

Reserved Business Questionnaire Results

College	Contact	Policy	Set down?	Reserved agenda shown?	Informed of business?	Opinion	Comments
Magdalene	Tom Pope tmp28	Governing Body reserved business is generally not of interest to undergraduates, though the college is normally happy to move reserved business to the unreserved agenda upon request from the Presidents. No other meeting has reserved business	Not sure	No	Bursar goes over reserved business before GB meeting	In my limited experience, I have found that reserved business is generally not of interest to the student population, however, there are undoubtedly occasions where it is abused.	
Downing	Amy Froomberg alf33	I'm not sure if there is an official policy, but the Master is quite helpful if we have any questions about matters on the reserved agenda.	It may be, but I have not seen such a policy before.	Yes , the JCR and MCR get a copy of the reserved agenda.	The Master goes over the reserved business with us for Governing Body before the meeting.	I think that reserved business is important to have, but should be kept to a minimum. In Downing, I think it is usually only for matters such as those relating to wages of staff, or individual students , that it would not necessarily be appropriate for JCR and MCR members to know about.	
Pembroke	Nicola Jacobs nkj24	There is reserved business at college meetings .	College statutes.	Yes .	Prior to the college meeting, our Senior Tutor and Bursar go over it all with us.	The college authorities make a real effort to keep us informed of what is being discussed during reserved business, and they do try and keep it down to a minimum. It makes sense for there to be issues that should be dealt with confidentially by the college authorities.	
Christ's	Chris Longworth (MCR President) cl336	For governing body meetings reserved business is used extensively. Typically the only unreserved business is to review the minutes of the various college sub-committees and to acknowledge gifts made to the college. Generally, for other college meetings, reserved business is used little if at all.	Not as far as I know	Reserved business is included in the agenda, but typically only a title is given with no accompanying description.	No	I would argue that Christ's over-uses reserved business . I could see it being necessary for disciplinary issues or when reviewing exam grades but other than that I don't think that it's particularly needed.	Christ's has very recently appointed a new master so the policy is quite likely to change before too long. In particular the vice-master has expressed a desire to reduce the amount of college business that is reserved so my comments may not be that applicable.

Sidney Sussex	Chris Barrow sscsu.president@sid.cam.ac.uk	Anything that is to do with staffing/conditions of service is considered reserved business, applies especially to college council/governing body. Sensitive financial/legal matters tend to appear in reserved business (recently at Council we were made to feel that they were being incredibly trusting by involving junior members in a discussion about the mechanics of a sportsground sale). At education committee, the meetings with the DoSs are reserved business. There are also several committees, ranging from Student Disciplinary Committee to the Wine Committee where there is no student representation.	I presume so – solely based on what people have said in the past.	No	I think this has happened on an ad-hoc basis in the past. Having served on College Council for a term (during which there were few controversial issues) I don't think there were any instances of this. In particular, last year items were brought up in reserved business (after junior members had left) that should have been unreserved and more than one fellow did talk about these issues with the previous president.	The main problem, for me so far anyway, is that we have very little idea what is actually discussed in reserved business. I can appreciate that meetings with individual DoSs that form part of Education Committee may well be more effective if there are not students present. In addition, most of the committees that don't have student representatives don't really require a student rep. and I currently have to attend more than enough meetings! I think the problem begins to arise when certain issues are brought up for discussion in reserved business, such as in AOB, which ought to have been unreserved. College could probably do with a clearer policy (or at least communicate this to Junior Members of Council if one exists) over what the division between reserved and unreserved business and whilst I feel that there would be little harm having students involved in all of meetings, I can appreciate the dilemma college faces as it is arguably the elected duty of all junior members of council to report back, in full, on all conversations they have participated in.	Am sorry my comments are so limited – this reflects the ultimate problem that if the SSCSU president (who was previously a council rep.) has very little idea about the distinction between reserved/unreserved then normal members of the student body will know even less.
Clare Hall	Rosa Poetes, GSB President gsb.president@clarehall.cam.ac.uk	College Council and governing body have reserved business at the end of the meetings. Student representatives are asked to leave before. In general, reserved business deals with staff questions, staff salaries, fellowship appointments, student complaints , etc.	No written down policy	The student agenda does not state what falls under reserved business. The	No. Reserved business is not discussed with student representatives .	I feel that reserved business is necessary , as student representatives should not be included in fellowship appointments or staff salary discussions. I do not believe that student representatives are	

				student minutes do not mention the reserved business either.		deliberately left out of business concerning students. However, I believe it might be a good idea, to consider adding the general nature of the reserved business discussed onto the agenda , so that if student representatives feel they want to know more about the matter, they can approach the senior tutor before the meetings with their concerns or questions. This might be a good approach to further transparency and avoid any possible future feelings of “deliberately left out important discussions” as mentioned above.	
Corpus Christi	Barney Jones Bj216	Governing Body – most information is discussed in reserved business , although this has slowly been changing over the past term. However, there is still a substantial amount discussed in reserved business (in my opinion, too much).	Not that I know of	No	Yes – but not knowing what is on the agenda problematizes this .	I would prefer more business to be unreserved. Virtually no substantial discussion of issues takes place in unreserved business.	In addition to the problem of reserved/unreserved business, the JCR is currently looking into the issue of student representation across committees college-wide , as there is concern we are lacking representation on key committees.
Lucy Cavendish	Sarah Jenkins Smj44	Out of the meeting the SU attends, a reserved business agenda is only present in Governing Body Meetings. The policy is particularly sensitive issues, particularly those relating to individual staff or students, are covered in the reserved business and everything else is covered in unreserved business.	No	No	No	I think that it is necessary for there to be a reserved business agenda. Confidentiality in certain issues is important, especially when those issues are directly related to particular individuals. I think it is right that observers of governing body meetings are left out of those discussions. I do not feel that the SU is unnecessarily left out of important discussions.	
Caius	Tor Garnett Vohg2	Not really sure. We only have reserved business for College Council but this is basically everything on the agenda except what junior members bring to the meeting	Doubt it	Yes	No	Other than for Personnel issues I reckon everything should be unreserved – I reckon its rubbish.	

12/2/07

Reserved Business Questionnaire and Answers

Homerton	Alexandra Boag Aekb2	We have reserved business at College Council, at which point I am asked to leave.	Yes, in our constitution	No	No	I think it is totally understandable. There are always going to be things that should be kept separate from students eg. staff issues.	
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