



GRADUATE UNION

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Agenda of a Meeting of the Graduate Union Council

To be held at 7pm on Monday 15 October, in the GU Lounge at 17 Mill Lane

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

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Agenda (C.181015.A)

1. Approval of the minutes of the previous Council meeting (C.181015.B)

The unconfirmed minutes of the last Council meeting, held on 3 September 2018, 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
- B. Vice-President's report
- C. Welfare and Rights' report

4. Motions submitted to council

a) MoU between GU, CUSU and UCU (C.181015.C)

GU Council resolves:

To approve the memorandum

Submitted by the President

b) Brexit Working Group (C.181015.D)

GU Council resolves:

To support a GU-run Brexit Working Group

Submitted by the President

c) Campaigning Fund Motion (C.181015.E)

GU Council resolves:

To approve the establishment of a Campaigning Fund to be used by members of the GU Executive Committee and voting members of the GU Council, for a trial period of a year.

Submitted by the President

d) Project Funding Motion (C.181015.F)

GU Council resolves:

To approve the establishment of a Project Funding competition, to be open to all postgraduate students.

Submitted by the President

e) Campaigns Committee Motion (C.181015.G)

GU Council resolves:

To establish a Campaigns Committee and to co-opt willing members appropriate to the terms described above.

Submitted by the President

5. Emergency motions

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

6. Dates of upcoming meetings

Michaelmas Term: 2 oct-30 Nov

- 3 December 2018

Lent Term: (15 Jan to 15 March)

- 21 January 2019
- 11 March 2019

Easter Term (23 April to 14 June)

- 29 April 2019
- 03 June 2019

Long Vacation

- 08 July 2019
- 02 September 2019

All at 7pm in the GU Lounge

7. Any other business

Training sessions run during the Michaelmas term 2018

C.181015.C Memorandum of Understanding between CUCU, CUSU and CUGU

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishes the terms and understanding between Cambridge UCU (CUCU), Cambridge University Students' Union (CUSU) and the Cambridge University Graduate Union (CUGU) in relation to shared working.

Background

Following the recent industrial action over staff pensions in spring 2018, there has been renewed and increased collaboration between CUCU, CUSU and CUGU. The three unions have found these collaborations to be beneficial. This MoU intends to formalise these collaborations to ensure their longevity.

Purpose

This MoU establishes a commitment to a partnership on strategic issues and in areas of common interest. The unions' interests are aligned: staff working conditions are the conditions in which students learn. They also represent the current and future working conditions of many students: postgraduate students in particular are often both staff and students. A university education is a collaborative relationship between staff and students and each benefit from the advancement of the other's interest. The purpose of this MoU is to encourage unions with shared interests and memberships in Cambridge to cooperate in order to benefit each other in terms of visibility and engagement.

These goals will be accomplished through the following commitments:

Commitment from CUCU: to proactively contact the students' unions when policy developments may impact on student teaching or postgraduate student employment, to allow for preparation. To support students' rights to fair learning and working conditions, fair pay for student workers and equal treatment through demonstrations of solidarity and joint campaigning activity. To maintain an ongoing dialogue. To discuss areas of shared work.

Commitment from CUSU and CUGU: to proactively contact CUCU when policy developments impact on campaigning plans, to allow for preparation. To support the right to fair pay, fair pensions and fair treatment for all staff, through demonstrations of solidarity and joint campaigning activity. To maintain an ongoing dialogue. To discuss areas of shared work.

CUCU, CUSU and CUGU representatives will meet termly and share information about plans and strategy related to relevant issues.

Reporting

CUSU and CUGU representatives will report annually to their respective councils, and CUCU representatives will report to their AGM.

Duration

This MoU shall become effective upon signature by the authorised representatives from CUCU, CUSU and CUGU and will remain in effect until modified by mutual consent or terminated by any one of the partners. This MoU does not represent a commitment of funds and may be modified by mutual consent of authorised representatives from CUCU, CUSU and CUGU.

Date and signed by:
CUCU, CUGU, CUSU.

C.181015.D Brexit Working Group Motion

Background notes:

In the financial year ending July 2017, the University of Cambridge received £59.2m of research funding from the European Commission.

The University received another £10.7m in other costs.

12.7% of overall University external research income comes from the EU.

Nearly 30% of funding in the School of Arts and Humanities comes from the EU – this School has the highest direct dependency.

In the academic year 2017/18, there were 2379 EU postgraduate students, comprising 23.4% of the postgraduate population, in comparison with 1414 undergraduates, comprising 11.4% of the undergraduate population.

The Vice-Chancellor's report, 'My Cambridge' highlights the need for discussion of the impact of Brexit, evidenced by the following extracts:

'A large number expressed concern at the impact of Brexit on the University's global relevance' (p.12)

'Some thought the University had a role to play in the Brexit debate and should stress the hazards of Brexit and its unintended consequences for the HE sector and beyond.' (p.12)

'There were warnings about the risk of losing our relationship with European partners post-Brexit and calls for an increase in European collaboration.' (p.12)

'Some cited Brexit and the looming diminution of EU research funding as an additional incentive to diversify and expand sources of income' (p.18)

Brexit Working Group Motion

GU Council notes:

That the University receives significant income from EU resources.

That leaving the European Union will impact significantly on the University.

That leaving the European Union will significantly impact students, especially students from the EU and from associated areas such as Norway and Switzerland.

GU Council believes:

That a GU-run Brexit Working Group will allow for dissemination of information to students relating to Brexit.

That a Brexit Working Group will allow for student communication with the University's EU Strategy Group through the GU President's membership.

That a Brexit Working Group should run events, which will allow for discussion with EU students, and support of EU students.

GU Council resolves:

To support the creation of GU-run Brexit Working Group, to exist until October 2021, unless the term is extended by GU Council.

That the Brexit Working Group will be open to all members of the GU.

That the Brexit Working Group will report to the Executive Committee and GU Council.

C.181015.E Campaigning Fund**Proposal: Campaigning Fund**

To create a campaigning pot of £3000, to be used by members of the GU Executive Committee and voting members of GU Council for campaigning work in collaboration with the GU on issues that affect postgraduate students.

This campaigning fund will aim to increase the capacity of GU Executive Officers to engage in campaigning work across the University. Executive Officers currently have no access to formal budgets or funds. The fund will aim to improve communication and engagement between GU Council members and the GU, allowing for Council members to use this fund and to work with sabbatical and executive officers to effect change at a college or University level. This fund will also aim to improve the visibility of the GU through increased campaigning work. This fund is proposed to be trialed for a year.

Campaigning Fund Motion**GU Council notes:**

That the Graduate Union considers campaigning on issues that affect postgraduate students to be a priority area.

That the Graduate Union currently provides no funding for Executive Officers, or campaigning support for members of GU Council.

GU Council believes:

That making more funding available will improve our campaigning capacity within the University.

That making more funding available for campaigns will improve the visibility of the GU.

That making more funding available will improve communication between GU Council, the Executive Committee, the Sabbatical Officers and the student population.

GU Council resolves:

To approve the establishment of a Campaigning Fund to be used by members of the GU Executive Committee and voting members of the GU Council, for a trial period of a year.

C.181015.F Project Funding Motion

Proposal: Project Funding Competition

We propose that the GU run a project funding competition on issues identified by the GU Mental Health Survey or the Graduate Rights campaign. Funding for multiple projects will be offered, running over Lent and Easter, and projects can address one or some of the main issues identified by the Mental Health Survey, or another campaigning area. The funding available will be £2000 and students can apply for up to £1000, or for smaller amounts for smaller projects. On the basis that postgraduate students should be properly paid for part-time work, project proposals will be costed based on pay of £20/hour.

Projects will be encouraged to be student-facing and creative, rather than informational, and could take the form of a short film, an exhibition, a performance, a sculpture or a piece of writing. Shareable, widely disseminated content will be particularly encouraged, in order to reach as many students as possible. If the project is not inherently 'shareable', a proposal for wider dissemination will be requested as part of the funding proposal.

