



## Agenda of a Meeting of the Graduate Union Council

*To be held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019, in the SU Lounge, Graduate Union, 17 Mill Lane, Cambridge CB21RX*

Note emergency motions will be accepted up to the point the meeting is called to order by emailing [vice-president@gradunion.cam.ac.uk](mailto:vice-president@gradunion.cam.ac.uk)

### 1. Approval of the minutes of the previous Council meeting

The unconfirmed minutes of the last Council meeting, held on 6 June 2019, are circulated for approval.

### 2. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous Council meeting

### 3. Reports from Sabbatical Officers and Officers of the Executive Committee

- A. President's Report (*Verbal Report*)
- B. Vice-President's Report (*Verbal Report*)
- C. Welfare and Rights Officer's Report

### 4. Council Discussion

- A. Improving postgraduate representation (*we will be discussing the survey [here](#)*)
- B. Anti-casualisation

### 5. Motions to council

- A. Motion to mandate Graduate Union to continue working with the Cambridge University Students' Union (CUSU) on consultation on and development of proposals for a new single union

## **6. Emergency Motions**

The Council will consider any emergency motions submitted between the circulation of the Agenda and the start of the meeting.

## **7. Dates of upcoming meetings**

Long Vacation

02 September 2019

At 7 pm unless otherwise stated

## **8. Any other business**

Student Trustee Update

# *Graduate Union*

## *Annual General Meeting*

06/06/19

19.00 at the SU Lounge, University of Cambridge Graduate Union

*Attendees*

<b>Name</b>	<b>College/Faculty</b>	<b>Position</b>
Dr. Mrityunjay Guha Majumdar ( <i>Chair</i> )	Graduate Union	GU Chair of Executive Committee and Vice-President
Mr. Matthew Wales	Trinity Hall	MCR President
Mr. Chris Mellor	Fitzwilliam	MCR Vice-President
Ms. Laura Gutenberg	Trinity Hall / UCU	Student / UCU Grad Rep
Ms. Roohia Salma	Queens' College	MCR External Representative
Ms. Sophia Salma	Queens' College	Student
Mr. Dan Whitaker	Clare College	MCR Vice-President
Mr. Thomas Graff	Trinity College	MCR Treasurer
Mr. Efthimios Karayiannides	Magdalene College	MCR Vice-President
Dr. Sam James	Cambridge UCU	Cambridge UCU President
Mr. Victor Parchment	Peterhouse	MCR Secretary
Mr. Alessandro Ceccarelli	Graduate Union	GU LGBTQ+ Officer
Ms. Carrington Hickey	Newnham College	MCR External Representative
Mr. Karthick Murukesan	St. John's College	GU Families Officer
Mr. Ryan Prestil	Darwin College	MCR President-elect

It was noted that the meeting was not quorate, it was decided to go over the business for those present, and that the trustee would look to arrange another meeting soon.

It was noted that the last AGM though quorate, after questions from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor over ran by 2 hours, the meeting was postponed.

2. The meeting received the report of the Trustees of activities since the previous AGM

3. The meeting received the accounts of the Union for the Previous year

4. The meeting noted the appointment of the relevant auditors

5. The affiliations were noted

6. A question was received about sustainability of the Union finances. It was noted that the Trustees have planned to wind down their reserves, that our spending plans were generally on track.

#### **7. Establishing the Vice-President position.**

It was noted that the schedules allowed the Trustees and Council to establish extra sabbatical positions, but there is a need for them to be confirmed at the next general meeting. It was noted that the question of establishing the Vice-President position will now be postponed to the next meeting

Meeting closed at 7.35pm

# Graduate Union Council

06/06/19

19.00 at the SU Lounge, University of Cambridge Graduate Union

## Attendees

### *Voting Members*

Name	College/Faculty	Position
Dr. Mrityunjay Guha Majumdar ( <i>Chair</i> )	Graduate Union	GU Chair of Executive Committee and Vice-President
Mr. Matthew Wales	Trinity Hall	MCR President
Mr. Chris Mellor	Fitzwilliam	MCR Vice-President
Ms. Roohia Salma	Queens' College	MCR External Representative
Mr. Dan Whitaker	Clare College	MCR Vice-President
Mr. Thomas Graff	Trinity College	MCR Treasurer
Mr. Efthimios Karayiannides	Magdalene College	MCR Vice-President
Mr. Victor Parchment	Peterhouse	MCR Secretary
Ms. Carrington Hickey	Newnham College	MCR External Representative
Mr. Ryan Prestil	Darwin College	MCR President-elect

