

GU Council Minutes 02/12/19

1. Objections to the order of items on the agenda

There were no objections to the order of items on the agenda.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous Council meeting

This item was deferred to the next meeting

3. Matters Arising

- a. The Vice-President updated that there had been progress on the motion for supervisor training. About 400 people had signed the GU petition for mandatory training, and CCTL had since accepted the proposal which was the first step towards University approval. There would be an introductory training for new supervisors and a refresher element.
- b. The Representative from Christ's MCR asked about the introduction of common standards across the University to which supervisors could be held, and felt that this was more useful than training.
 - i. The President reminded the Council that this was also within the remit of the Code of Practice for Research Students, which complemented the training. The GU had been working to raise awareness of the CoP and had succeeded in having the page for signing of the CoP.
 - ii. It was noted that implementing common standards for supervision was difficult because sometimes institutions did not make supervisors aware of the CoP, but this was something that the GU was working on, with a poster campaign on Graduate Rights among other things.

4. Reports from sabbatical officers and officers of the executive committee

- a. Report from the President
 - i. The President tabled a report and updated on his work, which was primarily University facing but had included presenting several papers and a number of significant wins. See tabled paper attached.
- b. Report from the Vice-President
 - i. The Vice-President updated on his work, presenting the items in his written report.
- c. Report from the Welfare & Rights Officer
 - i. The Council noted the written update from the Welfare & Rights Officer.

5. Report on the Graduate Union elections

The Council noted the report on the Graduate Union elections

6. Ordinary Motions to Council

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Council

7. Emergency Motions

No emergency motions were received.

8. Dates of Upcoming Meetings

It was noted that the dates of meetings for 2020 would be circulated to the Council mailing list in the next week.

9. AOB

- a. The upcoming elections for postgraduate sabbatical positions of Cambridge SU were raised, and members of Council were encouraged to consider standing for the positions.
 - i. The representative from Robinson MCR asked about why the New-SU project was happening. The President explained that it had been considered that as postgraduate numbers at the University were growing there was a need to reconfigure structures of representation, and noted that further resources explaining the changes were available at www.new-su.co.uk.
 - ii. The Representative from the Darwin College Students' Association asked about how the Cambridge SU Council will be structured and how the by-laws would be written and approved.
 1. AC confirmed that there will be consultation with the GU Council as the By-Laws were prepared, and that this would include consideration of the Council structure.
- b. The Robinson MCR representative asked about postgraduate students who supervise, and how their interests were represented by the GU.
 - i. The VP and Chair noted that Cambridge UCU accepted Graduate Student members, and explained that formally the GU represents those people in the capacity as students while a trade union represents them in their capacity as staff. The VP introduced work that took place jointly between the two unions, including the Raise the Bar Campaign.

Appendix A: Report from the President

Committees (e.g.):

- University Council
- General Board
- Prevent Review
- Prevent Committee
- Senior Tutor's Committee
- Senior Tutors' Education Committee
- Industrial Action Committee
- CCTL Meeting
- CCSSU (Supervisions Students Unions)
- Student Information Systems Committee
- General Board Education Committee (GBEC)
- SWAP Widening Access and Participation Hardship Committee
- Graduate Tutor Committee

Talks:

- Divestment Conference
- Anti-Casualisation Rally

Papers:

- BME funding for Home black PG Students (SWAP and SSI, GTC, STC)

- New Centralised Funding System (Postgrad Funding Project 2019, SSI, SWAP, GTC)
- Mandatory PhD Supervisor Training (CCTL, GBEC)
- Fair Allocation of Teaching Report (STC, GTC) 3.5 years minimum funding for PhD (STC, GTC) Intermission Funding (Hardship Committee)
- International Strategy Working Group (GBEC).
- Institutionalised Language Policy
- Funding for In-sessional English courses
- Major Achievements:
- Set up a new University committee, GISO (Gender Identities and Sexual Orientations)
- Dissolve CUSU and GU and create Cambridge-SU
- New Officer, University staff - PG WP — now appointed.