



Lapsing Policy 2010

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What Do Our Rules Say About Lapsing Policy?

Constitution

“M.6 Policy of the CUSU may be set by resolution of a Referendum or of the Council. Unless expressly stated in the resolution Policy passed by these bodies shall remain valid for the remainder of the academic year in which it was passed, and for the two subsequent academic years, or until such time as it is overturned, subject always to clauses C.1 & D.1.”

Standing Orders

“F.2 Lapsing Policy

- (i) As stated in clause M.6 of the CUSU Constitution, policy passed at Council or by a Referendum remains valid for the remainder of the academic year it was passed, and for the two subsequent academic years, or until such time that it is overturned.*
- (ii) Policy can be renewed if it is resubmitted to Council in the usual way.*
- (iii) It is the responsibility of the Democracy and Development Team, to compile a complete list of Policy that is about to lapse, together with brief summaries of Policy detail where necessary, prior to the second Council of Easter Term. This list should be distributed to members of Council at this meeting.*
- (iv) The Democracy and Development Team should submit to the third Council of Easter Term or the first of Michaelmas Term any Policy that they think should be renewed as an Ordinary Motion.”*

What Does This Mean?

The policy established by CUSU Council and Open Meetings is valid for the academic year that it passes and for the following two academic years. This means that all policy passed in the academic year 2007/08 will lapse at the end of the current academic year and CUSU Officers will no longer be bound by it.

The Democracy and Development Team has a responsibility to compile a list of all lapsing policy for Council and the Executive, to provide an opportunity for CUSU to make an informed choice about which policies it wants to keep and which it is happy to lose.

Where policies are deemed undesirable, irrelevant, or have been superseded by more recent policies, we can recommend to Council that they lapse. However if we, or another CUSU team, wants to retain policy, we can submit an ordinary motion to CUSU Council.

Lapsing Policy

The policy listed below was passed in the academic year 2007/08 and will lapse at the end of the current academic year. It is listed in zones: Access & Funding, Colleges, Education, Union Matters, Welfare, Ethical Affairs, and Miscellaneous.

Access & Funding

HE Funding

CUSU noted: that, should the parliamentary review of the Higher Education Act (2004) in 2009 result in the cap being lifted and the University meet the targets laid out in the Office For Fair Access (OFFA) agreement, Cambridge University would be free to charge unlimited fees; the change in the political climate: though HE funding remained on the agenda, the political debate had shifted from free education/tuition fees to universal/variable fees; that the National Union of Students (NUS) annual conference passed a motion to establish a long term strategy in light of the 2009 review, and that the motion did not commit the NUS to the notion of free education; that preliminary analysis of UCAS data suggested that the new funding and government recruitment system was impacting upon the demographic of UK students, and that financial matters, however misconceived, remained a barrier to access to university, particularly to Cambridge.

CUSU believes: that the issue of the future of HE funding is a politically sensitive one, often provoking a huge range of opinions and, as such, consultation with the student body is imperative; that it is the responsibility of the Students' Union to investigate all plausible avenues of funding models, in order to create a well-organised and informed platform in the lead to the 2009 review.

CUSU resolved: to mandate the CUSU Access and Funding Team to:

- a) conduct an HE funding week in week two of Lent term, aimed at discussing the existing system and alternative funding models.
- b) liaise with various appropriate sectors of the local community, as part of a broader outreach program and in order to make the week wide ranging in its appeal and its uptake.
- c) invite speakers and relevant parties to participate in the discussions.
- d) consult the student body in order to collate opinions on the issues surrounding HE funding.

to mandate the CUSU Access and Funding Team, with assistance from appropriate Executive members, to research and produce a report on HE funding options in advance of HE Funding week, to be presented to Council Lent I; to mandate the CUSU Access Officer to continue to publicise existing bursaries, financial support and costs of student life at Cambridge University; to set aside, for the purposes of HE funding week, previous policy on free education.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed and new HE funding survey underway

Higher Education Funding

CUSU noted: that nearly all English and Northern Irish universities would charge undergraduate tuition fees of £3,175 per year in 2008-9; that a government review of variable tuition fees would be commissioned in 2009, and that such a review could lead to the lifting of the cap on fees; that NUS policy stated that "while NUS should retain a principled commitment to the notion of free education, the focus for the 2009 review must be to secure a fairer funding system for all students, to defeat any attempts to lift the cap and further the destructive marketisation of HE"; that the Vice Chancellors of the Russell Group had publicly expressed their desire to see an increase in the cap to around £6000 per year.

CUSU believes: that any funding system should be free at point of entry; that a principled stance against fees is the most effective position for a students' union wishing to win concessions of any kind; that CUSU should retain support for the abolition of fees, but that it should focus resources on working to keep the £3,000 cap and increase bursary provision; that Cambridge would struggle to attract its target widening participation audience should cost become even more of a factor in a prospective student's decision making process; that the promise of a comprehensive bursary system cannot always offset the risk associated with paying higher fees; that the shortfall in university funding cannot be met by students, and in order for Cambridge to maintain its world-class reputation, funding must be sought from other sources; that access to education should not be based on ability to pay and that financial incentives should not be a factor in a student's educational choices; that the introduction of the cap has always been a political expedience to persuade students to accept fees in the short term.

CUSU resolved: to mandate the CUSU Access and Funding Team to take an active role in the formation of the NUS campaign against the lifting of the cap; to mandate the CUSU HE Funding Officer to organise and publicise a high-profile meeting to discuss tuition fees and their implications at the beginning of Michaelmas Term; to liaise with the Aldwych Group (Russell Group student unions) and local student unions to lobby the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and our institutions to keep fees in line with universities nationally; to coordinate efforts with sympathetic groups, such as the University and College Union (UCU) and Association for Teachers and Lecturers (ATL), to create a solid platform from which to campaign within the University; to fight the fear of debt amongst prospective students by publicising bursaries and promoting the economic benefits of a degree, and to give this information equal prominence to negative campaigning against an increase in tuition fees; to use CUSU's presence on University committees to highlight this policy, where relevant; to replace previous CUSU Higher Education funding policy with the contents of this motion; to mandate each CUSU Officer with representation on governing bodies of the university to encourage the University to return to its anti-fees stance wherever there is an opportunity to do so.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, actions completed, more up-to-date policy exists

Education

QAA Audit

CUSU noted: the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) was auditing Cambridge University in January and February 2008, although the audit process has already started; this was part of a rolling 6 year cycle which the QAA undertakes to audit all Higher Education institutions. The University was last audited back in 2002/3; the QAA was the agency with responsibility for enforcing standards in teaching and learning in Higher Education; that a crucial part of the audit was the submission of 2 reports. One was a submission by the University. The other was a Student Written Submission (SWS) written by officers of the Student Union; the SWS had to concentrate on issues affecting teaching and learning only; the SWS had to arrive at the QAA's offices by Tuesday 18th December 2007; the CUSU Academic Affairs Officer (AAO) had been working with the University throughout the audit process to date; the CUSU AAO, CUSU President and GU President had met with the Assistant Director of QAA responsible for the audit to discuss student and sabbatical officer

involvement in the audit process on 6th September 2007; the University Education Section had in principle agreed to provide CUSU with some financial help in the production of their report.

CUSU believes: the SWS provides an excellent opportunity to give a high profile to CUSU's Education and Access Campaigns; student involvement in any inspection of teaching and learning is crucial and all opportunities for students to give their opinions should be taken.

CUSU resolved: to mandate the CUSU Academic Affairs Officer to coordinate the research for the report and to be the chief author of the report; to mandate the CUSU AAO to produce a draft report, if feasible, for Council Michaelmas III and the final draft for Michaelmas IV; to mandate the CUSU Education Team and appropriate other CUSU Executive members to assist the CUSU AAO; to mandate the aforementioned officers to consult as widely as possible in the production of this report, utilising the following elected representatives to reflect the spectrum of undergraduate and graduate experiences: Faculty Representatives (graduate and undergraduate); the CUSU Executive; College AAOs and the GU; to accept the preliminary plan of the student submission.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed

CUSU Learning and Teaching Strategy (LTS)

CUSU noted: that the CUSU Academic Affairs Officer, along with relevant part-time Executive members had often been mandated to represent a certain CUSU policy to the University. However, on many issues that CUSU was actively promoting and that the University was investigating, CUSU had no current policy; that the CUSU Sabbaticals changed yearly, leaving a lack of continuity in the activities they undertook and a lack of institutional memory; that changing University position and policy was often a long and arduous process which could take many years and therefore span the lifetime in office of more than one CUSU Sabbatical; that the University had a 'Learning & Teaching Strategy 2006-9' that outlined what it was planning to do over the next two years regarding a number of learning and teaching issues relevant to students; that CUSU had no long-term strategy similar to the University's and, as a result, was missing out on the ability to interact, influence and further the interests of CUSU and the student body effectively on a number of pertinent issues that the University was looking into; that the CUSU Academic Affairs Officer 2006-7 wrote a 'CUSU Learning and Teaching Strategy (LTS)', which had subsequently been elaborated on and refined by the 2007-8 CUSU Academic Affairs Officer. The Strategy tied current CUSU Policy into the aims of the University Strategy, as well as elaborating CUSU's position and how we hoped to interact on a number of other issues.

CUSU believes: that the lack of a long term strategy with regard to educational issues is detrimental to the work of CUSU in terms of both continuity in ongoing issues as well as in devising a longer term outlook in how we will approach major issues; that in producing this LTS, CUSU will be informing its members on a number (but not all) of the issues that it will be working with or lobbying the University on over the coming 18 months; that this document would be ideally suited for referencing within the Student Written Submission that CUSU is writing for the University's upcoming QAA Audit. On top of this, it will be of great use for ongoing work that CUSU is looking to undertake as well as for any future campaigns and projects.

CUSU resolved: to approve the CUSU Learning and Teaching Strategy 2007-9; to mandate the CUSU Academic Affairs Officer to publicise and promote this strategy in Lent Term 2008; to mandate the CUSU Academic Affairs Officer to send a hard copy of the strategy to each college Academic Affairs Officer, as well as all of the newly elected Faculty Board members.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed, new LTS may be needed if new Quality Assurance mechanisms are brought in after 2010

QAA Student Written Submission (SWS)

CUSU noted: that Council passed policy in Michaelmas I '07 mandating the CUSU Academic Affairs Officer to produce the Student Written Submission (SWS) for the upcoming Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Audit in February 2008; that the CUSU Academic Affairs Officer had undertaken a wide reaching consultation with a number of groups, in conjunction with the CUSU Education Team; that the University only produced the first draft of their submission in the last few weeks; that the consultation process had a number of setbacks due to an inability to effectively engage and communicate with large enough numbers in focus groups and, as a result, had required CUSU to undertake an even wider consultation that had taken longer than expected; that the initial motion mandated the CUSU Academic Affairs Officer to produce the final report for Michaelmas IV; that the current draft of the report was attached, but that this was likely to be redrafted as minor corrections and further bits were added between now and the final deadline for the submission of the report (18th December 2007).

CUSU believes: that the report accurately details students' opinions on learning and teaching at Cambridge University; that the report covers all issues of concern amongst students at Cambridge University, while highlighting areas of good practice at the same time.

CUSU resolved: to approve the draft form of the report to be sent as the submission by CUSU to the QAA (attached to the motion); to allow the CUSU Academic Affairs Officer, in conjunction with the CUSU Education Team and CUSU Sabbaticals to finalise the report to be sent to the QAA; for the submission to be released in its final form, assuming that CUSU is allowed to do so by the QAA; to mandate the CUSU Academic Affairs Officer to continue to work on issues that arise from the research undertaken to compile this report, and to where necessary delegate this to appropriate CUSU officers.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed

Review of Graduate Education Working Group

CUSU noted: a review committee was established by the General Board in 2005 to look into Graduate Education within the University of Cambridge; this committee had now finalised its review and has presented its report to several different committees within the University; many of the recommendations contained within the report could considerably change the graduate students' experience within the University, including (but not exclusively) on a collegiate, departmental, and financial level; the report was in a 'consultation period' whereby many Colleges

and Departments were considering their official response to this document, before a steering group was appointed by the University to oversee its implementation; this consultation period had given an opportunity for CUSU and the Graduate Union (as the two groups which represent graduate students) to pool resources and provide a co-ordinated response to this document. This had resulted in a student working party being established.

CUSU believes: that many aspects of this report are desirable for graduate students, and CUSU should make sure that these are acknowledged and supported within the University; that CUSU (through the working group) should highlight the elements of the report that it feels are not in the best interests of graduate students; that there is potential to work with other interest groups within the University on our response to this review.

CUSU resolved: to support the establishment of a student working group to examine the Review of Graduate Education; for the Working group to review the document produced by the University from a student perspective and provide a co-ordinated response on behalf of the two student organisations; for the working group (and designated members) to work with other interest groups within the University to share ideas and information on the document; for the working group to establish a list of amendments (if needed) to the Review of graduate Education, that the student representatives should be pushing for on a University wide level.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed, CUSU President and Welfare & Graduates Officer currently involved in working groups with Senior Tutors for Graduate Students

Faculty Forum Constitution

CUSU noted: Article E of the CUSU Standing Orders - The Faculty Forum; that the Faculty Forum Constitution didn't account for the recent changes to the Standing Orders; that other parts of the Faculty Forum Constitution are felt by the CUSU Education Team to be detrimental to the effective working of the Faculty Forum; that the current Faculty Forum constitution (in the CUSU Standing Orders) required any changes to be ratified by Council.

CUSU believes: the Faculty Forum is an important body in both the work of CUSU, in supporting Faculty Reps and in allowing the CUSU Education Team to carry out its work effectively; that the Constitution should be updated to reflect the new Standing Orders; that Council should ratify the changes that the Faculty Forum themselves have voted for.

CUSU resolved: to accept the changes to the Constitution as voted for by the Faculty Forum; to amend Article E of the Standing Orders to the newly approved Faculty Forum Constitution.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed

MML Fees

CUSU noted: that Modern and Medieval Languages students and Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Students currently pay 50% of tuition fees in their year studying and living abroad; that

during their year abroad MML students are entitled to four hours' supervision, and that such supervision is often difficult to arrange; that this equates to a current cost of £383.75 per hour of supervision; that current provision for Year Abroad support is inconsistent and often insufficient; that some FAMES students are not entitled to work in their host country during the year abroad; that FAMES students who do not work, or who do not have the opportunity to work, must also pay course fees to their host institution on top of the Cambridge tuition fees.

CUSU believes: that MML and FAMES students are not in residence in Cambridge during their Year Abroad, and often do not see any return on the fees that they pay; that Cambridge has one of the least structured Year Abroad programmes, and that whilst flexibility is valued, it is important that support systems are readily in place.

CUSU resolved: to work with other students' unions to lobby nationally and within Cambridge for the removal of 50% fees for Year Abroad students; to lobby the University to:

- a) Provide consistent and accessible help in writing CVs, applying for jobs and preparing for interviews in foreign countries.
- b) Provide supplementary conversation and business language classes.
- c) Improve the currently difficult-to-navigate employment database.
- d) Increase contact (including distance contact) with supervisors in Year Abroad projects.
- e) Provide adequate and up-to-date information about the costs of the year abroad to undergraduates and prospective undergraduates.
- f) Provide financial help and assistance to those who need it for cash-flow problems.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, support and arrangements for year abroad students have since changed. Education team may bring policy at a later date relating to specific programmes

Joint Committee on Academic Performance Report

CUSU noted: the publication of the JCAP report into "The Undergraduate Experience of Cambridge Among Three Ethnic Minority Groups"; that the recommendations of this report were:

- a) Some students are in situations of severe financial hardship. Amongst those students are a number from single parent families and larger families whose parents are less likely to be able to offer them financial help and support. Many of them have to work in the vacations to support themselves. Further ways of offering students, in the worst financial situations, additional funding could be explored.
- b) Amongst some ethnic minority students, complex family obligations during the vacations can lead to little academic work being done during the vacation. Ways could be investigated of offering these students accommodation in Cambridge beyond the end of term or before the start of term, in order to give them the personal 'space' to supplement their term time studies.
- c) For Muslim students especially, the prevalence of alcohol at social events can lead to a sense of being excluded from the social life of many College and University social and sporting events. The number of social events without alcohol could be increased. This would be especially effective during Fresher's week, as this was identified by respondents as a critical time for developing a sense of 'belonging' at Cambridge.
- d) Halal food should be available in College canteens, to respond to the needs of Muslim students.

That as of yet not enough has been done to ensure that the JCAP results have been followed through.

CUSU believes: that the University should be commended on taking the initiative to look into this problem; that the report focussed too much on the background and external factors that may account for undergraduate achievement amongst the specified minority groups and not enough on internal factors within the University; that the questionnaire failed to ask students directly about how they felt their ethnicity affected their academic performance; that it is a shame the findings were limited by the small sample size, but the fact the sample size is so small is an issue that needs to be seriously addressed; that if Cambridge prides itself on being an inclusive place the findings in the report on “fitting in” are worrying; that some of the recommendations fall as much on the student body as they do on the University; that the recommendations are good as far as they go and should be followed up with some form of inventory to ascertain how the well the recommendations are being implemented on a college level.

CUSU resolves: to create an inventory to be sent out to all colleges; to work with the Black Students Association to apply pressure on those colleges that have made the least changes based on the JCAP results and to distribute relevant information to JCR's and MCR's.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, CUSU now has a Black Students Campaign that is planning its own activities, survey and data collection exercises for 2010/11

Extra Curricular Activities

CUSU noted: that students come to Cambridge primarily to gain an education; that many students are involved in extra-curricular activities during their time at Cambridge, varying from sports to debating, cultural societies to involvement in their JCR/MCR; that a number of colleges are introducing academic room ballots, often not accounting in any way for extra-curricular activities; that some colleges are actively selling off playing fields and discouraging people from undertaking activities outside of their studies.

CUSU believes: that whilst studying to obtain your education is vital, that University is about more than just academic knowledge and skills. Personal development and important social skills are also of great importance at University; that the large number of societies at Cambridge reflects the wide range of activities in which students can participate and the diversity of the environment in which we study; that personal development during your time at University is an important life skill; that colleges should recognise the benefits of nurturing well-rounded students and encourage students to participate in extra-curricular activities.

CUSU resolved: to support students' ability to participate in extra-curricular activities whilst at Cambridge and to encourage students to participate; to encourage colleges to effectively support extra-curricular activities as part of the wider personal development of students; to support JCRs/MCRs where the JCR/MCR so wishes against any attempts to introduce academic room balloting which doesn't take sufficient consideration of the impact on extra-curricular activities; to support JCRs/MCRs where the JCR/MCR so wishes in any campaigns to safeguard and/or improve provision or support for extra-curricular activities within college; for CUSU to continue its provision

of support to societies in the form of Societies Training, the Societies Fair, the Societies Directory, other services provided within CUSU and through continued representation on the Societies Syndicate, its Technical Committee and the Sports Syndicate.

D&D Notes: Will be replaced with a new policy relating extracurricular activities

Saturday Exams and Lectures

CUSU notes: that lectures and end-of-year exams in a number of subjects take place on Saturday; that Saturday lectures are not well attended; that in 2003, thanks to a reordering of their timetable, the Department of Engineering managed to remove Saturday lectures, without having to cut down the curriculum; Saturday is the Sabbath (Shabbat) for Jews, when work is forbidden; that during term time, those Jews who wish to observe the Shabbat are forced to simply miss lectures; that during the exam period, those Jews who wish to observe Shabbat are forced to be accommodated by members of the Cambridge residential Jewish community during their exams, and take their exam on the following day; CUSU is mandated to protect minority students from discrimination.

CUSU believes: that Saturday lectures are not conducive to a regular pattern of study for students; that, when preparing for exams, having a regular pattern of work is an advantage; that being kept incommunicado, in an unfamiliar household, for the day before the exam, places a student at a disadvantage; that missing lectures is detrimental to a student's education; that the current situation therefore discriminates against observant Jews.

CUSU resolved: to contact the University authorities with the aim of rescheduling Saturday exams to weekdays; to mandate the Education and Welfare Teams to work together to campaign to end the practice of Saturday exams and lectures in Cambridge University.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, now incorporated into CUSU Exams Campaign Policy

Declared to Have Deserved Honours

CUSU noted: the current University system of allowances¹ for candidates who suffer from "illness or other grave cause"; the most likely outcome (if successful) appears to be to award the candidate "Declared to have Deserved Honours" (DDH) which essentially means you would have got somewhere between a third and a first; that when this is awarded in the final year it is usually what students will state as the class they obtained in their degree; the statement of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education, Baroness Deech of Cumnor in the County of Oxfordshire, in her annual report "The OIA has accordingly taken the view that the preferred satisfactory resolution for an aggrieved student involved in an academic appeal is the opportunity to re-sit the disputed examination and to be given the best possible chance to demonstrate his or her worth."²; that CUSU has actively campaigning against DDH in the past; the document "Appeals in Cambridge"³ written by Daniel Blaney, CUSU Academic Affairs Officer 1999-2000 calling for changes in the

¹ Statutes and Ordinances of the University of Cambridge p.215 http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/so/so_ch03.pdf

² Annual Report of the OIA 2004, p.4 <http://www.oiahe.org.uk/docs/OIA-Annual-Report-2004.pdf>

³ Available at <http://www.cusu.cam.ac.uk/campaigns/education/examappeals>

Cambridge appeals system; that most other Russell Group Universities including Warwick, Liverpool, Birmingham, Southampton, Imperial and Oxford allow students the possibility to re-sit examinations in certain cases; that there has been a review in the working of the Allowances Committee.

CUSU believes: that to award a student DDH after three years of work is not fair and not reflective of their ability; that a DDH is not widely understood outside of Cambridge; that the award of a DDH can hinder a student's career; that Baroness Deech is correct in her statement above; that one week of ill health should not have such a huge effect on someone's life.

CUSU resolved: to liaise with other interested parties such as the Graduate Union and the Disability Resource Centre on moving this forward; to mandate the CUSU Education Officer to further research the procedures in place at other Universities; to mandate the CUSU Education Officer to further research the understanding of DDH by both companies and other Universities.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse (policy deleted by CUSU Exams Campaign Policy)

Anonymous Class Lists

CUSU noted: that currently students' exam results are published as class lists on Senate House; that other people can find out your exam results before you; that results day is a stressful time and many would like the option to receive them in a less public way; that in some faculties there is a great tradition associated with the way class lists are announced; that other institutions use other methods to make the lists anonymous such as publishing by candidate number rather than name; the introduction of CamSIS and its potential for disseminating information in a secure way.

CUSU believes: that students have the right to be the first to know their exam results; that a student should be able to keep their exam result private if they wish to.

CUSU resolved: to put renewed pressure on the University to look into alternative ways to publish exam results and for CUSU officers to bring the issue up at relevant committees; to bring a paper to the Board of Examinations exploring the possibility of anonymising class lists, noting the possibilities of an opt-out system available to all, a system that publishes candidate numbers or at the very least that results are published on CamSIS prior to being displayed outside Senate House; to consult with faculty representatives and students to see whether they would like to keep their class lists or any other method of giving results, with the possibility of an opt out clause instead.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse (policy deleted by CUSU Exams Campaign Policy)

Institute of Continuing Education Students

CUSU noted: the existence of the Institute of Continuing Education (ICE); that ICE provides a range of part-time and distance learning courses from certificates to Masters Degrees; that these awards are soon to be certificated by the University itself, and not locally certificated by ICE as is currently the case. This was not initially understood in the motion proposed in 2006; that the courses provided are approved by committees on which the only student reps are ex-officio CUSU officers;

that CUSU does not represent ICE students unless they are on the M.St courses (in which case they are also members of a college), and they have no union of their own. This also means that students of ICE are not members of the NUS or eligible to student discounts through the CUSU Card; that the status of ICE students in relation to the University is being reviewed, and that the CUSU Academic Affairs Officer has asked that consideration is given to how CUSU interacts with them and their membership of CUSU.

CUSU further noted: the existence of the Cambridge Theological Federation (Ridley Hall, Wesley House, Westcott House, Westminster College, the Margaret Beaufort Institute, the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies and the East Anglian Ministerial Training Course); that the qualifications these students receive are sometimes awards of the University of Cambridge; that students for the B.Th degree will be matriculated at a Cambridge College; that CUSU does not represent the students of the Cambridge Theological Federation per se unless they are members of colleges pursuing a qualification certificated by the University of Cambridge; that these students do not have a union of their own; therefore, CUSU represents students who are pursuing the B.Th qualification as they are also matriculated members of a College, but not those pursuing other qualifications from the Theological Federation unless they are also matriculated members of a Cambridge College.

CUSU believes: that every institution should have a strong students union; that the relationship between these bodies must be clear to both the University and CUSU, and where this is not the case it should be resolved.

CUSU resolved: to mandate the relevant CUSU Officers and Teams to continue to raise the issue with the University, especially regarding the current review of the situation of ICE. Furthermore, to mandate those above to investigate the best way forward for these students working with the relevant parties including but not limited to the University, ICE and the Theological Federation, and to notify them of our policy; to look into, but not be limited to representing these students as members of CUSU or to assist in the setting up of a union for these institutions, subject to the outcomes of the University review on the status of ICE, its students and their membership of the University.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, University has since completed a review and ICE diplomas are now accredited by the University of Cambridge. CUSU will review the status of ICE and the Theological Federation in 2010/11

Union Matters

NUS Extraordinary Conference: NUS Reform

CUSU noted: the motion passed at NUS Annual Conference 2007 which called for the NEC to urgently commission a far ranging review of NUS Governance; the progress made by the Governance Review Steering group, meaning that they had reported to the NEC, with the final White Paper due to be released imminently.

CUSU believes: the reform of NUS' Governance is of utmost importance to an efficient, effective NUS, that is relevant to its members; Students' Unions have been calling for root and branch reform for years.

CUSU resolved: 1: to call for an NUS Extraordinary Conference, in line with the NUS Constitution, to discuss 'NUS Reform' to ensure that the NEC takes members' desire to see change seriously.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed

Delegating the power of Council to ratify NUS amendments for Extraordinary Conference

CUSU noted: an Extraordinary NUS Conference would take place on December 4th, and Compositing of amendments (Drafting Commissions) to the motion (i.e. the proposed NUS Constitution) would take place on December 3rd; the deadline for amendments to the motions at NUS to be submitted was 1pm Tuesday, 27th November; amendments had to be passed by CUSU's Governing Body; that the NUS has stated that if this did not occur, then the Student Union's Governing Body must approve "the manner in which this Amendment is approved" ; that any motions passed by an Open Meeting must be ratified by Council before they are passed by CUSU's Governing Body; that apart from Council that evening, the next Open meeting was on November 21st and the first CUSU Council after that (Michaelmas IV) was on November 28th – after the deadline for amendments to be put forward for NUS Extraordinary Conference; Section D.14 of the Constitution states: 'The powers of Council to propose amendment to the constitution, and to amend Standing Orders shall not be delegated. The power to pass motion of censure and of No Confidence in Officers of the CUSU shall not be delegated. Other powers of the Council may be delegated by resolution of Council, only with reference to a particular instance, and for a specified period of time specified in the motion by which the power(s) in question is/are delegated.' ; the motion passed in Easter I and II of 2007 regarding the Article to be added to the Standing Orders regarding NUS Motions.

CUSU believes: that due to the Constitution of the NUS and the timings of CUSU Council, it is not possible to pass an amendment through CUSU Council before the submission deadline.

CUSU resolved: for the Chair to designate the Michaelmas Open Meeting as suitable for the submission of amendments to NUS Extraordinary Conference motions as laid out in the part of the Standing Orders mentioned in CUSU Notes 8; to delegate the power of ratification of amendments pertaining to the December 4th NUS Extraordinary Conference to a meeting of the CUSU Executive from the time of the Michaelmas Open Meeting, with this power to be dissolved at 1pm on Tuesday 27th November 2007; that the Drafting Officer for any amendments sent by CUSU will be elected at CUSU Council Michaelmas IV in line with the Standing Orders.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed

Election Rules

CUSU noted: chapter II (page 193 paragraph 12) of the Statutes and ordinances of the University of Cambridge 2007 stated that ‘The President of the Union shall submit to the [University] Council each year by the division of the Michaelmas Term an electoral scheme for the conduct of elections in the Union in the remainder of the academic year. The scheme shall provide for the appointment, subject to confirmation by the Council, of returning officers, and for the Council to receive from the returning officers a report on the conduct of each election.’; that, in practice, the CUSU President was required to submit the election rules to SACSMS (Standing Advisory Committee on Student Matters), which had the above powers delegated to it from the University Council; that, after complaints to the Junior Proctor about both the Graduate Union Elections and the CUSU Elections, there was an even greater need for clarity during the elections process; that, after the CUSU Standing Orders were revised in CUSU Council Lent II ‘07, there was a contradiction between the Constitution and the Standing Orders, as well as a need to clarify certain elements of the Standing Orders regarding the Elections Procedure, before they were submitted to SACSMS; that it was the role of the CUSU Democracy and Development Team (chaired by the CUSU President) to iron out potential conflicts between the Constitution and the Standing Orders.

CUSU resolved: to accept both the recommendations to the Elections Committee and the revised Standing Orders.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed

NUS Policy becoming CUSU Policy

CUSU noted: that a number of the policies that Council in previous years have sent to NUS National Conference as a NUS motion had inadvertently become CUSU policy due to the way it had been worded; CUSU amended its Standing Orders in 2006-7 to stop this from occurring by making it such that: ‘Any resolutions contained in motions proposed for the NUS shall not become resolutions of the CUSU unless such resolutions are passed as a separate Ordinary Motion.’ ;That CUSU Council passed policy in Michaelmas II to call for an NUS Extraordinary Conference; that in Council Lent I of 2006, a policy was passed to be sent to NUS Conference, however, this wasn’t done by an appendix as the other motions to NUS were, but by a replacement of ‘CUSU’ with ‘Conference’ where needed. As a result CUSU Council in turn passed this into CUSU Policy; that this policy said that CUSU should undertake a number of actions, which many members of CUSU do not believe it should.

CUSU believes: that there is a strong likelihood that Council was unaware that it was doing anything other than sending a motion to NUS National Conference, which Council has historically been more inclined to do in comparison to passing CUSU Policy, as CUSU has not wished to send any other motions to NUS Conference; that CUSU has now explicitly stopped this from happening by incorporating procedures into its Standing Orders; that the vast majority of the CUSU delegation to NUS Conference in 2007 voted in favour of the governance review, which explicitly stated that it would not start with any prejudices or initial positions such as some of those expressed in the motion; that with the NUS Extraordinary Conference discussing constitutional and governance reform of the NUS, such a policy is prohibitive with regards to having a proper debate and discussion as to the merits of any changes.

CUSU resolved: to nullify the motion 'Strong & Active Unions – For a Campaigning NUS'; that this motion supersedes the previous motion from Lent I 2006 that became CUSU Policy, and therefore removes it from current CUSU Policy.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed

Collaborating with SUs on Fees Campaigning

CUSU noted: that the Government would be reviewing its policy on tuition fees in 2008/9; that the NUS had been dealing with financial difficulties and constitutional change, which had unfortunately affected its on-campus presence and ability to communicate with students.

CUSU believes: that students' voices need to be heard and SUs are the most effective method of presenting a united voice; that an effective national campaign requires the active collaboration of SUs across the country; that CUSU has an opportunity to take the lead in this.

CUSU resolved: to mandate the CUSU HE Funding Officer to plan for a co-ordinated campaign in preparation for the 2008/9 review on fees; to mandate the HE Funding Officer to contact other SUs (including: Sussex SU, SOASSU, UMSU, Sheffield College SU, Strathclyde SU, Glasgow SU, Blackpool and the Fylde SU, Essex SU, Cranfield SU, Staffordshire SU, Middlesex SU, Bradford SU, LSESU, ARSU, Long Road V1th Form SU, CRCSU & Hills Road V1th Form SU) with a view to ensuring a vocal and visible cross-Union plan of action.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, more up-to-date policy on fees and the Browne Review exists

Restructuring CUSU

CUSU noted: that a number of CUSU members, including CUSU Council members and CUSU Executive members, had in the past expressed concern with the functioning of the CUSU Executive in particular and CUSU more generally; particular problems included

- a) communication problems within the CUSU Executive and the Sabbatical team
- b) a diffusion of responsibility leading to actions not being completed.

the CUSU Development and Planning Committee (DPC) investigated ways to address these, and other, problems; that the DPC sought to consult widely on these issues with members of CUSU; that the DPC distinguished between relevant proposals that would not restructure CUSU but more improve its general work practice, and larger, restructuring proposals; that this motion supported the latter, though the larger restructuring does incorporate many of the non-restructuring, fine-tuning proposals; that the restructuring proposal required a referendum to change the CUSU Constitution; that the contents of the restructuring proposal centred around making the CUSU Executive team/group oriented, rather than as it was, a large body of officers with few internal links; that each team was to consist of 4-7 members as relevant, with all (other than the Ethical Affairs team) to be chaired by a Sabbatical Officer; that the teams to be brought together are the Resources Team, Democracy and Development Team, Access Team, Education Team, Welfare Team, and Ethical Affairs Team; that all team chairs, and heads of autonomous campaigns, meet once a week at a co-ordination meeting.

CUSU further noted: the revised changes to the Constitution passed last year but that the referendum was inquorate.

CUSU believes: that CUSU requires restructuring in order to be more efficient, more effective and, from that, more relevant; that DPC's proposed changes reflect the inputs and views of as many people as possible, while keeping within the real financial, staffing and time restraints of CUSU; that the proposed changes would significantly improve the functioning of CUSU.

CUSU resolves: that the proposed Constitution be taken to a referendum, alongside the main CUSU Elections in Lent term; if successful, the Constitution should take effect on 1st July 2008 to give time to Democracy and Development Team to draft the transition documents and bring them to CUSU Council.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed

Ex Officio NUS Delegate

CUSU noted: CUSU had, in the past, sent the President as its ex officio delegate to NUS Conferences; the President had been a suitable officer to send as (s)he had been the lead officer on NUS and Returning Officer (and thus unable to run for election as an NUS Delegate); in 2007-8, the Academic Affairs Officer had been the lead officer on NUS and was the Returning Officer for the CUSU Elections.

CUSU believes: the Academic Affairs Officer should be permitted to attend NUS Annual Conference 2008.

CUSU resolves: to send Peter Coulthard, CUSU Academic Affairs Officer to NUS Annual Conference in place of the CUSU President.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed

Cross Campus Ballot Positions

CUSU notes: that after consultation with the Junior Proctor, Elections Committee (EC) had announced that the Ethical Affairs Chair, the Mature/Part-Time Students & Graduate College Academic Officer and the Students with Disabilities Officer were to be elected cross-campus in the upcoming elections; that article J.13 of the Constitution stated that 8 part-time Exec Officers were to be cross-campus elected, 6 of which shall have portfolios defined by Council, and 2 Open Portfolio positions; that article C.9 (i) of the Standing Orders stated that the duty of Council to choose a list of 6 cross-campus elected positions is delegated to Section G of the Standing Orders; that Section G named only 3 Part-time Executive Officers to be elected in cross-campus ballot (Ethical Affairs Chair, Mature/Part-Time Students & Graduate College Academic Officer and the Students with Disabilities Officer).

CUSU believes: that the annual cross-campus elections are the moment in which CUSU communicates with and is most publicised, discussed and analysed by the student body; that the Part-time Executive are a fundamental aspect of connecting students with their Union; that the

decrease from 8 to 3 cross-campus elected positions would undermine the importance and relevance of student involvement in CUSU; as the Standing Orders only specify 3 positions to be elected cross-campus, that CUSU Council now needs to define the roles of the remaining three.

CUSU resolved: to mandate the EC to make provision for 2 Open Portfolio positions to be elected in the cross-campus ballot; in addition to the three positions already announced, to restore the cross-campus election of the Mental Health Officer, the HE Funding Officer and the Target Campaigns Officer, and to mandate Elections Committee to publicise these along with the posts already being advertised; to mandate the Democracy and Development Team to propose corrections to the Standing Orders to reflect the Constitution in this matter; that CUSU Should be mandated to write job descriptions for the aforementioned roles.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed

Elections Committee's Recommendations

CUSU noted: the CUSU Returning Officer's Report for the CUSU Elections 2008; the numerous recommendations made in the report; that this report was presented on time, was thoroughly researched and not regurgitated as a rush job as many of the previous CUSU Returning Officer's reports had been; that the Returning Officer for the CUSU Elections was not the CUSU President, but was Pete Coulthard, CUSU Academic Affairs Officer as appointed by CUSU Council Lent I; that having (hopefully) ratified this report, the CUSU Elections Committee had now finished their term of office.

CUSU believes: That these recommendations made by the Returning Officer and the Elections Committee have risen from the thorough and comprehensive work that they did prior to, during and after the Elections this year; that a number of these issues and recommendations have arisen in the past but have not been dealt with, thus saddling future Elections Committees with the same problems and issues; that it is vital that our Elections are run in the most professional and effective manner possible

CUSU resolved: to formally mandate the following CUSU Teams and Committees to implement the recommendations and/or work detailed in the report before the next elections: CUSU Democracy and Development Team: Recommendations 3, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 21, 22, 26, 27. CUSU Elections Committee: Recommendations 1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 11, 13, 17, 25, 26; that due to the changes in Standing Orders proceeding through CUSU Council in order to accommodate the new Constitution, the changes to the Standing Orders outlined in the Report should be implemented at CUSU Council Michaelmas III 2008 and subject to passing that Council, ratified at Michaelmas IV; that the above mentioned Teams and Committees take onboard the other recommendations which while they are not formally mandated to undertake by this motion, arise from the expertise and experience gained by the CUSU Elections Committee in running this election; to bring to the attention of the Women's Union and Women's Officer recommendation 25, and to consider possible solutions to the issues raised in conjunction with other relevant parties prior to the next set of CUSU Elections in 2009; that the CUSU Elections Committee 2008/9 report back to Council Lent I/Lent II on which of the recommendations have been implemented, which have yet to be implemented, and any progress reports on issues that are still outstanding or required investigating; that having had the Returning Officer's report ratified, and having submitted a motion for Council to formally mandate

relevant bodies to undertake recommendations that have arisen from the conduct of these elections, to accept the resignation of Pete Coulthard as the current CUSU Returning Officer, and for the role to revert back to being undertaken by the President as set out in J.6 of the Constitution.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed

Updating the Standing Orders

CUSU noted: that changes to the Constitution, ratified by the referendum in Lent, will come into effect on 1st July 2008; that those changes included alterations to the structure of the executive and the membership of council; that over the course of the year a number of smaller issues with Standing Orders have come to light, including the timings and methods of Officers' elections.

CUSU believes: that the procedures by which the Executive function should be clear; that decisions taken in all CUSU meetings should be recorded in such a manner as to promote accountability; that it should be easy for those uninvolved in CUSU to see how to get involved.

CUSU resolved: to mandate the Democracy and Development Officers to produce an accessible chart of all positions on the CUSU Executive, their contact addresses, and their dates of election; to make amendments to the Standing Orders.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed

Trustee Appointment Procedure

CUSU noted: according to the current (but soon to be expired) CUSU Constitution:

K.1 The six trustees of the Union shall be the Vice President (Academic Affairs), the Vice President (Access), the President, the Vice President (Services), the Vice President (Welfare) for the duration of their terms of Office, and the manager of the bank at which the CUSU's accounts are held for the time being.

This caused some operational difficulties for the CUSU, as it seemed that the Bank Manager of the current CUSU Bank (the Co-operative) was unaware of any such responsibility, and had never agreed to take on such responsibility (or at least we have no record of such an agreement); K.1 of the new Constitution (to take effect from 1st July 2008) that was passed by a Cross Campus referendum was amended so as now to read:

K.1 The six trustees of the Union shall be the officers holding the offices of President, Education and Deputy President, Access and Funding, Coordination and Services, and Welfare and Graduates for the duration of their terms of Office, and one other trustee to be elected by CUSU Council, according to the procedures and criteria laid down in the Standing Orders.

The CUSU Democracy and Development team have been discussing the procedures and criteria required for the standing orders. The Democracy and Development team felt it was appropriate for Council to select the type of trustee CUSU should have, which is why it has been presented with two options; any changes to the standing orders require a two thirds approval at two consecutive Councils.

CUSU believes: that Council should be the body to select the type of trustee it wishes to add.

CUSU resolved: to appoint an External trustee to serve a term of three years (with the option of serving a maximum of two terms), starting in January 2009 (with the term ending 2012).

- a) The process for election will be that Ordinary members of the CUSU may submit nominations to the CUSU President (by a certain date) to propose people to fulfil the role of the external trustee (with that persons agreement).
- b) These nominations shall be reviewed by the members of the Democracy and Development team that are enshrined in the Standing Orders (i.e. President, Chair, Secretary, Undergraduate Democracy and Development, and Graduate Democracy and Development). The permanent Democracy and Development team members will review the suitability of the nominees (so as to ensure they are not ineligible under the categories laid out in the Standing Orders), and select up to two recommendations (they may present one only if all of the team members agree unanimously). The Democracy and Development team will present the recommendation(s) to Council to accept or reject.
- c) The recommendation(s) will be presented to council as an election, and the Democracy and Development team or the person who originally nominated them will speak on their behalf. The presentation will include details of how many people were nominated, and any potential conflicts of interest for the recommendation(s). Council will then choose to accept or reject the recommendation(s). This process will happen as an election to council.
- d) If council rejects the recommendations, nominations then reopen until a week before the next council, at which the Democracy and Development team will present all of the potential external trustees who are eligible.
- e) The definition of 'external' will exclude the following from being the sixth trustee of the CUSU. Those who are: Currently registered as students at the University, or otherwise eligible for Ordinary Membership of the CUSU; present employees, trustees, and contractors of the University and Colleges; Members of Local Councils in Cambridgeshire, Members of the UK or EU Parliament, or any person whose appointment is politically related to the bodies named above; owners and managers of businesses and other bodies whose business interests are overly entwined with those of the CUSU; CUSU Staff; Officers and Staff of the NUS; individuals legally ineligible to become Trustees.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed

Welfare

Student Complaints and Discrimination

CUSU noted: changing the student complaints system takes several years spanning many CUSU executives; in 2002, the University Council approved a student complaint scheme that had been 5 years in the making; in 2003-7, a gender discrimination (Case X) and a racial discrimination (Case Y) complaint made their way through the University without being resolved; undertakings given by the University to successive CUSU officers and Campaigns were reneged upon. These included examples such as: hearing all the students' evidence of discrimination, complying with the complaints procedure, providing the students with complaint and application forms, and preventing victimisation; the two students mentioned alleging discrimination and harassment were now going to court and tribunals to enforce their rights; the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), formerly Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) [with respect to Case Y], and the Legal Services Commission [with respect to Case X] were supporting the challenges to the

University; in the gender discrimination case (Case X), on the 9th of November the complainant learned that the University intended to deny that any complaint was ever made; in the gender discrimination case (Case X), the University had a deadline of 23rd November to change its stance with regards to important aspects of the complaint in question. However, the person involved was willing to consent to a 7 day extension to the 30th November if this matter would be discussed at University Council; there was a University Council on the 26th November.

CUSU believes: discrimination and harassment must be eliminated with an effective student complaints system applied to all in the University; requiring students to go to court to combat discrimination is a costly and retrograde step by the University; hard fought-for changes in the student complaint scheme by previous generations of CUSU executive and Campaigns should not be undermined by the Secretariat; the University should not be able to rely on a lack of institutional memory within CUSU to wash over continuing series of errors or injustices.

CUSU resolved: to express to University Council and SACSMs (Standing Advisory Committee on Student Matters), CUSU's dissatisfaction with the behaviour of the Secretariat over handling of recent student complaints of discrimination; to urge University Council to debate the strategic merits of the forcing students to go to court to enforce anti-discrimination / harassment rights.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed

Free Pregnancy Tests

CUSU noted: that pregnancy tests were expensive; that pregnancy tests were available for any student, for free, by CUSU; that this was expensive, and cost much more than the £300 available in the budget.

CUSU believes: pregnancy tests are an essential part of CUSU Welfare; pregnancy tests should continue to be available for free to the student population.

CUSU resolved: to change the budget heading (pregnancy tests) 6478 from £300 to £1000.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed

A Full-Time Caseworker

CUSU noted: that CUSU, through three of its sabbatical officers, the Welfare & Graduates Officer, the Education/Academic Affairs Officer and the Women's Officer, provided welfare support to individual students (casework); that these officers spent a lot of their time on providing this; that these officers were elected and may have no welfare experience, nor were they given sufficient training; furthermore, they were not be able to give qualified legal advice, even if they have done a law degree, in order to protect CUSU legally; that these officers sometimes struggled to get to grips with the vast knowledge required for this part of their job, which could include issues such as immigration law, benefits, harassment policy and law, financial support, scholarships and grants, and university regulations; that the need for a permanent, experienced, trained staff member working in CUSU had been recognised for many years (in 1998, for example, a proposal was put to set up a working party on setting up a 'Student Welfare Centre', and in 2000, a request for funding

a full time member of staff was put to the University, but met with opposition from the Colleges, and in 2001 a report on welfare provision in CUSU and the GU was commissioned, but nothing was done with it); that every year when a new set of officers came in some casework may have got lost in the handover, and that certain members of the University may have relied on this in order to bury the issues, and thus continuity was a problem; most other students' unions employed staff to be welfare advisors, or full-time caseworkers, and that this system worked well for both the officers (who had more time to work on other parts of their role) and students (who were given access to the best quality service available).

CUSU believes: that casework is one of, if not the, most important service that CUSU provides; that students who approach CUSU for individual support are entitled to best quality service possible; that students should still be represented by student-elected officers, but groundwork on individual support could be done more effectively by a fully trained, fulltime caseworker; that such a person would be able to give students proper support and factual advice in areas such as academic problems, legal problems, immigration, finance, harassment, sexuality, discrimination, and thus free up time for sabbatical officers to concentrate on other areas, in particular campaigns and university representation.

CUSU resolved: to be committed to the idea of a fulltime caseworker; to mandate current and future CUSU Executives to look into finding the funds for a permanent, trained, full-time caseworker: either through the University or its own budget; that if any money is found for the funding of another member of permanent staff or a sabbatical officer, it should be ring fenced first and foremost for a caseworker.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed (!)

Ethical Affairs

Go Greener! Campaign

CUSU noted: a recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, providing the clearest evidence yet that manmade climate change is real and dangerous; that it had a mandated Environment Officer and had previously passed policy recognising the threat posed by climate change and the need to act; that the CUSU Ethical Affairs Team (formerly CUSU Green) had for several years been campaigning for improved recycling facilities in colleges and, more recently, for renewal of the University's 'green' electricity contract and college environmental policies; that the CUSU Ethical Affairs Team had developed the Go Greener! campaign in an attempt to integrate these activities and raise the profile of attempts to combat climate change in Cambridge; that the goals of the campaign had been drawn up in consultation with the University's Environment Manager and Energy Manager, as well as representatives of various student societies whose work involved climate change (under the auspices of a new informal collaborative network, the 'Cambridge University Climate Coalition').

CUSU believes: that the issue of climate change is deeply serious and, due to the nature and urgency of threat, is of concern to us all; that, as Cambridge students, we have a unique responsibility to encourage the University and colleges to take a public lead in voicing and addressing the need for more extensive and committed action to meet this challenge.

CUSU Resolved: to officially endorse the Go Greener! campaign and allow it to proceed under the auspices of the CUSU Ethical Affairs Team; to use its position on University bodies and committees to advocate for the goals of the Go Greener campaign, and to support far-reaching and forward-thinking action, both to reduce the University's own emissions and to enhance its contribution to tackling climate change through its teaching and research.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed

Community and Volunteering Society Project Grant

CUSU noted: Cambridge students often demonstrated a commitment to supporting the community in which they live; this year, the CUSU had sought to shore up its support for students and student organisations that were to become actively involved in volunteering; the new Community and Volunteering Officer lacked a specific standard budget, which would usually be about £75, due to the budget being based on last year's structure.

CUSU believes: a central students' union should be able to provide some support and recognition to students dedicating their time to innovative projects to better their local community.

CUSU resolved: to allocate £200 during 2007/8 to fund a Community and Volunteering Society Project Grant; to authorise the Community and Volunteering Officer to empanel a board to judge applications for the grant; to endorse a talent show to be organised by the Community and Volunteering Officer and the Ethical Affairs Team in Easter Term 2008.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed

University Ethical Investment Procedure

CUSU noted: that Cambridge is reforming the way it manages its investments, by appointing an 'in-house' investment manager and investment board and that this requires the University to develop a policy on 'Responsible Investment'; that currently there is no clear procedure through which student concerns about investment policy can be addressed; that the CUSU Ethical Affairs Chairs and Ethical Investment Officer were only shown the new proposal for 'Responsible Investment' on Tuesday 20th May and are concerned that it does not provide enough scope for concerns about investment to be raised with the Investment Board; that Easter II is the last council of term and therefore the final opportunity of this year for CUSU to raise its concerns to the University Executive Committee about the new policy.

CUSU believes: the students, as stakeholders in the University, have a right to have a forum into which they can input their concerns about the University's investments; that investor engagement, divestment, and investment are powerful tools in influencing company behaviour; that even when funds are invested indirectly engagement with fund managers can be an effective method of influencing company and investor behaviour.

CUSU resolved: to urge the University Executive Committee to consider how it can best equip itself to deal effectively, knowledgably, and promptly with investment related concerns and to consider whether it would be productive to set up a separate committee to do this; to request that the Ethical Affairs Chairs and the Ethical Investment Officer should be kept informed and be consulted throughout this process; to urge that the meeting times, minutes and activities of the Executive Committee should become more transparent and available to students when possible; to urge that a clear and transparent system be set up through which University stakeholders (students and staff) can raise concerns about University investments.

CUSU Special Awards

CUSU noted: ignorance and misunderstanding lead to prejudice, discrimination and racism; the CUSU Anti-Racism Officer and the autonomous Black Student's Campaign aim to counter misunderstandings and discrimination; other various organisations also promote diverse cultural, racial and ethnic understanding.

CUSU believes: besides CUSU Anti-Racism and Black Students' Campaign, other organisations within Cambridge University should be encouraged to promote understanding and dialogue; it is better to promote understanding as a preventative measure, rather than fight racism and discrimination after it has occurred; by providing an annual ceremonial "CUSU Special Awards" to two organisations and/or individuals (students, staff or faculty) within Cambridge University, a platform for positive action will develop to proactively counter discrimination through reducing ignorance; by providing a small sum of Anti-Racism's budget for this award, the returns will be greater from the participation of a larger community of students within Cambridge.

CUSU resolved: to hold an annual small event where two "CUSU Special Awards" are presented to the winning nominees at the first Council of Easter Term; the winners would be announced on the CUSU Bulletin and in TCS; the nominations would be open throughout Michaelmas and Lent terms of the same academic year and Easter Term of the previous Academic year. Two students or faculty must propose the nominee (the nominee can be either an individual or a society or an individual on behalf of a society); the proposal form for the nominees will be sent out every four weeks during term time (twice a term), the deadline for submissions will be the end of Lent Full Term (any submissions after this will be considered for the next year's awards) and will include:

*Name of Individual/Organisation

*College/Department

*Year of Study/Position: (optional)

Declaration of any affiliations with Societies within and outside Cambridge: *Description of activity(/ies) to promote multicultural/multireligious understanding or increase cultural, religious, ethnic or social awareness and harmony (no more than 500 words): (optional)

Any attachments (pictures/newspaper articles relating to event(s) etc)

The final decision will be made by the judges which will include the CUSU Exec and a short voting on paper will take place at the last Exec Meeting of Lent Term (if this fails to happen for any reason, then on the first Exec Meeting of Easter Term). Simple Majority wins first prize, second majority wins second prize; in the event that there are more than 7 nominations, the CUSU Anti-Racism Officer, Black Students' Campaign and CUSU Welfare Officer will unanimously short list 7 nominees for consideration at the voting Exec meeting. In an event of disagreement the Anti-Racism Officer

will chair this meeting, and any concerns will be raised to the Anti-Racism Officer and then to CUSU President; the "CUSU Special Award for Promoting Diversity" will consist of first prize of 100sterling pounds for the organisation / individual linked to Cambridge University (to be used to further promote the activity); the "CUSU Award for Promoting Understanding" will consist of second prize of 50sterling pounds for the organisation / individual linked to Cambridge University (to be used to further promote the activity); both awards to be accompanied by a small memorial plate.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed and more up-to-date policy exists for CUSU Awards for Diversity and Understanding

Holocaust Memorial Day

CUSU noted: that the current CUSU policy on Holocaust Memorial Day was about to lapse; that the Government established Holocaust Memorial Day in 2001; that the aims of Holocaust Memorial day included to "Recognise that the Holocaust was a tragically defining episode of the 20th century, a crisis for European civilisation and a universal catastrophe for humanity", the systematic murder of 6 million Jews, and large numbers of Roma and Sinti, homosexuals, unionists and political opponents to the German Nazi party; Holocaust Memorial Day took place on the 27th January; in 2004, the United Nations voted to commemorate the Holocaust atrocity; that a variety of events are organised annually within Cambridge, both by University societies and the council.

CUSU believes: that the Holocaust is an event that must not be forgotten; that Holocaust Memorial Day is a fitting tribute to ensure a collective memory of these events lives on; that Holocaust Memorial Day seeks to engage society in examining and challenging prejudice; that it is vital that students engage with Holocaust Memorial Day.

CUSU resolved: to support local events and activities, laying the foundations for the success of Holocaust Memorial Day and in doing so to remember all victims of the Holocaust; to re-affirm our commitment to the National Holocaust Memorial Day.

D&D Notes: Will be saved from lapse at Easter II

Miscellaneous

Peterhouse Student Representation

CUSU noted: that the Peterhouse May Ball 2008 was rejected by Peterhouse's Governing Body without any prior student consultation; as a response to poor exam results last year (and their subsequent publication in the Tompkins table) Peterhouse's Governing Body forced through a changed room ballot system to favour good academic grades; that Peterhouse JCR (the Sex Club) had no representation on its College's governing body; that a Peterhouse JCR (the Sex Club) open meeting had voted overwhelmingly in favour of CUSU providing support on this matter.

CUSU believes: that students should be represented on College committees, especially the sovereign body; that extra-curricular activities have positive impacts on students' lives; that

dialogue between students and Colleges is a better way of solving problems than imposing policy on students without consultation.

CUSU resolved: to mandate the CUSU Democracy and Development Team and, at the discretion of the CUSU President, any other member of the CUSU Exec to assist Peterhouse JCR in its battle to gain a representative student voice within Peterhouse.