### *Non-voting Members*

Name	College/Faculty	Position
Ms. Laura Gutenberg	Trinity Hall / UCU	Student / UCU Grad Rep
Ms. Sophia Salma	Queens' College	Student
Dr. Sam James	Cambridge UCU	Cambridge UCU President
Mr. Alessandro Ceccarelli	Graduate Union	GU LGBTQ+ Officer
Mr. Karthick Murukesan	St. John's College	GU Families Officer

### *Apologies (proxy vote handed to Chair Mrityunjay) from*

Name	College/Faculty	Position
Ms. Catherine Bevilacqua	Kings College	MCR President
Ms. Mariana Pinto-Leitao-Pereira	Clare Hall	MCR President

The GU Council was quorate.

It was noted apologies had been received by the President and Welfare and Rights Officer (WARO) and the meeting was chaired by the Vice-President.

**1. Minutes of the last meeting**

Minutes were received from the last meeting and approved

**2. Matters arising**

No matters were raised

**3. Reports**

Council received written reports from the President and Vice-President

**4. Appointment of Student Trustees**

It was noted that of the three candidates that had put themselves forward, the Executive Committee has recommended Takashi Lawson and Tamzin Byrne. These were approved

**5. Council Discussions**

**a. Improving Postgraduate representation**

It was noted that the consultation on improve PG representation will go on into Michaelmas term. The Vice-President noted that he had attended several sessions in various colleges. The representative from Claire College was supportive, especially relating to the shared representation model.

**b. Anti-casualisation –**

The Chair invited the Cambridge UCU President to discuss casualised contracts at Cambridge. He enquired whether representatives were aware of their current campaign? – he noted that though it demanded a whole lot of things – an area of note for Postgraduate student-workers was against casual contracts, and how they are handled out. He asked MCR's to fill in the postcards for the Raise the Bar campaign, noted that they can either be deposited in the GU, or sent via University Mailing Service (UMS). It was important if nothing more to show the University Human Resources department the level of support for these changes.

***Regular Motions***

## 6b. Declaring a climate emergency

The motion resolved to

1. To officially declare a climate emergency.
2. To provide our continuing support to environmental actions within the university.
3. To continue to help raise awareness about environmental issues throughout the university.

It was asked if the motion was connected the extinction rebellion. It was noted that Claire divestment society, it was noted that it was not connected to Extinction Rebellion Group, though it did have an environmental theme. This was presented in such a way to encourage discussion with the University.

The motion is passed.

## 6d. Motion support boycott of Trinity college

This council resolves to:

1. Promote the open letters from students at Trinity College [a] and from University of Cambridge staff [b].
2. Press the college to consider its obligations to their students, severed from excellent supervisors in Cambridge, and to their colleagues and the wider community of academia.
3. *Support graduate students and staff boycotting Trinity until the College commits to continue in or rejoin the USS scheme. (amendment)*
4. *Work towards mitigating the adverse effect of the boycott on supervision of mature undergraduate students. (amendment)*

It was noted that much of the conversation from the pension dispute from the previous year around the USS Pension (Universities Superannuation Scheme). And that the scheme operates in such a way, that Universities must make up the short fall. As Trinity is the richest, it is likely to be least likely to become bankrupt, but they have taken to decision to pay their way out of the scheme. Though this will not affect the risk of the scheme, if another similar size contributor left, it would like to receive a lower trust rating. It should be noted that many of the trinity fellows are employed by the University, hence the risk resides there.

A question was asked if it is really that risky? In answer, it was told that it is financially better off for most Universities to stay in, most cannot afford to leave in this manner. A friendly amendment by the GU Vice-President was accepted to noted Mature Undergraduates within the motion as also being affected and mitigating factors must be included in the motion.

A question was asked on how it will affect our members at trinity – Overall it should not affect members, as really the boycott was aimed at reversing the change in the short term. IT was noted a new master will be starting in October.

In reply on members not being able to afford to not to teach at Trinity, it was noted that overall though Trinity funds teaching in other colleges, this was aimed at Trinity itself, and the aim was to encourage students seek other employment opportunities.

The motion was approved with amendments.

### **6a. Childcare friendly motion**

The GU Families Officer introduced the motion

The GU Council resolves

1. To repeal University's child care vision "University nurseries are meant to cater the interest of staff" and commit to the inclusive vision of "University nurseries are meant to cater the interest of staff and students invariably", thereby maintaining the 20% seat reservation for students in the Eddington nursery.
2. To demand increase in the central child care bursary support.
3. To demand at least one child friendly workplace with network facilities, with child rest area, within University of Cambridge premises to cater to the needs of graduate student parents.

The motion is passed.

### **6c. Departmental Welfare-**

The GU Vice-President introduced the motion

The GU Council resolves

1. To make the topic of increasing welfare and wellbeing support systems in departments a priority.
2. To encourage Faculty representatives to lobby for better welfare signposting in their respective departments and faculties.
3. To lobby for increased collaboration between the departments and the University Counselling Service for workshops and support-based events in the departments.

The motion is passed.

## 6e. Election for Part-time Positions

Council was asked to allow the election committee to be convened under Dr Sofia Ropek Hewson as returning officer, with a committee supported by the Vice-President, Welfare and Rights Officer and the CUSU President. Positions available for election:

- LGBTQ+ Officer (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Other)
- BME Officer (Black and Minority Ethnic)
- Disabled Student Officer
- Open Portfolio Officer
- Faculty Liaison Officer

Motion is passed and election procedure for part-time officers' positions commenced.

## 7. Emergency motions

None were received

## 8. Dates for upcoming meetings

It was noted that the next meetings will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019, and 02 September 2019

## 9. Any other business

A question was asked about the Counselling service – was it good? It was noted that individuals had a variety of experiences

## ***5a) Motion to mandate Graduate Union to continue working with the Cambridge University Students' Union (CUSU) on consultation on and development of proposals for a new single union***

**Proposer:** Dr. Sofia Ropek-Hewson, President, Graduate Union

**Seconded:** Dr. Mrittunjoy Guha Majumdar, Chair of Executive Committee and Vice-President, Graduate Union

GU Council notes:

1. That 51 undergraduate and 93 postgraduate students responded to our recent survey. 90% of undergraduate respondents supported CUSU and the GU working more closely together and 78% supported the proposal for a single union. Of postgraduate respondents, 86% supported CUSU and the GU working more closely together and 65% supported the proposal for a single union. Between 73 and 75% of postgraduate respondents supported the proposed sabbatical, executive committee and council and forum structures. Between 60 and 75% of undergraduate respondents supported the same proposed structures. Undergraduate respondents were most supportive of the proposed council and forum structures.
2. That whilst there has been broad support, in particular for the full-time BME Officer, concerns have been raised about the proposed combined access and education roles, and the need for an equal postgraduate voice in any new council and forum structures.
3. That more consultation and proposal development are needed, in order to fully respond to areas of concern.

GU Council believes:

1. That the initial consultation period has shown broad support for the proposals, but there are several areas that need to be explored further, with students and staff, over the summer period.
2. That as postgraduate students make up half the student body, we must develop a Union structure that ensures parity.
3. That the incoming GU and CUSU sabbatical teams should continue the current direction of travel and pursue the possibility of developing a single union structure.
4. That following further consultation, students should have a final and direct say on the proposals.

GU Council resolves:

1. To continue consultation on the proposals over the summer period.
2. To bring a finalised proposal to the first GU Council of Michaelmas term which responds to concerns raised during the consultation period, for further discussion.
3. To hold a referendum at the end of Michaelmas term on whether or not students support the single union proposed.