



Graduate Union Council Meeting

9 June 2015

NOTICE & AGENDA

Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Graduate Union Council, to be held on Tuesday 9 June 2015 in the Graduate Union Lounge, 17 Mill Lane, 7:00PM.

Matthew P. Grosvenor, GU Secretary

- 1) Approval of the minutes of the previous Council Meetings
- 2) Matters arising from the minutes of the previous council meeting
- 3) Reports to Council from Sabbatical Officers:
 - A. President's report.
 - B. Welfare and Right's Officer's report.
- 4) Council discussion and questions to Council:
 - A. Discussion of access to information:
 - contact details of council members, trustees, and university observers.
 - procedures for minuting and public notice of meetings.
 - complaints procedures and forms
 - B. Discussion of accountability for loss of charitable status and GU election
- 5) Ordinary Motions
 - A. Motion to form Independent Elections Review Committee

The GU Notes that:

1. The Junior Proctors were called upon to review decisions made by the GU/CUSU elections committee with respect to the recent GU President election. Many of the complaints hinged on questions of constitutional requirements.
2. Additional complaints were submitted to Elections Committee after the close of the 72hr scrutinising period. These complaints were not accepted by the GU Elections Committee and could not be appealed to the Junior Proctors.
3. The additional complaints have since been re-registered against the current Executive Committee's organisation and overall management of the election.
4. The election rules applied in the GU/CUSU election were designed by CUSU.
5. The CUSU/GU election rules forbid candidates from advertising the endorsement or support of registered campaigners using their "names and/or positions within the university etc." (see CUSU/GU Election Rules, 2015. Pg 6 - see <http://goo.gl/V6dHpQ>)
6. The GU elections this year had a low turnout of approximately 600 voters.

The GU Believes that:

1. Graduate students might be better served through alternative arrangements for the GU Elections.
2. Other avenues of public debate might be better pursued if the GU election were scheduled to take place independently of the CUSU elections and were better organised with the work habits of graduate students in mind.
3. The GU should not delegate responsibility for running the elections to CUSU.

The GU resolves to:

1. Form an independent elections review committee to review complaints and existing elections processes in time for the next election. The elections review committee should be independent of the incoming graduate union president who is a party to the complaints.
2. Reconsider the election taking place at the same time as CUSU.
3. Reconsider the ban on formal endorsements for election candidates.
4. Consider the best ways of involving colleges and departments in the election.

*Proposed by Eric Royal Lybeck, Girton College Cambridge
Edited for GU agenda by Matthew P. Grosvenor, Graduate Union Secretary*

6) Any other business

7) Next GU Council meeting date: