



Policy Document

Last Updated: 28th June 2007

INTRODUCTION

Cambridge University Student Union (CUSU) policy stands for the remainder of the academic year in which it was passed, and the two subsequent academic years (Clause M6 of the Constitution). This document therefore contains policy made since October 2005 by CUSU Council. Any changes to the Standing Orders or the Constitution will be reflected in the online versions of these documents, and those web versions supersede any reference made to them in this document.

Other documents that may be useful in consultation with this policy document:

- CUSU Constitution
- CUSU Standing Orders
- Constitution of CUSU's autonomous campaigns (Women's, LesBiGay, Black Students', International Students')
- Constitution of "The Cambridge Student"
- Ethical policy of CUSU
- Financial Policy of CUSU
- The Annual Budget
- CUSU Council: The Basics
- Executive Reports and Plans
- CUSU Returning Officer's Report
- CUSU Internal Policy

These documents are available either from CUSU and its autonomous campaigns, or can be found on the CUSU website: www.cusu.cam.ac.uk.

Where policy has been passed which negates previous policy the most recent prevails. Policy made by CUSU Council can only be amended or revoked by a subsequent resolution of the Council or of a referendum. In the case of contradictions, the Standing Orders take precedence over this Policy Document. Likewise, the Constitution takes precedence over all other policy related documents. Any policy that is contradicted by the Standing Orders or the Constitution is void.

For further details of how, when, and why CUSU policy has been adopted, and the full wording of a policy, please refer to the

internet archives of CUSU Council Agendas and the Minutes of Council Meetings available from www.cusu.cam.ac.uk, or contact the Chair (chair@cusu.cam.ac.uk).

This document only contains motions that have been passed constitutionally by a Council – it is therefore not a complete record of all that is discussed. Open Meeting motions are not included separately because Council will have ratified any motions passed at these forums.

If you have any questions relating to the policies in this document, or would like help in drafting a motion for council, please contact the CUSU Chair or one of the Sabbatical Officers.

Mark Ferguson
CUSU President 2006-7

Notes on the Policy Document:

Please note that there may be inaccuracies in this document. Due to a lack of accurate minute keeping it can be unclear what changes have been made to motions, and therefore the precise wording passed by council can be lost. If you feel that this policy document is inaccurate, please contact the Chair (chair@cusu.cam.ac.uk).

The policy document should be updated after each council by the CUSU Chair. Which “zone” of policy a motion is deemed to be under is at the discretion of the chair. If the chair is unable to make the changes in a timely fashion, this role should be delegated to the CUSU Secretary or other appropriate exec member.

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Access and Funding

ACADEMIC YEAR 2005/6

The Facts on Fees

CUSU noted The Higher Education Funding Bill passed in 2004 which would allow universities to charge up to £3,000 in top-up fees, Cambridge's intention to charge the full £3,000 from 2006, the parliamentary review scheduled for 2009 which could see the cap on fees lifted, that the Vice Chancellor said in a speech on October 1st 2005 that "Freed to do so, Cambridge could decide to ask some students and their families to contribute more to the cost of their education" and that many students in Cambridge are unsure of the current situation since the passing of the bill in 2006.

CUSU Believes in the principle of free education, that we cannot sit back and do nothing for the next few years while the government and the university are planning to raise fees, that it is likely that Cambridge will charge more than other universities if variable fees are allowed, that access will be adversely affected if Cambridge charges higher fees and that the National Union of Students' education campaign does little to fight against the prospect of further fees.

CUSU resolved to hold a "Facts on Fees" meeting to inform people of the current situation over HE funding, where we are and what we can do, to get students to write to the Vice-Chancellor to say how fees of £3,000 and above would have affected their application to Cambridge and encourage her to keep the cap even if the government lift it., to encourage the University to

publicise its bursary scheme widely and make them understand that it is no good having the scheme if not everybody knows about it, and to push for the NUS to bring the fight against fees to the top of their agenda rather than waiting around until September 2006 when it may already be too late.

HE funding

CUSU noted that as a result of the Higher Education Act (2004), Cambridge will charge an annual £3,000 tuition fee to all Home and EU students from Michaelmas 2006 that will be payable on graduation when earning £15,000 p.a. or over, that the government will provide financial support to students living away from home but not in London on this basis:

Annual Help with Living Costs

Household Income	£17500	£26500	£37500	£50000
Maintenance Grant	£2,700	£1,200	Nil	Nil
Student loan for Maintenance	£3,200	£3,200	£4,400	£3,300
Total each year	£5,900	£4,400	£4,400	£3,300

CUSU further noted that if students “receive a full £2,700 maintenance grant as assessed by their Local Education Authority (LEA), UK students accepted onto a Cambridge course will qualify for the full £3,000 per year bursary (£5,000 per year for mature students). Bursaries of smaller amounts will be awarded on a sliding scale to all those students who qualify for a lower level of maintenance grant”. The current Cambridge University information on this tapering system is:

Household Income	Cambridge Bursary
Up to £16,000	£3,000
£18,000	£2,850
£20,000	£2,700
£22,000	£2,550
£24,000	£2,100
£26,000	£1,750
£28,000	£1,300
£30,000	£850
£32,000	£450
£34,000	£0

That the above estimates used in *Cambridge Bursaries and Costs: The Facts* use an outdated parental income threshold for eligibility for full government

support (up to £16,000) and so therefore are not in line with their pledge to provide full bursaries to all those who qualify for full maintenance grants (all those whose parents earn up to £17,500), that the deadline for Cambridge applications for undergraduate courses beginning in Michaelmas 2006 passed on 15 October 2005, that the CUSU website currently has no updated information on how the new tuition fee will work, entitlement to the new 2006 Cambridge bursary system or sources of government support for students with a low parental income.

