonstration is for students to "stand up for their future", alongside local communities, as well as emphasising the value of the public good of education.
4. That CUSU has pre-existing policy to campaign for free education.

CUSU Believes:

1. This demonstration is a chance for Cambridge students to showcase a positive outlook of how we would like to see the education system for future generations.
2. This year is a key stage in building up to the next general election in terms of influencing education policy.
3. That Cambridge students have had a strong presence at previous NUS demonstrations.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To organise coaches, open to all students, to travel to the NUS national demonstration on the 21st November.
2. For the President to liaise with Anglia Ruskin SU and UCU regarding combining transport for the event.
3. To allocate up to £200 from the Council free budget for coach hire.
4. For the CUSU Executive to publicise the demonstration to Cambridge University students.