D&D Notes: *Will be saved from lapse at Easter II, with a new policy on student representation*

Oxford and Cambridge Careers Handbook (OCCH)

CUSU noted: the Oxford and Cambridge Careers Handbook (OCCH) was in its 27th year of publication; the current production of the OCCH was the joint responsibility of the CUSU and the Oxford University Students' Union (OUSU); the OCCH Website project (www.oxbridgecareers.com) had been launched as a joint CUSU/OUSU venture with the Student Media Group Ltd., a private third party IT development and media advertising firm, at an initial cost of tens of thousands of pounds to the two unions; arrangements must be made immediately for the OCCH website to be permanently hosted, maintained, and upgraded; arrangements must be initiated very soon for the production of the 2007/8 edition of the OCCH print version.

CUSU further noted: the alternating system of CUSU and OUSU leadership on the OCCH print version had lately become disrupted, with Oxford taking extra cycles on both production and sales; the completion of the OCCH website had experienced significant and potentially costly delays in the past six months related to inaction and mind-changing on the part of OUSU; the CUSU had over the past several months unilaterally replaced the OUSU as the primary point of contact on the OCCH website and had been pushing the project forward to launch; the OUSU was currently threatening to withhold funding and support for vital follow-through elements of the OCCH website project without which it may not have been able to function; the OUSU Business Manager had recently sold contracts with the OCCH website with a list price of over £60,000 for just over £10,000; this was done in deals discounting the OCCH print edition and Oxford-specific media; the CUSU and the Student Media Group Ltd. had expressed deep dissatisfaction with OUSU performance in being a partner on the OCCH website project; the CUSU and the Student Media Group may soon be forced by OUSU to unilaterally fund and control the continuing operations of the OCCH website while still giving the OUSU its full share of the profits; a publishing house recently opened negotiations on a contract to produce the OCCH print edition; the deal (or a similar one) was potentially worth an extra £10,000 - £20,000 in profit for the CUSU to fund other activities; the OUSU had instigated weeks of delays in responding to even the most basic aspects of the potential OCCH print deal, placing the ability to make a timely decision in doubt.

CUSU believes: the Oxford University Students' Union is quickly losing the confidence of the Cambridge University Students' Union and its private partners, jeopardising the financial health of both unions and the quality of our productions; the CUSU's lack of faith in OUSU business practice is a danger both to the business programmes in question and to the relationship between the two Unions; given the strength of combined OUSU-CUSU action, the long history behind their business cooperation, and the turnover of OUSU officers, the OUSU should be given every reasonable opportunity to take corrective action and properly support the development of OCCH projects; the

CUSU, given its recent financial missteps and strong desire for developing more permanent staff resources, must move ahead with adding value to its publications activities, with or without Oxford.

CUSU Resolves: the CUSU Executive shall lobby the Oxford University Students' Union, through the latter's main office and/or the OUSU Council, to fully back the OCCH Website financially and to engage with urgency on the possibility of striking a new OCCH print edition production deal; the CUSU VP (Services) is mandated to evaluate the CUSU's position with regard to joint projects with Oxford and to make whatever contractual decisions are necessary to increase their value to CUSU, even if they involve dissolving current projects and initiating new ones without the involvement of the OUSU; the CUSU VP (Services) is ordered to report on the matter of the OCCH projects at CUSU Council Lent I.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed, CUSU and OUSU currently have a very good relationship

TCS Complaints Procedure

CUSU noted: the great number of positive benefits brought by the establishment of independent student media in Cambridge; the growing success of The Cambridge Student in terms of quality, design, circulation and advertising; the substantial impact that student-run media can have on students in Cambridge, and the corresponding responsibility that was placed on them; the ongoing effort by the TCS Board of Directors to improve working practices and raise standards in a sustainable way at TCS; ongoing issues at both Varsity and TCS regarding the past handling of complaints and the criteria used to evaluate how to correct an action that may have done harm; the complexity and legal depth of many of the complaints brought to student newspapers; the lack of good records and statistics regarding how complaints and disputes related to TCS were handled; the availability of inexpensive and easy-to-use regulatory oversight for newsprint media.

CUSU believes: that parts of the TCS Constitution are ripe for a review, in particular the complaints procedure; that all readers of student media, especially TCS, should be able to easily find an effective way to register a problem or have a mistake corrected; that TCS should have robust ways of ensuring that disputes are settled fairly and of ensuring that the paper as an institution can learn from complaints; that TCS should have more robust and more clearly stated standards of practice as well as a more robust and more clearly stated complaints procedure; that CUSU Council is not generally the best place for the details of an editorial response to be debated, especially when more professional oversight is available; that CUSU Council should be kept better in the loop about issues affecting its primary responsibilities for TCS, the appointment and removal of the Board.

CUSU resolved: to adopt a revised TCS Complaints Procedure into the TCS Constitution; to replace "Services Officer" with "Coordinator" in the text in line with the revised CUSU Constitution; to authorise the Coordinator (Services Officer) to pay for a subscription to the Press Standards Board of Finance (currently about £164 pa) on behalf of TCS, allowing the paper to fall under the appeals jurisdiction of the Press Complaints Commission.

D&D Notes: Allow to lapse, action completed

Student Oyster Card Scheme

CUSU noted: the existence of the Student Oyster Card Scheme in London, which allowed students discounted travel on longer period tickets (e.g. 7 day tickets or longer); that this scheme was now available to institutions outside of London on the payment of £5 per annum from the institution; that in Oxford, this scheme was administered by the Student Union; that a number of our students live in London or do internships in London and could benefit from the discounts of this scheme, which was free to students; that as part of the scheme administration, student dropouts must be reported by the institution administrator.

CUSU believes: having finally extracted all the information out of Transport for London (TfL) about the scheme after trying for 9 months, that this scheme would provide great benefits to a number of CUSU members; that £5 is a small amount of money; that the Student Union is well placed and able to provide the administration of this, adding to the useful services to students that it provides; that in order to undertake this, CUSU would require cooperation from colleges on confirming both student status and any dropouts, as required by TfL; that this information cannot be provided by the central University administration, with CUSU having already explored this possibility.

CUSU resolved: to recommend that CUSU sets up the Student Oyster Card scheme; to provide full support for CUSU to approach the colleges to ask for their assistance and cooperation regarding student status and dropouts in order for CUSU can fulfil its obligation in administering this scheme; to authorise the expenditure of £5 this year and next year from an appropriate budget heading to be found by the Coordinator/Services Officer, and if said Officer cannot find it for it to be allocated from the Council Free Budget.

D&D Notes: *Allow to lapse, Student Oyster card scheme is not accessible to students who are resident in Cambridge*

Bursars' Committee Representation

CUSU noted: that CUSU has previously had policy on Bursarial Committee representation (passed in the Academic Year 2005-06); Cambridge students currently lacked any representation on the Bursars' committee; the CUSU President sat on the Joint Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the Bursars' Committee and the Senior Tutors' Committee; that rent increases continued across the university, with student representation often excluded, sidelined or requested at peak studying times such as exam term; that there was representation for students on all other important University wide committees; many important student-related projects had their funding sources controlled by the Bursars' Committee; that despite being told the Bursars' Committee wasn't a University Committee, it did appear in the Cambridge University Reporter (Special No 4) detailing the University Committees and their memberships.

CUSU believes: Cambridge Students should be represented on the Bursars' committee; that JCR/MCR representatives should have as much information at their disposal as possible when negotiating with their colleges; that representation would lead to an increased flow of information, to CUSU and students, on financial matters pertaining to students – particularly rents and charges; that representation would give JCR/MCR representatives a better negotiating position with regards to rents and charges; that having representation on the Bursars' Committee would allow for a

greater explanation of the decision-making processes when dealing with financial matters; that the Colleges should not be able to operate a cartel against their students.

CUSU resolves: to campaign for CUSU representation on the Bursars' committee through relevant channels; to mandate relevant CUSU exec members to petition the university for representation; to examine the possibility of questioning the lack of representation through legal or legislative channels.

D&D Notes: Will be saved from lapse at Easter II, with a new policy on student representation