CUSU believes that the detrimental effect that top-up fees may have on access is the most worrying aspect of the Higher Education Act (2004), that it is very unlikely that the Higher Education Act (2004) will be repealed under this, or the next government, that the dissemination of negative publicity regarding the detrimental effect top-up fees may have on access will become a self-fulfilling prophecy because it will send the message that Cambridge will be too expensive for students of limited financial means, that the dissemination of negative publicity regarding the detrimental effect of top-up fees may have on access, in addition to dissemination of information on financial support entertains the danger of sending a mixed message to potential applicants, thereby undermining access, that it should therefore be the overriding priority of CUSU to provide prospective students with correct and up to date information regarding their entitlement to support in order to promote access to the university regardless of financial circumstances, over and above negative campaigning against top-up fees, that the current provision of information from CUSU and the University is not sufficiently detailed and well-coordinated to give a full and clear picture of how the new tuition fees will work or the financial support available to prospective applicants.

CUSU resolves to mandate the CUSU President to press the University to update their information booklets and website to bring their information on Cambridge bursaries into line with Department for Education and Skills (DfES) guidelines regarding income thresholds for eligibility for government support and to adjust their tapering system accordingly, to mandate the CUSU Access Officer and CUSU Higher Education Funding Officer to produce detailed information sheets for prospective students regarding how the new tuition fee will work and their entitlement to financial support, both from the University and the government, for the use during the shadowing scheme, target visits, open days and other access events, to mandate the CUSU Access Officer to publicise the existence of these sheets to JCR access officers in order to facilitate their dissemination during the shadowing scheme, target visits, open days and other access events, to mandate the CUSU Access Officer and the CUSU Higher Education Funding Officer to update both the Higher Education Funding and Potential Applicants sections of the CUSU website, detailing how the new top-up fee will work, the financial support that will be available from both the government and the University and to provide links to the finance areas of the DfES, Aimhigher and Cambridge University applicant websites. This information should be given greater prominence than negative publicity against top-up fees and to undertake this as a matter of urgency, with clear

priority given to these tasks over and above campaigning directly against top-up fees.

FACT

CUSU noted that the job description of the Academic Affairs Officer explicitly refers to Higher Education Funding being within the jobs remit, that in most other student unions, and the NUS, the responsibility for HE Funding rests with the Vice-President (Education), that the Academic Affairs Officer attends national meetings on behalf of CUSU where the issue of HE funding forms part of the Agenda and that the Academic Affairs Officer is the student representative on many University Committees where the issue of HE Funding is discussed.

CUSU believes that the Academic Affairs Officer has some responsibility for the HE Funding Campaign, that the Academic Affairs Officer should be as well informed as possible on, and involved in, CUSU's ongoing work in this area.

CUSU resolved to add the Academic Affairs Officer to the ex-officio members of FACT.

Free Education for all

CUSU noted NUS's formal funding policy has been consistently ignored in NUS's campaigns and statements and that dynamic local anti-closure campaigns (e.g. Cambridge and Rolle College) show what's possible when students are mobilized.

CUSU believes that although most universities will charge the maximum top-up fee, HE will remain chronically underfunded, that institutions will continue to make cuts and attack staff in order to 'maximise efficiency', leading to a worse education and an inbuilt drive to increase fees, with enormous pressure for lifting the £3000 cap, that NUS's formal policy has been consistently ignored in NUS's campaigns and statements, that only the demand for taxation of business and the rich can cut through the Government's distortions and provide funding needed to abolish the market in HE and provide students with the quality education and financial support we need, and that the decision to cancel the national demonstration was a shocking betrayal of students' interests.

CUSU resolved to campaign against lifting the cap.

Coalition 2010

CUSU noted the launch of Coalition 2010, an alliance of the National Union of Students and several teaching Unions, the government review of top-up fees legislation planned to begin in 2008 which could lift the £3,000 cap, the NUS organised lobby of Parliament on education scheduled for March 1st 2006, and the Early Day Motion (number 1397) that has been tabled to Parliament in support of the coalition.

CUSU believes that the cap on fees should not be lifted, that we should work with teaching unions to oppose the introduction of variable fees, and that CUSU should support the NUS and work with other Student Unions.

CUSU resolved to support the Coalition 2010 and to write to local MPs David Howarth and Andrew Lansley to encourage them to sign up to the EDM, to encourage students to contact their home MPs asking them to sign the EDM, to provide transport to the lobby of Parliament on March 1st, and to meet with local teaching unions and discuss ways in which we can work together to ensure the cap isn't lifted.

College Wealth Disparity

CUSU noted the huge inequality in wealth between colleges in this University, the consequent differences in college resources, finances and provision, and that the current system of distribution of tuition fee receipts assumes an equality of endowment income to exist, which does not and therefore perpetuates the aforementioned inequality.

CUSU believes that while Cambridge may well be a federation of colleges, it is first and foremost a University and should work towards common educational ends, that the inequality between college academic provision for students is unjust, that every individual student has an absolute right to expect the same provision and services as the next, regardless of the college at which they study.

CUSU resolves to affirm the right of individual students to expect the same provision and services as the next, regardless of the college at which they study, to establish an ad-hoc committee, open to all members, to produce a paper outlining the failings of the current system, with a view to initiating a CUSU campaign calling for more equitable standards on a University-wide basis

ACADEMIC YEAR 2006/7

United for a Free Education

CUSU noted that variable fees have this year created two tiers of students in universities (those who pay them and those who don't) and two tiers of universities (those that charge the maximum fee and those that don't), that this year's UCAS figures show that the introduction of top-up fees in England

has led to a drop in applications of 13,000 (over 4.5%), that dropping applications has disproportionately affected working class students and those from minority backgrounds, that the government plans to review the £3,000 cap on variable fees in the future, and that many vice-chancellors have already expressed a strong desire to raise this cap, that this is part of New Labour's attempt to create an education system suited to the needs of big business rather than the right to learn and contribute to wider society, that this is part of a neo-liberal agenda for education that has been defeated in Greece and Latin America.

