



## Graduate Union Council Meeting

**Monday 12th October 2015, 5.15pm, 17 Mill Lane**

### Minutes

**In attendance:** P Ellis Logan (CUSU- GU Welfare & Rights Officer), K Greve (GU Communications Officer), C. J. Rauch (Jesus), C Hellmund (Jesus), R Kershaw (Newnham), S Hobbs (Homerton), S Bartlett (Corpus), C Pastorino (Clare Hall), B Chen (Wolfson), A Ilevins (Pembroke), K Sharma (Trinity), S Graham (GU Families Officer, Chair), R Richardson (GU Manager)

8 voting members in attendance

*The meeting took place on 12<sup>th</sup> October as the meeting originally scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> October was adjourned, in accordance with Schedule C8, because fewer than 15 voting members were present.*

*Before the meeting began, there were two procedural votes. In accordance with Schedule C3, Rob Richardson (GU Manager) was in attendance as a non-member, and a vote needed to occur before his presence and speaking rights could be allowed. Council voted in favour. The Chair was also vacant for the meeting, and it was proposed that S Graham (GU Families Officer) Chair the meeting- in accordance with Schedule C9, Council voted, and the vote passed.*

- 1) Approval of the minutes of previous Council meetings

*Minutes from the previous meeting will be circulated along with this set of minutes, both sets to be approved at the following meeting*

- 2) Matters arising from the minutes of the previous Council meeting

*Matters arising will be taken at the next meeting*

- 3) Reports to the Council from the sabbatical officers

P Ellis Logan reported. A main activity she was undertaking is weekly welfare training, 5pm-7pm on Tuesdays, for college welfare and student support officers. All JCRs and MCRs were invited to send officers. PEL was also the only GU sabbatical officer at present, and was balancing time between CUSU and the GU.

Council asked who e-mails about welfare training were being sent to, as some MCRs were not receiving them- accounts for some positions were not checked over the summer. It was suggested that such e-mails were cc to the MCR President, as their account would always be active.

- 4) Motions to be ratified

*No motions to be ratified at this meeting*

## 5) Council discussions/questions to Council

Question from Council- how often does Council meet? Council must meet at least once per term, with 10 days' notice given ahead of each meeting.

Question from Council- at the last meeting, there was discussion about some outstanding paperwork relating to the Charity Commission. Are there any updates on that?

RR reported. The outstanding paperwork in question was two letters of representation, to accompany the GU's accounts, as part of the auditing process. The GU had two outstanding annual returns to the Charity Commission to complete- for the years ending July 31 2013 and July 31 2014. There had been an issue over the letters of representation for the return for the year ending July 2013, as the auditors required signatures to accept liability for accounts representing a period of time during which the current trustees were not in office. The trustees had sought legal advice on this issue, and have now signed the letters of representation, which have been sent off to the auditors, allowing them to complete the audit process.

## 6) Ordinary Motions

- a) Motion to convene an Elections Committee
- b) Motion to allow the Elections Committee to report the rules and timeline for the by-election of GU President to Council by electronic circulation

Chair suggested the motions be taken together. Council was given time to carefully read the motions and offer questions or comments.

Question from Council- is the mailing list up to date? If people have been using personal e-mail addresses rather than role-specific ones, e-mails may not reach the intended recipients.

The mailing lists being used have not been altered since the last Council meeting. RR suggested that in addition to e-mailing the Council list, the rules and timeline could be published on the GU website. Council agreed that this would be a good idea and so the second Motion was amended to add the words "and on the GU website" to the first resolution after "using the Council mailing list"

Chair moved to a vote in the motions. Both motions passed unanimously with no abstentions.

An Elections Committee was therefore established, with Poppy Ellis Logan (CUSU-GU Welfare & Rights Officer), Jemma Stewart (CUSU Coordinator) and Katharina Greve (GU Communications Officer) as members. Council approved Jemma Stewart as the Returning Officer

## 7) Emergency Motions

- a) Motion to allow the Welfare & Rights Officer (or their appointed deputy) to act as Acting President and Acting Secretary in the interim period until a President and Executive Committee is elected
- b) Motion to allow the current student trustee to continue in position until such time as new student trustee(s) are appointed

RR briefly introduced both motions. Without a President, the Welfare & Rights Officer was the only GU sabbatical officer, and had taken on many aspects of the President's usual work. Council passing the motion would extend greater legitimacy and a mandate to this. The trustee board needed four members present for quoracy, and without a student trustee in position, there would only be four trustees altogether. The balance of the board in a Students' Union may also be seen to be problematic if external trustees outnumbered student representatives.

Chair moved to a vote in each motion. Both motions were passed unanimously with no abstentions.

8) Elections to be held at Council

a) Election of an Elections Committee

Poppy Ellis Logan (CUSU-GU Welfare & Rights Officer), Jemma Stewart (CUSU Coordinator) and Katharina Greve (GU Communications Officer) had stood as members of the Elections Committee, with Jemma Stewart acting as Returning Officer. Other members of Council were also invited to stand. No members indicated an interest in doing so.

9) Any other business

Question from Council- what is the GU doing currently?

SG explained that there had been significant disruption at the GU in recent weeks, due to a combination of factors which included building work and not having a President. As many of the GU's activities were continuing as normal- for example, the parent and toddler coffee morning was still running. RR added that the Students' Unions' Advice Service was still fully operational. Without a President, the GU did not have its main representative vehicle, so it was a difficult time- but electing a President will go a long way towards resolving the current issues.

10) Date of next meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 5pm in the GU Lounge.