



Graduate Union Council

*2:00pm, Saturday 30th January 2016
SU Lounge, 17 Mill Lane*

Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of the previous Council meeting, 12th October 2015
2. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous Council meeting
3. Reports to Council from Sabbatical Officers and Officers of the Executive Committee:
 - a. Graduate Representation Review
 - b. Returning Officer's report on the GU presidential by-election 2015
 - c. Electoral scheme 2015-16
 - d. Election rules, GU presidential election 2016
 - e. Affiliation Fees 2015-16
4. Motions to be ratified: *there are none*
5. Council discussions and questions to Council
6. Ordinary motions:
 - a. Introduction of a second full-time Sabbatical Officer
 - b. A campaign for better childcare provision in the University and the city
7. Emergency Motions
8. Elections by Council:
 - a. Appointment of Student Trustees
9. Any other business

Ordinary motions

a. Introduction of a second full-time Sabbatical Officer

The Graduate Union notes:

1. As of Academic Year 2015-16, the University has been providing the GU with half-funding for an additional Sabbatical Officer on a two-year trial basis.
2. Sabbatical Officers may either be established by agreement of the Trustees and the Council *ad hoc*, or else may be permanently established by the Schedules; only Sabbatical Offices established by the Schedules may be Trustees.
3. Amendments to the Schedules require a two-thirds majority vote of the Council and, for certain amendments, the prior permission of the University.

The Graduate Union believes:

1. With only 1.5 Sabbatical Officers, the GU is currently overly reliant on part-time volunteers serving in administrative roles such as Secretary and Treasurer.
2. The introduction of a second full-time Sabbatical Officer affords an opportunity to review the functions of the Executive Committee part-time officers.

The Graduate Union resolves:

1. To endorse amending the Schedules so as to:
 - a. Establish a full-time Sabbatical Vice-President, who be a Trustee and will ordinarily be elected for a year running January to December;
 - b. Define the role of the Vice-President as responsible for campaigning, outreach to MCRs and faculties, engagement with CUSU, running social events, and facilitating GU meetings – thereby leaving the President responsible for representation to the University, financial matters, leadership and strategy, and union development;
 - c. Remove administrative duties from the Executive Committee, and distribute these amongst the Sabbatical Officers, Trustees and staff;
 - d. Abolish the Secretary, Treasurer and Welfare Officer; and establish the Accommodation Officer, Finance Officer and Disabled Students' Officer;
 - e. Refocus the corporate responsibilities of the Executive Committee on student-facing activities, and away from governance; and to make clear the division of responsibilities between themselves, the Trustees, the Sabbatical Officers, and the Council / General Meetings.
2. To mandate the President to draft amendments to the Schedules implementing the aforementioned changes; to present these amendments to the University's committee for the supervision of the students' unions (CCSSU); and to return to the Council to present the amendments in good time having responded to the feedback from CCSSU.

Submitted by Chad Allen (President).

b. A campaign for adequate childcare provision in the University and the city

The Graduate Union notes:

1. The establishment of the “Save ARU Nursery” campaign last year (<https://savearunursery.wordpress.com>) to seek to overturn ARU’s decision to close its nursery; the campaign has the support of the city’s mayor and MP.
2. The insufficiency of childcare across Cambridge, with waiting times for a nursery place in the city in excess of 12 months.
3. That c. 8% of graduates at Cambridge are student parents.
4. That students’ unions at Sheffield, Goldsmiths and Swansea provide a nursery for their members.

The Graduate Union believes:

1. That the provision of affordable, accessible childcare is a requirement for the University to be open to graduate students of all backgrounds.

The Graduate Union resolves:

1. To officially endorse and support the “Save ARU Nursery” campaign.
2. To launch our own campaign for adequate childcare provision in the University and the city, to be coordinated by the President and the Families Officer, with the long-term goal of collaborating with the University and any other relevant parties to establish a GU- or University-provided childcare service affordable and accessible to graduate students, in the model of other nursery provision by universities and students’ unions across the UK.
3. To mandate the above Officers to report on the progress and activities of the campaign at each meeting of Council until further notice.

Submitted by Chad Allen (President) and Poppy Ellis Logan (Welfare & Rights Officer).