CUSU believes that education is a right and not a privilege, but government policies increasingly mean that this is not the case, that the only fair education is a free education, with the reintroduction of grants in place of loans, that means tested grants should be opposed for hitting LGBT, disabled and middle income students most, that the Greek students mobilised against university privatisation, and won, by building coordinated mass meetings and occupations on campuses and relating local struggles to the broader fight for a free education.

CUSU resolved to affirm its commitment to free education and non means tested grants for all, that the NUS should hold a first term national demonstration for free education in 2007, and annually until this demand is won, to use the momentum from national demonstrations to call mass meetings and local demonstrations and occupations, to facilitate a tour of Greek students (or other international students fighting back) around students' unions to discuss how to win the fight for a free education, to use the examples of international struggle to build political activist networks that can provide the real base for a national education campaign, and to adopt the slogans 'United for a free education' and 'Students not profit'.

Rally against top-up fees in Lent Term

CUSU noted the Higher Education Funding Bill passed in 2004, which would allow Universities to charge up to £3000 in Top-up fees, that Cambridge University is charging undergraduates the full £3000 starting from October 2006, that the parliamentary review scheduled for 2009 which could well result in the cap being lifted and Cambridge University opting to charge more in fees, and that the detrimental affects of top-up fees have already been demonstrated by the decrease of applicants to universities across the country.

CUSU believes in the principle of free education, that top-up fees will have a continued detrimental affect on access to Cambridge, that it is important that we make sure students are aware of the affects of top-up fees and that they are fully engaged in the debate, that we, as a Student Union, must demonstrate our opposition to top-up fees strongly and visibly.

CUSU resolved to hold a rally in Lent Term outside Senate House (subject to permission), to invite speakers to attend the event to support our stance on free education and opposition to top-up fees, to publicise the event widely

across the University, in order for it to be well-attended, and to present a petition against top-up fees to the Vice Chancellor at the rally.

Comprehensive Campaign

CUSU notes the low number of students from a comprehensive school background applying to Cambridge University, that by examining data given to the Access Officer it becomes apparent one college, for example, had 65 applicants from Comprehensive schools juxtaposed with 156 applicants from Independent schools, that the University uses state school statistics rather than making this further distinction.

CUSU believes that this low number of applicants from Comprehensive schools is unacceptable, that by launching a campaign aimed exclusively at Comprehensive schools that we can help combat some of the alienation that pupils from these schools feel, and that by exposing the low number of comprehensive school applicants that colleges may be embarrassed into action rather than hiding behind the façade of a high number of state school applicants.

CUSU resolved to grant the Access Officer £200 of the new Campaigns budget to enable them to travel the country in Easter term talking to Comprehensive schools, and to set up a CUSU access bus which will visit Comprehensive schools each Easter every year except this (not necessarily viable this year due to relocation of CUSU offices).

Colleges

ACADEMIC YEAR 2005/6

Equal Opportunities in College Unions

CUSU noted that Council voted in favour of CUSU's Equal Opportunities Policy on 25/5/2005, that Cambridge is not without its problems and that problematic events and incidents continue to take place within Cambridge at large and within the colleges and that such policies are now standard throughout private and public sector organisations.

CUSU believes that the work of college liberation officers would be supported by the existence of an Equal Opportunities policy within college unions, that the establishment of equal opportunities policies with college unions would encourage college union officers to further consider the role of their liberation officers and the importance of liberation issues, that the pursuit of equality and equal opportunity is a central tenet of the work done by CUSU and the college

unions and that college unions need to develop policies that apply to each colleges needs.

CUSU resolved to encourage college unions to promote equal opportunities by drawing up an equal opportunities policy, to encourage other college unions, which already uphold an equal opportunities policy, to ensure that the document is reviewed on a regular basis and to distribute CUSU's Equal Opportunities Policy to college union executives, so that it might aid the establishment of individual policies within college unions and be used as a framework if thought appropriate.

NTL Problems and Solutions

CUSU noted that a new telephone system for undergraduates from NTL ('NTL at uni') is installed in a large number of student rooms in Cambridge, that this system accepts incoming calls to an 0845 number followed by an extension number, that Graduate students and fellows are able to use the CU2 system, which allows the use of an 01223 number for incoming calls, and that call charges from overseas to 0845 numbers are significantly more expensive than to 01223 numbers, with a call from Hong Kong being up to 17 times more expensive to an 0845 number than to an 01223 number.

CUSU Believes that there has been significant dissatisfaction with NTL recently, which in part has prompted them to switch to this new service, that the new system is beneficial in some ways, but has drawbacks for all users, that the increased cost in incoming international calls will mean that some international students will not be able to speak to their families and friends as often as before, and that this is detrimental to their welfare and requires prompt attention, and that, as graduate students can easily obtain 01223 numbers for incoming calls, it is within the means of NTL to offer these numbers more widely.

CUSU resolved to mandate the CUSU President, Services Officer and Communications and UB Officer (in conjunction with college unions) to examine the benefits and drawbacks of the new system, and to explore solutions to the drawbacks, to mandate the CUSU President, Services Officer and Communications and UB Officer to campaign for those solutions to be effected, and to mandate the CUSU President, Services Officer and Communications and UB Officer to immediately campaign either:

- a) for an 01223 number to be allocated for incoming international calls (followed by the regular extension number), or
- b) For all international students to be allowed access to NTL's CU2 service.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2006/7

Setting Up Of Financial Database

CUSU noted the difficulty of financial negotiations with colleges, in particular with rents, and that up to date information can be hard to get hold of.

CUSU believes that a financial database amongst all colleges would aid related college negotiations, and that this database must have a formal infrastructure, be easy to use and have a greater longevity.

CUSU resolved to work with the CUSU webmaster in setting up a finance database, and when completed to advertise it accordingly to the relevant parties.

GEEMA/Ethnic Minority Representation

CUSU noted that the number of students from Ethnic Minorities in Cambridge is an issue of concern, that a significant number of college unions lack specific representation for ethnic minority students, the work done by the University and CUSU through GEEMA and that it is appropriate for CUSU to encourage college unions to exercise best practise.

CUSU believes that ethnic minority representation, at all levels of the university, is necessary, and would benefit access to such groups, and that colleges should be encouraged to have an ethnic minorities or GEEMA representative on their exec or a subcommittee of their exec.

CUSU resolved to encourage colleges without such representation to provide this in future, to mandate the Access Officer to contact all colleges without ethnic minority representation, and encourage them to take part in University wide access initiatives geared towards a greater number of applications from ethnic minorities.

Student Liability for College Governance

CUSU noted that the introduction of a new Charities Act potentially carries significant impact for the governance of the institutions in which we are involved, and that the CUSU has already committed itself to conducting an internal governance review, that Colleges are facing similar challenges, especially with respect to defining those people who will be considered Trustees of the several Colleges, that a paper has been circulated over the past several months, through the Bursar's Committee, to various colleges. The paper includes a series of opinions with regard to legal jeopardy. One of these opinions is that Junior Members, regardless of whether they are excluded from much of the legally sensitive business of a college, still participate in the "general" functioning of the college. They therefore should be considered legally liable trustees so long as they sit on the college's main

ordinary executive body (i.e., the College Council, even if it is subservient to a Governing Body), and that, after strenuous objection at the Governing Body meeting of one College, the matter was passed back to the Bursar's legal subcommittee for review. The response was to uphold the initial opinion.

CUSU believes that in any legal or social situation, liability *must* be contingent on responsibility, that it is entirely unacceptable for members of Colleges to be held to account for actions in which they are allowed little or no say and of which they are allowed little or no knowledge, that the issue in question is stark and imminent, and it should not be confused with a wider effort on the part of students' unions to narrow the scope of Reserved Business. The most important issue in the short term is the ability to *either* access all necessary documents within the charity of which you are a Trustee *or* to be expressly protected from all legal or other liability for the actions of the charity, and that urgent clarification and direct discussion are required to protect student leaders from being punished by a profoundly unjust and asymmetrical situation.

CUSU resolved to condemn any state of affairs in which students may be seen as responsible for that over which they are actively denied knowledge and/or control, to demand, without prejudice, that student leaders on College executive bodies or the University executive bodies *either*

- a) Be given full and unfettered access to all documentation of the internal operations of the charities they govern, *or*
- b) Be expressly protected from all legal or other liability for actions taken by their charities, without need to apply to either the courts or the Charity Commission for a waiver after legal proceedings have begun.

To urgently seek meetings and/or correspondence with the following parties regarding the issue of liability:

- c) David Howarth MP (Cambridge)
- d) Lord Bassam of Brighton, who was active in the originating Bill.
- e) The Charity Commission
- f) The Bursars' Committee subcommittee on legal matters
- g) The National Union of Students

To report to Council at Easter II as to progress on the question of liability and withheld business, which should be undertaken by the CUSU President.

Education

ACADEMIC YEAR 2005/6

Declared to have Deserved Honours

CUSU noted that the current University system of allowances for candidates who suffer from “illness or other grave cause”, that 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, 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”, that CUSU was actively campaigning against DDH until it petered out around 2002. CUSU also noted the document “Appeals in Cambridge” written by Daniel Blaney, CUSU Academic Affairs Officer 1999-2000 calling for changes in the Cambridge appeals system and 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.

CUSU believes that to award a student a 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, that this campaign has been dormant for too long and should not have been allowed to lapse.

CUSU resolved to press for the University to undertake a review of the applications and appeals procedures, to raise this issue with the University wherever relevant, to liaise with other interested parties such as the Graduate Union and the Disability Resource Centre on moving this forward and to mandate the CUSU Academic Affairs Officer to further research the procedures in place at other Universities.

The Faculty Formerly Known as Oriental Studies?

CUSU noted the Faculty of Oriental Studies which covers study in Egyptology , Assyriology , Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, Hebrew and Aramaic Studies , South Asian Studies, Chinese Studies and Japanese Studies, that in Easter term 2004 the General Board commissioned a full review of the Faculty of Oriental Studies chaired by Professor Melveena McKendrick, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education, that the review committee has now reported back and the Faculty of Oriental Studies and the School of Arts and Humanities are working on their responses, that one of the things to have come out of the review so far is a proposed change of name of the Faculty, that limited consultation has taken place., that at the last meeting of the Faculty Board a vote was taken which decided, by 12 votes to 8, on a name change to “The Faculty of Asian Studies” and that the final decision will take place in a meeting of the Faculty Board on November 8th .

CUSU believes that a faculty should be appropriately named, that “The Faculty of Asian Studies” is not an appropriate name as it does not adequately reflect the work carried out in the Faculty, that the name change will be confusing to potential applicants, especially those wishing to study subjects not generally associated with that region, that students should be allowed to graduate in the Tripos onto which they were accepted, and that the name of a faculty should be agreed by consensus of the whole faculty rather than by a divisive vote in the Faculty Board.

CUSU resolved to express this viewpoint in all relevant discussions and on all relevant university committees, to encourage the student members of the General Board and University Council to also adopt this position, to support the Faculty Reps and students in the Faculty in stopping the name change or at least to change it to a more representative name, and to work with like-minded individuals.

Role of Education Officer

CUSU noted the Education Officer's election speech, and that CUSU Officers need to be formally mandated by the Council before campaigning.

CUSU believes that although much of the resolves may seem straight forward CUSU does not in fact hold policy on much of this area, and should, and that the Education Officer should be able to start work on his manifesto pledges.

CUSU resolved to mandate the Education Officer, working with College Officers, Faculty Representatives and other CUSU Officers, to campaign for.

- a) Standardisation of library charges across the university.
- b) Standardisation of photocopying charges across the university.
- c) Increased funding for libraries to allow them to lengthen their opening hours.
- d) Institution of effective supervision feedback systems in every college.
- e) Punctual running of lectures.
- f) Provision of teaching materials in formats suited to all.
- g) Running of study-skills sessions by colleges.

And to mandate the Education Officer to overhaul the Education Network in an effort to increase participation.

The Faculty Forum

CUSU noted H.3 of the CUSU Constitution: “*The Faculty Forum shall have a written constitution which shall be contained in Standing Orders.*”, that there is no Faculty Forum Constitution contained within the CUSU Standing Orders, and the attached Provisional Constitution, approved by the Faculty Forum on the 18th January 2005.

CUSU believes that the Standing Orders should contain the information required by the Constitution, and that CUSU should approve the Faculty Forum constitution.

CUSU resolves to create a new section in the CUSU Standing Orders, entitled "E- The Faculty Forum Constitution".

1) To insert the Provisional Constitution in section E.

Faculty Forum Constitution

E.1 Membership

The Faculty Forum shall consist of the following, who shall be designated as "members": the Academic Affairs Officer; the Education Officer; the Faculty Liaison Officer; student representatives elected as class (f) members of Faculty Boards; student representatives on the Boards of History and Philosophy of Science, Land Economy and the Institute of Criminology and student representatives on the Biotechnology, Computer Sciences, and Chemical Engineering Syndicate. Other members of CUSU shall be allowed to observe the Faculty Forum as "observers". Members should, as soon as practical, inform the secretary should they cease to be eligible for membership.

E.2 The Chair and Secretary

The Faculty Forum shall be chaired by the Education Officer. The Faculty Liaison Officer shall act as its secretary. In the event of the Education Officer or Faculty Liaison Officer being absent from a meeting, then the members shall elect a replacement chair or secretary for the duration of the meeting.

E.3 The Division of the Faculty Forum

The Faculty Forum shall be divided into two sections. The first section shall consist of the CUSU Officers and those members who represent students reading arts subjects. It shall be called the Faculty Forum (Arts). The second section shall consist of the CUSU Officers and those members who represent students reading science subjects. It shall be called the Faculty Forum (Sciences).

E.4 The Annual General Meeting

The first meeting of Lent Term shall be an Annual General Meeting of all members.

E.5 Ordinary Meetings

Apart from the Annual General Meeting and any Special General Meetings, the Faculty Forum shall normally meet divided into its two sections. Each section shall meet at least once a term. Each section may propose motions to CUSU Council on its own or ask the other section to ratify them first so that they may be proposed as one.

E.6 Agenda

The Agenda shall normally consist of:

- 1) Minutes from the previous meeting.
- 2) Matters arising.
- 3) Reports from members.
- 4) Proposals of motions to CUSU Council.
- 5) Elections.
- 6) Any other business

E.7 Elections

The Faculty Forum shall, at the Annual General Meeting, elect 3 of its members to represent it with voting rights at CUSU Council. A fourth person shall be elected as Faculty Liaison Officers. Any member may nominate himself or herself for any position at any time before the election. "Reopen Nominations" shall always be a candidate in elections. The election shall be carried out under the Single Transferable Vote, as recognised by the Election Reform Society. The count shall be carried out immediately. In case of a contested election, hustings will be carried out in the style of other CUSU Elections. The term of office runs from election until the next Annual General Meeting or until the officer ceases to become a member of the Faculty Forum, whichever shall be shorter.

E.8 Bye-Elections

In the event of a position becoming vacant, then a request for new nominations shall be made by the secretary or chair to the members by e-mail. During Full Term, nominations shall close no sooner than 5 days after the call for nominations. Outside Full Term they shall close no sooner than 14 days after the call for nominations. The bye-election shall then take place at the time and venue scheduled for the next Faculty Forum meeting. In the event of this being a section meeting, then it shall be renamed as a "Special General Meeting" and opened to all members. If a bye-election is uncontested, then the candidate or candidates, at the discretion of the chair, may assume the responsibilities of the office on condition that they add "Acting" to their title.

E.9 The Faculty Forum Representatives on CUSU Council

The three Faculty Forum Representatives on CUSU Council represent Faculty Forum Members at CUSU Council. They should vote in line with what they believe is the view of the Faculty Forum. If they are uncertain, then they should seek guidance from the Faculty Forum either before the Council Meeting or afterwards (as CUSU Council votes may be changed retrospectively). They should attend 80% of Council Meetings and send proxies to those which they are unable to attend. The Faculty Forum may hold a vote of no confidence if their attendance rate becomes unacceptable.

E.10 The Faculty Liaison Officer

The Faculty Liaison Officer is a member of the CUSU Executive in addition to holding the responsibilities of a Faculty Forum Representative on CUSU Council. The Faculty Liaison Officer should attend CUSU Executive meetings and work closely with the Education Officer and Academic Affairs Officer on education issues within the university with a particular interest in the activities

of the Faculty Forum members. Additionally, he or she acts as secretary to the Faculty Forum.

E.11 Amendments

Amendments to this constitution shall be passed by both sections of the Faculty Forum and ratified by CUSU Council.

Saturday Exams

CUSU noted that end-of-year exams in a number of subjects take place on Saturday, that Saturday is the Sabbath (Shabbat) for Jews, when work is forbidden, that in the current situation, those Jews who wish to observe Shabbat are accommodated by members of the Cambridge residential Jewish community, and take their exam on the following day, that under the Campaign for Change, CUSU is mandated to protect minority students from discrimination, and that students may have exams on a Saturday, even if they usually do not have lectures or supervisions on a Saturday.

CUSU believes that, when preparing for exams, having a regular patterns or work is an advantage, that being kept *incommunicado*, in an unfamiliar household, for the day before the exam, places a student a disadvantage and that the current situation therefore discriminates against observant Jews.

CUSU resolves to mandate the appropriate Officers to approach the University authorities with the aim of ensuring that no student has an exam scheduled for a day on which their religion prohibits them from sitting an exam.

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 these 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.

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 the recommendations are good as far as they go and should be followed up, and that some of the recommendations fall as much on the student body as they do on the University.

CUSU resolved to campaign on the relevant committees to ensure the recommendations are followed through, to assist the Black Students Campaign with their follow-up investigation in any way possible, to look into the predominance of alcohol in Cambridge social life, to collect best practice from around the colleges about Freshers' Week events and distribute the information to JCR's and MCR's.

Class List Anonymity

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, and 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 resolves 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 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, to

encourage the University to expand the CAMSIS systems to include results publishing.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2006/7

Broadening the Triposes

CUSU noted the Vice-Chancellor's speech to the Regent House on the 2nd October 2006 in which she asked:

"There is a Natural Sciences Tripos, and so why not a Social Sciences Tripos, a Technology Tripos, or a Humanities Tripos? Could permitted 'borrowings' from other Triposes be wider-ranging without losing their coherence? Do our courses follow conventional pathways at the expense of the less trodden? Should students have more opportunity to broaden their knowledge toward the end of their studies, when they understand better what more they might wish to learn?"

CUSU resolved to support the suggested broadening of the Triposes and the possibility of allowing greater borrowing between them, as long as (a) those students who wish to specialise are still permitted to do so and (b) the University ensures that there is sufficient administrative support for those students taking more complex inter-departmental or inter-faculty courses.

Building Feedback for Students into the Exam Process

CUSU notes that there is currently no feedback available to undergraduates on their performance in non-final year exams, and that examiners' notes are destroyed once the papers have been marked, that there is no access for students, their supervisors or their directors of study to their exam papers once they have been marked. Therefore in cases where student performance is at odds with what has been predicted by supervisors there is no way for the students, the supervisors, or the directors of studies to evaluate the reason for the discrepancy and take appropriate measures, that this lack of transparency makes it difficult if not impossible for administrative errors involved in the marking process to come to light, that this lack of transparency makes it difficult if not impossible for the monitoring and evaluation of patterns of exam success related to: the teaching practices of individual Supervisors; the differing practices for exam preparation of the various colleges; the differing practices for exam preparation of the various faculties and that the current procedure for requesting the re-marking of examination papers is designed in such a way that re-marks very rarely occur, regardless of the level of concern on the part of students, their tutors, their supervisors, or their directors of study.

CUSU believes that examinations are an important part of the learning process for students and feedback on their performance would greatly contribute to their progress through the Cambridge system, that transparency in the examination

system would enable greater understanding on the part of the University and the faculties of existing and potential weaknesses and inadvertent biases inherent in the system.

CUSU resolved to support the right of students to receive feedback from their exams, to encourage transparency in the examination system, and to mandate the Academic Affairs Officer to bring this matter to the attention of the appropriate committee and subsequently to report back on his findings at the CUSU Council as soon as possible.

Guidelines and Training for Supervisors

CUSU noted that the quality of student supervisions varies widely, particularly with regard to: supervisors' level of understanding of what exactly is required of students sitting examinations in Cambridge; supervisors' level of commitment to the supervision of students; supervisors' commitment to keeping up to date with the material and subjects on which they supervise students, that there is currently no adequate system in place to ensure that supervisors are aware of the precise requirements of the Cambridge examination system. This makes it difficult for even the most conscientious of supervisors to structure their teaching in a way that acknowledges these precise requirements, and that there is currently no adequate system in place for the monitoring of the performance of supervisors.

CUSU believes that the supervision system is one of the great strengths of the Cambridge collegiate system, but that the full potential of the supervision system is undermined by the lack of a consistent process of training and monitoring of supervisors, and that this results in an unnecessarily wide variation in the quality of teaching available to students, which impacts upon their ability both to develop their skills within their subject, as well as their ability to convey their skills successfully during the examination process.

CUSU resolved to encourage a consistent programme of training and assessment of supervisors, to recommend that the study of supervisions initiated by the Engineering Faculty be used as a starting point for designing a University-wide evaluation of the current supervision process, to mandate the Academic Affairs Officer to bring this matter to the attention of the appropriate committee and subsequently to report back on his findings at CUSU Council as soon as possible and to uphold and reinforce existing CUSU policy.

Faculty Representation

CUSU noted that there are 23 faculties in the University, each of which is managed by a faculty board, that each faculty board is responsible for (under Statute C,IV and Ordinances, Chapter IX):

- (a) Preparing the teaching programme of the Faculty
- (b) Ensuring the provision of adequate facilities for research
- (c) Ensuring that teaching given is of a high standard
- (d) Authorising courses of lectures and other instruction
- (e) Preparing changes to the tripos and examination requirements
- (f) Suggesting any other changes which it thinks are appropriate.

That each faculty board has three student ('class f ') members, except for Veterinary Medicine, which has two, that each student member may represent and be elected by all the students in a faculty or, alternatively, represent a specific department (e.g. 'ASNAC', 'Geography' &c.) or course (e.g. 'PGCE', 'Graduates').