Project Funding Motion

GU Council notes:

That campaigning work often fails to reach postgraduate students in need.

That campaigning work is often event-based and not aimed at wide dissemination.

GU Council believes:

That a Project Funding competition will allow students to creatively respond to campaigning work, and issues identified through campaigning work.

That a Project Funding competition will allow for the wider dissemination of our campaigns.

GU Council resolves:

To approve the establishment of a Project Funding competition, to be open to all postgraduate students.

C.181015.G Campaigns Committee Motion

Proposal: GU Campaigns Committee

In order to administer the drawdown of the Campaigning Fund and to review applications for the Project Funding, we propose to create a Campaigns Committee comprising a GU Sabbatical Officer, a GU Trustee, an Executive Committee member, a member of the GU Mental Health Working Group, and a voting member of GU Council.

We propose that members of the GU Executive Committee or voting members of GU Council will apply to the GU Campaigns Committee with a campaigning plan relating to the Campaigning Fund, and projects will be approved or denied, based on their viability.

We propose that any full member of the Graduate Union will be able to apply to the Project Funding Competition and projects will be reviewed by the Campaigns Committee.

We propose that rules relating to the Campaigning Fund and the Project Funding Competition will be established by the GU Campaigns Committee and reviewed by the GU Executive Committee, the GU Board of Trustees and GU Council to ensure proper scrutiny of proposed procedures.

Campaigns Committee Motion

GU Council notes:

That the establishment of new funds requires management and scrutiny.

GU Council believes:

That a Campaigns Committee comprised of a GU Sabbatical Officer, a GU Trustee, an Executive Committee member, a member of the GU Mental Health Working Group, and a voting member of GU Council will ensure proper management and scrutiny.

GU Council resolves:

To establish a Campaigns Committee and to co-opt willing members appropriate to the terms described above. This Committee will report to the Executive Committee, GU Council and the Board of Trustees.



**GRADUATE
UNION**
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Graduate Union Council

03/09/18

19.00 at the Graduate Union, 17 Mill Lane

Present:

Name	Title
Malavika Nair	MCR Treasurer, Churchill
Elise Siouve	MCR External Officer, Sidney Sussex
Victor Parchment	MCR President, Peterhouse
Jonny Davidson	MCR Co-President, St Catharine's College
Andrea Paterlini	MCR Vice-President, Clare College
Andre Neto-Bradley	MCR Treasurer, Fitzwilliam College
Alberto Ippolito	Graduate Parlour External Representative, Pembroke College
Tamzin Byrne	MCR External Officer, Sidney Sussex College
Rachel Crosby	MCR External Officer Newnham
Claire Butler	MCR Vice-President, Selwyn
Roberton Correa	MCR President, Emmanuel

In attendance:

Name	Title
Sofia Ropek Hewson	Graduate Union President and Chair of Council
Christine Pungong	Graduate Union/ CUSU Welfare and Rights Officer
Nikita Hari	Graduate Union Vice-President
Marios Christodoulides	Graduate Union Mature Undergraduate Officer
Ben Jackson	Pembroke Graduate Parlour President
Joe Stallard	MCR President, Queens College
Ali Chahine	General Manager and minute taker

Welcome

The Chair noted that this was her first meeting and asked the students to introduce themselves.

1. Minutes

Council received the minutes of the last meeting held on 9th July.

Some minor amendments were needed.

- P8 – 2nd paragraph – a correction was requested; the member was asked to email the correction to the minute taker.
- Peterhouse, rather than Peterhouse College

Minutes were accepted with amendments.

2. Amended motions,

The Graduate Outreach motion was approved as amended in meeting

4. PG Open Day –

Council heard from Grace Dickinson, of the Admissions Office. It was noted that she was new in the role. She would be coordinating the PG Open Day, which would take place on Friday 2nd November.

It was noted that this would be a whole-day event. The programme has been split so attendees can view colleges in the morning and spend the afternoon in departments. There would also be an exhibition hub. Departments will be given their own stand. Due to feedback from the first session, it was aimed to have a more consistent feel, and more student representation. Overall, they were looking for more student participation.

3. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers

Council received written reports from the Officers on their activities since the last meeting.

President

- Has been working on stopping or reducing the rise in the PG admissions fee. Had managed to keep the rise to £10 instead of £25 (£60 instead of £75) and was in discussion on establishing fee waivers.
- Mental Health Working Group - survey going out this week and events organised.
- Attending various committees - committee season beginning in October.
- She had sought to clarify the AHRC funding announcement that seemed to be a cut in PhD places.

In reply to whether an extra fee would apply to multiple applications, that was still being clarified, although certain departments allowed multiple applications for a single fee.

Vice-President

- The Vice-President is leading a campaign on addressing the relationship issues between Ph.D. students & supervisors. She asked for ideas for name of the campaign. She noted that 'Know your Rights' will be the tagline now.
- She along with the past-president was successful in getting the University to include a signature page on the Code of Practice for those starting in October 2018.
- She is trying to push for a proper navigation process for grievance and complaints – also noting that there is lack of information on student rights.
- Other projects like the field work training and e-thesis are running alongside a major project to restructure the 'Code of Practice'.
- Submitted a motion regarding the campaign (on the agenda).

The VP noted that the info on signing the Code of Practice will be circulated during Nov as per the timing suggested by Registry. But the council suggested that the second week of Oct would be ideal to let the PhD Freshers' know about the CoP via GU bulletin.

Welfare and Rights Officer

The WARO noted her work:

- Working on a student parent handbook along with Families officer.
- Ideally looking to get a changing table in the disabled toilets in the Students' Unions building.
- Is creating training specific for MCR officers.
- Liaising with UCS - anonymous feedback mechanism BME counselling report, feedback on their report.
- Working with the Disabled Students Officer on 'Welfare is Political'.

Motion A

PhD supervisions: campaign for responsible and accountable PhD supervisions

VP introduced the motion

Motion approved

Motion B

B. Amendment to the bylaws. Executive Officers

The Vice-President introduced the motion, noting that overall the changes have happened already due to previous motions to council.

A member asked who looks after the finances if there is no longer a Treasurer. It was noted that this was the President's responsibility but was supported by the General Manager and the Financial Clerk.

It was further noted that the Open role was limited to one voting person, but council or the executive could co-opt other members. It was suggested that they would normally submit their campaign to council.

The amendments were approved

Elections Schedule

Council received a motion, as noted by the by-laws with regards to the Michaelmas term election. It was noted as normal, the election would be delegated to the CUSU election committee, but with the GU President acting as Returning Officer.

It was noted that although elsewhere there is an external Returning Officer, the right to appeal to the Proctors ensured that there was some degree of outside scrutiny.

The schedule was approved

Annual Policy review

Council received a list of current policies of the Union.

The following motions were removed as they were no longer needed:

- Affiliation fees replaced by grants. This was successfully achieved.
- Professionalise SUAS. This was successfully achieved.
- Officer creation (LGBTQ+/ BME/DSO). This is now part of the bylaws.
- Second Sabbatical Officer
- Remove the Brexit motion due to it being open ended
- Michaelmas Workshops

It was noted that the Girton lighting needs to be looked at again.

It was noted that there was still strong support for divestment.

Local election registrations – it was decided to renew this policy for three years.

Dates of the next meeting.

The President noted that the dates would remain fixed but asked whether Council would like to meet earlier in the evening. Feedback showed that the 7pm slot was preferred by a majority of members.

Any Other Business.

- Yoga – after some feedback it was decided to have one session per week.
- There was a general discussion on claiming expenses, and students' experiences of using the University Financial System.

Report: President, Graduate Union

Over the last month, I have focused on planning and publicising campaign-related work. I also spoke on a panel on the casualisation of academic work and have been regularly meeting with students. Our mental health survey is now open to respondents, our panel discussion events have been booked and the panels organised. But most of my work is University-facing, and in my meetings with the University, I have made clear the GU's commitments to mental health campaigning and postgraduate widening participation, the need to improve supervisor-supervisee relationships and other strategic issues. Below, I have outlined some of the committees of which I am a member.

University Council – main executive and policy making body of University, with general responsibility for the administration of the University, the planning of its work and the management of its resources. In practice, decisions are often made before they reach UC.

Business Committee – approving Graces, reports and notices for the University.

Graduate Tutors' Committee – dealing with business relating to Graduate Tutors and graduate students.

Board of Graduate Studies – broad remit, ranging from exam-related issues to admissions, registration and approval of graduate students.

Senior Tutors' Committee – more undergraduate focused, education policy, welfare issues, student numbers.

Senior Tutors' Education Committee – education policy.

General Board – responsible for academic and educational policy, academic planning, academic services and HR issues related to academic staff.

New Museums Site Project Board – managing the development of the new Student Services Building on the New Museums Site.

Information Systems Committee – strategy for information services across the University.

Prevent Committee – managing the University's Prevent duty.

EU Working Group – strategy and planning relating to Brexit.

Strategic Working Group on Access and Participation – planning for the Student Support Initiative, which involves raising around £300 million for postgraduate studentships, widening participation for postgraduate students and undergraduate students and providing more welfare support – a donor-facing campaign.

Standing Committee on Welfare and Finance Committee – matters of student welfare and student finance.

Postgraduate Admissions Committee – review graduate admissions policy and practice, monitor admissions targets, to promote fairness and consistency in the admissions practices across colleges and the University.

Library Syndicate – supervise management of the University Library, University Archives and affiliated libraries.

Careers Service Syndicate – strategy, finance and staffing for the Careers Service.

Postgraduate Admissions Committee Funding Sub-Group – specifically addressing funding issues in relation to postgraduate admissions.

Campaign Advisory Group – advisory group relating to fundraising campaigns.

Financial User Group – management of financial systems across the University.

Postgraduate Feedback and Reporting Systems Committee – changing reporting systems for postgraduate students and introducing self-evaluation and ad-hoc reports for students.

Sub-committee for Biological Safety – analysing risks and procedures relating to biological safety.

Sub-committee for Ionising and Non-Ionising Radiations – analysing departmental safety arrangements, relating to e.g. lasers etc.

CCSSU – committee for the supervision of students' unions. Committee attended by CUSU and GU which helps us with financial planning and general strategy work.

City Council Planning Group – student representative as part of a group planning some changes to the town centre – including pedestrianisation etc.

Alice Benton meetings – weekly meetings with the Head of Educational and Student Policy.

Critical Friends – monthly meetings with Alice Benton, Mark Wormald, Matthew Russell – Head of Intercollegiate Services, and Regina Sachers – Head of the Registry's Office.

Mark Wormald meetings – regular meetings with the Secretary of the Senior Tutors' Committee.

Graham Virgo meetings – monthly meetings with the Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education.

GU Mental Health Working Group – meetings with the GU Mental Health Working Group.

Brexit Working Group – informal meetings, with a view to developing a GU-run Brexit Working Group.

Vice-President: Updates on campaign, projects & activities (Sept 4th- Oct 14th)

1. Launched the campaign ‘**Graduate Rights: Changing the Culture of PhD Supervisions**’

Addressing the PhD supervisor-student issue through improving the ‘code of practice (CoP) for research students’ and changing the existing ‘PhD supervision culture’ is a key priority for me as the Vice-President this year.

The current PhD supervision culture is based on unaccountability and irresponsibility with no checks and balances in place. The GU campaign for Postgraduate Rights aims to address this systemic issue by pushing the university to change the toxic PhD supervision culture. Our campaign will focus on three parallel approaches which are tailored based on student experiences and feedback from our membership:

1. **Change the inadequate and unfair guidelines and research practices:** We are working with the Senior PVC for Education Prof. Virgo, the Board of Graduate Studies and the Education policy office in reviewing CoP guidelines (examples include minimum mandatory leave, cleared guidelines on working hours, clear routes for conflict resolution, support for disabled students, faster intermission & extension procedures, maternity and paternity leave, data ethics, fieldwork practices, co-supervision where necessary, etc.). The CoP will have a signature page starting with the Oct 2018 Ph.D. batch. It is expected that this CoP will be read, and expectations set out at the start of every year and will be signed by the PhD student, supervisor, and advisor. The University has been relatively supportive on this regard, with **Senior PVC Prof Virgo saying, “It is vital that all postgraduate students are treated with respect and are encouraged and supported to ensure that their research experience at Cambridge is the best it can possibly be.”**
2. **Streamline convoluted procedures:** We are developing a flowchart of the Ph.D. journey with links to appropriate service providers and a conflict navigation flowchart to help students have a productive and enjoyable time here at the University and signpost them to where they can get the most effective help when in need; SUAS and BGS are feeding into this.
3. **Increase information sharing:** Most of the time, students are bombarded with overwhelming information and crucial points get lost in the noise in the complex collegiate structure. Our campaign will focus on dissemination of information about the CoP and the main service providers. Done through social media & bulletins.

As a start, we hope these steps will be a bridge to ensure good working practices, accountability from supervisors and the departments in ensuring a fair and healthy working environment for PhD students - leading to happier and more productive PhD students, which can only benefit everyone!

In the two days after launching the graduate rights campaign we reached thousands of students with 500+ clicks on social media. More than 25 students came forward to report serious experiences via our anonymous submission service. Coincidentally, a week later, the Guardian reported on endemic bullying at leading universities like Cambridge. We at the graduate union believe this scratch the surface of the real abuse and discrimination at Cambridge - we hope the University will do its best to acknowledge, address and take concrete action to stop bullying, harassment and unfair supervision practises.

As part of the campaign, the VP formed a core-team for campaign strategy, article writing etc. Publicised the campaign to MCRs, Depts and Students through social media and emails.

2. **Social media:** Fresher's events social media posts: **Reach of 8.9K during Freshers' week with 4.7k engagement and 200+ likes.** Other activities: Elections post, Mental Health Day post and others.

3. **Projects:**

a) Three Minute Thesis 2019

- In alignment with the future goal to conduct a unified 3MT, circulated the 3MT pack GM Ali prepared to the Science Festival organisers.

c) GU Bulletin

- Bulletin sent out from new system on Oct 9th

d) E-thesis Project

- Connected students to OFC admin for open-access week
- Attended a filming on e-thesis process as part of open-access week

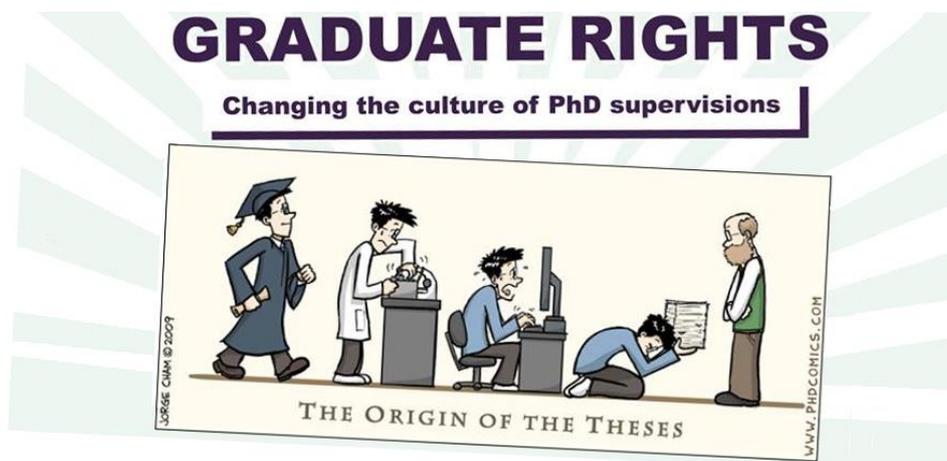
e) Upcoming Elections for VP and part-time officers

- Design inputs for the posters
- Social media posts
- Contacted potential candidates
- Looking into eligibility of some candidates

4. **Meetings /Committees**

- Campaign core-team meetings – strategy, read 1000+ page statues and ordinances, wrote blogs, articles etc (13): Core Team – Nikita Hari, Richard Dent and Hugo Larose
- Fort-nightly executive committee (Chair) (1)
- GU team meeting (1)
- Education Policy Head (1)
- E-thesis (1)
- 1-1 Meetings with individual students regarding campaign (5)
- Freshers' week related meetings (5)
- University Research Ethics committee (1): Discussed issues surrounding the data ethics policy in light of the ongoing FB issue. Conveyed the students' feedback that some supervisors ask them to hide sensitive information regarding ethics breach. Also input to the committee that many students are unaware of the data ethics related issues just like the fieldwork related risks.

