



Graduate Union Council Meeting

Tuesday 10 March 2015

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Graduate Union Council, held on Tuesday 10 March 2015 in the Graduate Union Lounge, 17 Mill Lane, 7:00PM.

S. Trainor (Chiar), E. van Gijn (GU President), J. Wright (CUSU/GU Welfare and Rights Officer) M. Grosvenor (GU Secretary), K. Jerath(CH), E. Ward (Em), A. Valreau (Do), J. Beitner (Je), H. Dadswell (Co), S. Velasquez-Alford (Qu), S. Veljkovic (Pe), K. Greve (Ne),

8 voting members.

Matthew P. Grosvenor, GU Secretary

Items carried over from meeting of 25/02/15 - In accordance with the GU Constitution Schedule C, Clause 8 - The items on the agenda from 25/02/15 could not be discussed because the meeting was not quorate (15 voting members present). The GU Executive Committee decided to adjourn the meeting until Tuesday 10 March. Quorum for this meeting shall be 15 or the number of voting members present half an hour after the scheduled start.

- 1) Approval of the minutes of the previous Council Meetings
 - Both sets of minutes approved.
- 2) Matters arising from the minutes of the previous council meeting
 - In the previous minutes, a question was raised about obtaining a cost of living at various colleges. The GU president followed up with this. Went to accommodation committee which oversees this kind of issue. They would not give the data. Then went to Welfare and Finance Committee - It took some convincing, but they eventually agreed that each college would publish their cost of living on their websites. Some progress. The GU president will try to follow up in the future to make sure that this happens.
- 3) Reports to Council from Sabbatical Officers:
 - The GU President summarised the contents of her report as attached to the GU agenda and the following questions were put to her:
 - Q: What does the charity status change mean for the operation of the GU.

A: Everything is still running. This is an administrative issue. It has no affect on the day-to-day operation of the GU.

Q: When will the charity status be reinstated. Can you give a timeline.

A: It's hard to say definitively. The board and I are working on this as fast as we can, but it's a complicated process because we have to determine who will take responsibility for financial documents from the past. All things going well, I expect that it will be resolved before the end of my term.

Q: Strategic plan. Is there a draft. It would be great for council to have a look.

A: Working on it. Very preliminary document so far. Will distribute it to council as soon when ready for wider viewing.

- The GU/CUSU Welfare and Rights officer summarised the contents of hist report as attached to the GU agenda and the following questions were put:

Q: What is the take-up amongst MCRs with welfare training.

A: Quite high. We lure them in because they not allowed to give out sexual health supplies without doing the welfare training.

Q: Have you contacted all 31 colleges?

A: Most of the time when a new MCR officer comes in, they contact me.

4) Motions to be voted on at council

“The Graduate Union resolves to work with MCRs to ensure all graduate students eligible to vote are informed of recent changes in voter registration procedure ahead of this year's general and local elections. The Graduate Union will appoint a working party of graduates to co-ordinate these efforts.” — Proposed by Harry Dadswell, Vice President, Corpus Christi College MCR

Harry Dadswell presented the motion: The way that registration has changed. Colleges used to be able to register students en-mass. CUSU looked into and found that 80% of students have not registered. Did lots of good work to fix this. The GU should do something about it as well. The deadline is the 20th April. Need to get the message out there. Proposing that we put together working party. Working in collaboration with MCR presidents. Now that term is over we have a month to push it. The process takes only a few minutes. Would be helpful if I had one point of contact with each college. Is there anyone here who would object to being the sent some material?

Action send it to Secretary and he will forward it.

Q: Will you be on the working party.

A: I will be.

Q: What about the costs.

A: The GU can help with costs.

Comment: The best way to do this is to is send things to MCR presidents.

Harry: this is a great forum to get MCRs to get work together.

Following the previous unofficial meeting, and related to the motion Jack Wright has produced a draft "comparison" table aimed at commonwealth students who can vote. The see explains how the voting works. Jack would like help and feedback on refining the document.

Favour: All

Opposed: 0

Abstention: 0

5) Any other business: None.

6) Next GU Council meeting date: TBD: