



## Graduate Union Council Meeting

Tuesday 30 September 2014

### MINUTES

### ATTENDEES

Evianne van Gijn (GU President), Matthew P. Grosvenor (GU Secretary, co-opted), Jack Wright (GU/CUSU Welfare and Rights Officer), Sandra Vetasquet-Alford (Q), Fedir Kiskim (St C), Jaquelyne Poon (Ch), Jan Beitner (Je), Georgie Frank (Cl), Isak Herman (Da), Jose Reis (Gi), Richard Bateman (F), John Morgan (Do), Luca Di Mario (Se), Chris Truscott (Ro), Bo Chen (Wo), Raphael Proust (Ma).

Meeting commenced at 19:11

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#### 1) *Apologies for absence*

None

#### 2) *Introductions*

EG introduced herself to the Council. EG has lived in Cambridge in 5 years and completed both an MPhil and a PhD during that time. EG also introduced the GU: The GU is an independent union. It is one of the only unions that represents exclusively the interests of Graduate students. It runs a number of services:

- The Student Advice Service (SAS) comprising 2 professionals, woman's officers, and education officers.
- A shop that does printing binding and gown hire.

There are 2 officers, the president and the welfare officer - both elected around May and serve until July. The Welfare office (Jack) is shared half and half with CUSU. The President sits on each of the committee in the council.

There are three decision making bodies in the GU. — MCR/Facilitates, the executive committee and the board of trustees. The executive committee - treasurer, secretary, etc. — is currently recruiting a team. EG encouraged MCR presidents to find people to apply. Finally, the board of trustees is responsible for the management / effective governance of the GU. EG asked each college/faculty to send a representative to the council.

Q: Who are the board of trustees.

A: Elected

JW (Welfare Officer) introduced himself. Welfare officer for the GU part-time and CUSU part time. Currently spending a lot of time doing and organizing welfare training.

#### 3) *College Affiliation fees*

EG: Each year the GU sends out an invoice for college affiliation fees. The previous president (Richard Jones) failed to issue an invoice for 2013 - 2014. The SAS has still been running out of the budget. Two fees will be issued, one is 2013, 2014. It was sent out today. Any questions?

Q: Will it be possible for colleges to afford to pay for 2 years in one lump sum:

A: Yes. a) colleges should have budgeted for this last year anyway and b) the fee is about £3 per person, with an average college its about £300 which is not that much.

#### 4) *Approval dates GU Executive Committee election*

Are there any objections to holding the GU Executive committee elections on Nov 3?

Q: Where/how do people nominate?

A: Send the EG an email or visit the GU.

Q: How is voting done:

A: Online voting

Q: Is there a paper ballot requirement?

A: Not sure. **ACTION** EG will check.

Q: Will there be a hustings?

A: Can be, if there is competition for the positions, so far there has been very little interest.

Votes in favor: 13

Votes against: 0

Votes in abstention: 0

**The motion passes**

#### 5) *Upcoming points of discussion, GU space*

EG: This summer the building will be refurbished. Very serious refurbished £500K set aside. The current CUSU building will demolished and CUSU will move in to this building. There is an open question of how the GU and CUSU will be allocated space. This will depend on what the relationship between CUSU and GU will look like. One option is that CUSU and GU merge. Another is that the GU keeps its own space.

Q: Is this permanent?

A: Yes.

Q: What's the timeline?

A: Summer 2015

EG: The sharing of space will raise a question of relationship between GU and CUSU. Various attendees expressed dissatisfaction with CUSU and with merging or sharing space with CUSU.

Q: How important is the shop?

A: Very important income source for the GU.

Q: Is there and data on how the spaces are being used? It would be better if there is grad only space. Physically better to have separations. The graduate students needs aren't being met by CUSU.

A: Societies are using it every night. Finding a date for this meeting was quite hard.

Q: Is it cost effective to use?

A: The space is free to use.

EG: The GU strategic plan has not been developed. With the building happening some of this will become a priority.

#### 6) *Next GU Council meeting dates*

*Next GU Council meeting dates -28th. Two meetings per term.  
25th November.*

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**Meeting closed 20:12.**