<https://www.gradunion.cam.ac.uk/graduaterights>



Report from the Part-Time Officers

1. International Officer

- a) In liaison with Wolfson college supported the Buddy Programme.
- b) Help set-up Buddy party at GU – attended by 160+ students
- c) GU stall during Freshers' week

2. LGBTQ+ Officer

- a) Attended Access for PGs meeting
- b) Publicized, Organized and Conducted the LGBTQ+ welcome event attended by 80+ grads
- c) Attended one exec committee
- d) Attended and organized two tea parties for Freshers'
- e) GU stall during Freshers' week

3. Families Officer

- a) Attended one tea party with GU officers for Freshers'
- b) Helped with the Families welcome afternoon during Freshers' week

4. Academic Officer

- a) Helped distribute GU pamphlets at Queens welcome events.
- b) Attended one tea party with GU officers for Freshers'
- d) Attended one executive committee

5. Graduate Welfare Officer

- a) Help set-up Buddy party at GU – attended by 160+ students
- b) GU stall during Freshers' week
- c) Attended two tea parties with GU officers for Freshers'
- d) Attended one executive committee

6. Mature Undergraduate Officer

- a) Organized mature undergrad welcome at GU & St.Edmunds– attended by 15+ students
- b) Helped out with the LGBTQ+ welcome event attended by 80+ grads
- c) Reaching out to mature colleges to form a mature-undergrad community

Freshers' Week for GU

1. Great turn out at our stalls: we had GU lanyards, badges and apples as freebies.
2. **More than 350+ people turned up during Oct 1- Oct 10th at the GU** for Buddy party, LGBTQ+, Mature-Undergrad Coffee Mornings, Families Tea, Tea with officers & Film Nights. Our PGCE welcome party in Sept was attended by 70+ students.
3. President, Vice-President, WARO and part-time officers covered many colleges individually, distributed the leaflets etc. President covered inductions in some depts alongside UCU and CUSU.

Sincerely,

Vice President and Part-time Officers

Any questions please get in touch with the VP: vice-president@gradunion.cam.ac.uk.

GU Council 15th October 2018, Welfare & Rights Officer

- **Trained over 40 Welfare & Liberation Officers** in Essential Skills for Supporting Students and in basic Sexual Health training before Freshers Week. Am currently **collecting feedback on this training** in order to assess what can be improved before the next round of training sessions later this term.
- Met with Amy O’Leary (the University Sexual Assault and Harassment Advisor) to arrange **specialised Sexual Assault and Harassment training for Welfare & Liberation officers** so that they are better equipped to signpost and support students who experience kind of sexual violence. These sessions will run in week beginning 12th November and the sign-up forms for them will be out soon.
- Arranged a meeting with Geraldine Dufour (head of the Counselling Service) for 25th October to talk **about implementing Micha’s recommendation of counsellors to be interculturally trained** and discuss the possibility of developing an anonymous feedback mechanism to better hold counsellors to account.
- Arranged a meeting with Lucy Hodgkiss (Pastoral advisor at Sidney Sussex) to talk about the **benefits that creative or integrative psychotherapy interventions have for students and the possibility of introducing art therapy sessions at the University Counselling Service (UCS)**.
- Sat on the **Race Communications working group** to feedback on the quantitative and qualitative findings of their research into racial composition of the University and the experiences of staff and students – I will be feeding back my ideas on the report (which will be fed into by the other GU sabbatical officers) at the Let’s Talk About Race event on the 17th October (which everyone is welcome to attend (<https://www.equality.admin.cam.ac.uk/events/lets-talk-about-race>))