Graduate members of faculty boards sit on the Graduate Union Council and the majority Aldwych Group Unions who's councillors sit ex-officio (rather than being directly elected) have their university's equivalent of student faculty board members as councillors, and that only college student union representatives are able to vote on motions concerning affiliation fees.

CUSU believes that the faculty boards, by being responsible for education, have a great impact on students, that CUSU can effect change on faculty decisions due to having many officers sitting on higher committees in the University which ratify faculty board decisions, that on many recent university education issues (e.g. the closure of the undergraduate Hindi and Sanskrit courses), CUSU has been almost silent, that many other policies which apply equally to the University and the colleges (e.g. ethical investment policies) have not included policy for the University, that in order to rectify these deficits in the outlook of CUSU, those who represent students to the University should sit alongside those who represent students to the colleges, and that student members of the faculty boards are the appropriate people to do this, by giving them votes on CUSU Council.

CUSU resolved to mandate the DPC to include voting rights at CUSU Council for one student member of each faculty board in their current proposed constitution.

Small Subjects

CUSU noted the current re-organisation of Oriental Studies, and the previous plans to close the Architecture Faculty, that despite their size, a substantial number of students, both undergraduate and graduate, study in these departments.

CUSU believes that the position of minority subjects within the university should be upheld, that the closure or fragmentation of these subjects should be avoided at all costs.

CUSU resolves to support students from minority subjects in resisting negative changes to their departments, to defend minority subjects on all

University committees, to advertise to students the current risks to minority subjects, and celebrate their diversity.

National Student Survey

CUSU noted current CUSU policy against the NSS, and that the NSS has not undergone any significant changes since its inception.

CUSU believes that supporting the NSS is not in the interests of Cambridge students, that the NSS is disruptive to finalists, that the NSS is not “fit for purpose” and is not appropriate as an indicator of the Cambridge experience, and that the NSS does not take into account students’ expectations of their courses.

CUSU resolves to reaffirm existing policy, to continue to aggressively oppose the NSS and encourage JCRs to do likewise, to encourage finalists to “opt-out” of the survey, to lobby the University, HEFCE, IPSOS-MORI and the NUS in an attempt to reform the current survey, and to encourage the University to implement a wide ranging, Cambridge specific survey.

Positive Engagement with the NSS

CUSU notes the current policy against the NSS.

CUSU believes that if the NSS were improved, and made more relevant to the Cambridge experience, it would be a more useful feedback tool, that having questions specific to collegiate universities in the bank of additional questions would add value to the NSS, and that a one size fits all model is inappropriate for an accurate survey of student satisfaction.

CUSU resolves to lobby the University, HEFCE and Ipsos-Mori to introduce collegiate university based questions to the 'bank of additional questions' from next year, and to reaffirm CUSU's current policies on the NSS and to prioritise them ahead of this one

Oxbridge Essays

CUSU noted that Oxbridge Essays is a company which pays students to produce original essays for other students, and there has been an increased level of advertising on behalf of Oxbridge Essays recently in the student press.

CUSU believes that Oxbridge Essays contributes towards plagiarism at best, and cheating at worst, that Oxbridge Essays damages the education of both Oxbridge students, who are already under pressure to produce significant amounts of work already, and the students who purchase the essays, who

have little incentive to do independent work if they can buy an essay for submission/"reference", and that legislation is needed to stop such companies making a mockery of Higher Education

CUSU resolves to put pressure on the government to legislate against Oxbridge Essays and similar groups and to encourage students not to sell essays to or purchase essays from such groups

Plagiarism Awareness and PDE

CUSU noted that the reasons students plagiarise are complex and it is important to distinguish between intentional and accidental plagiarism. Many students

commit plagiarism unwittingly for a number of reasons:

- i. Appropriate referencing techniques are not taught sufficiently
- ii. Students from different educational backgrounds and traditions are not given adequate induction

CUSU also noted that last year in the University there were thirty cases of suspected plagiarism in assessed work, that students can face harsh penalties for plagiarising, that the University has purchased a license to use Plagiarism Detection Equipment (PDE) known as 'Turnitin', which can detect copied work from published papers, books and student essays submitted past and present in

Cambridge and throughout the UK and US - Currently a majority of UK Universities subscribe to it. (For this academic year PDE will be used in a limited capacity for cases of suspected plagiarism in assessed work.)

CUSU further noted that students currently have no access to PDE, that PDE is a powerful tutorial tool and some Universities give students access to it, that NUS policy encourages giving students access well in advance of deadlines to use for selfchecking and self assessment, that PDE requires files in particular formats, that these formats are not always convenient for students or appropriate for their type of work, that the University held a Plagiarism Awareness Day on 3rd May for

Graduates and Staff, and launched a website for Undergraduates, after this was proposed by the CUSU Academic Affairs Officer, and that the University's policy is that there should be more emphasis on the prevention of plagiarism rather than punishment.

CUSU believes that the University is making efforts to raise awareness but more effort must be made, that when PDE is used more broadly students should have access to it, that to use PDE as a matter of course would imply an unjustified distrust of all students, given that student sign declarations promising that their work is their own, and that students should be allowed to submit work in a format convenient to them and appropriate to their work.

CUSU resolved to lobby the University to raise more awareness of plagiarism, to lobby the University to allow students full access to PDE; to present work in formats convenient to students and appropriate to their work and to only use PDE for tutorial reasons or in cases of suspected plagiarism.

Union Matters

ACADEMIC YEAR 2005/6

Election of NUS Conference Delegates

CUSU noted that at the last Council's election for NUS delegates, only eight of the thirteen places were filled, this situation has happened before, and at the elections for the annual NUS conference, voters have to rank over a dozen candidates and most voters in these elections know little about the people they are voting for, except for name and 'tag'.

CUSU believes that an informed choice in an election is better than an uninformed choice, and that the present system for electing NUS delegates is unsatisfactory and can be improved.

CUSU resolved to mandate the Development and Planning Committee to investigate how the system can be improved, including looking into:

- a) Devolving NUS Delegate Elections to the colleges, using a rota system to distribute the places.
- b) Annually electing NUS delegates, who then represent CUSU at all NUS conferences that year (annual, regional, extraordinary, etc).

CUSU Cards

CUSU noted that this year, CUSU Cards have not arrived in time for the start of Full Term, that, due to the lateness of the card delivery, CUSU will be receiving a discount off of the bill for producing the CUSU Cards and that the absence of CUSU Cards has meant that some students have missed out on the offers in participating retailers.

CUSU believes that CUSU Cards are one of the main tangible services that students receive from CUSU and are vital in giving them a sense of ownership over their union, that the absence of CUSU Cards has caused much hassle and inconvenience for CUSU and particularly for the College SU/JCR/MCR Officers on the frontline and that, despite being out of the control of the CUSU Sabbaticals, there should be some form of compensation or discount of affiliation fees as a result of this inconvenience.

CUSU resolved to Mandate the CUSU President and CUSU Services Officer to draw up new procedures to ensure that this year's problems with CUSU Cards is not repeated. In particular, to inform next year's Sabbaticals about the problem, and advise them not to use this supplier again, for CUSU to pass

the discount they have received on to College SUs/JCR/MCRs and to mandate the CUSU Services Officer to amend the college affiliation fees, and budget accordingly.

Website Policy

CUSU noted the new CUSU website at <http://www.cusu.cam.ac.uk/>, the large amount of volunteer work (led by consultant Martin Lucas-Smith and also involving Robert Whittaker and CUSU Sysadmin Rob Bradford) that was required to overhaul the CUSU website and unify the hosting and domain registration arrangements for the other CUSU-related websites, the Graduate Union's website policy at: <http://www.gradunion.cam.ac.uk/website/policy/>.

CUSU believes that its website is a key communication channel with its members, and as such needs to be kept up-to-date and accessible, that it needs to learn from the mistakes of the past couple of years, and takes steps to prevent them recurring in the future and that it is important that CUSU should have full control of its own website, and that relinquishing this to any third party (such as a student marketing company) is unacceptable.

CUSU resolved to adopt the website policy, and have it displayed publicly on the website, not to allow any contract to be signed, without the explicit approval of Council, which relinquishes full control over the site, that any new domain names or hosting are purchased via the account set up by the Services Officer and registered under CUSU's legal ownership, to mandate the Executive to resurrect the previous arrangement of appointing a Webmaster to oversee the technical aspects of running the CUSU website, and compliance with the website policy, to make best efforts to keep the site up to date and to make it as easy as possible for authorised website authors to do so, to encourage JCRs and MCRs to consider the provisions of the CUSU policy when making changes to their own sites, and to rescind any previous policy passed by Council regarding CUSU website-related matters.

No Platform Policy

CUSU noted that a number of societies and institutions within Cambridge University organise speaker events and debates in Cambridge, with speakers who are often high-profile and controversial, that many events are covered in student, regional and occasionally national media, and that events are usually open to members of the University, or promoted by societies related to the University.

CUSU further noted that there has been a national trend of increasing race-related violence over the past 5 years (racist incidents have risen in total from nearly 48,000 in 1999 to 52,700 in 2004), that there has been an additional resurgence in racial and religious hate crime and violence as a backlash to the London bombings of 7 July 2005, there were 269 religious hate crimes in the three weeks after 7 July, compared with 40 in the same period of 2004,

that in Cambridge there have been serious racist incidents recorded in the past, including a racially motivated assault in New Square in April 2002 - Cambridge is not immune from racial and religious tensions, the events of this term when a religious minority group in Cambridge was targeted by a BNP email in which there was a suggestion to the incitement of religious discord and division, the vandalism of cash machines with swastika graffiti last year and the appearance of swastika graffiti on Castle Street earlier this term, that CUSU has a responsibility to protect the welfare and security of all of its members, that CUSU had previously passed a No Platform Policy which had lapsed, that the BNP, the National Front, the White Wolves, Combat 18, the Storm Front, Al-Muhajiroun, Hizb-ut-Tahrir have been known to incite racial hatred in violation of the 1986 Race Relations Act and the 2000 Race Relations (Amendment) Act.3, that NUS has a No-Platform Policy and that NUS has enacted its No-Platform Policy against the BNP, Hizb-ut-Tahrir and Al-Muhajiroun.

CUSU believes that debate and discussion is a valuable asset to the educational and cultural experience provided in Cambridge and should generally be maintained and encouraged, that freedom of speech is an important right and should be respected, that there is a difference between preventing freedom of speech, and avoiding the promotion of speakers who are very likely to incite hatred on the grounds of religion, race, sexuality or along other lines, that therefore, freedom of speech can be respected and maintained, whilst actively not giving a high-profile platform to an individual who is very likely to incite hatred and has been known to have incited hatred on the grounds of religion, race or sexuality, or along other lines, that race-, sexuality- or religion-related hate crimes increase when speakers with extremely racist, homophobic or fascist views are actively given a high-profile platform and this presents a very real risk to students, that all students have the right to study in a safe environment in which they do not feel threatened on the grounds of their race, sexuality or religion, that organisations in Cambridge, who provide a platform to these speakers (as well as Cambridge University as a whole), could be seen as endorsing their views, and that permitting these individuals and organisations to have a platform in Cambridge suggests their credibility and undermines our responsibility to the welfare and safety of our students and our commitment to opposing racism.

CUSU resolved to hold a No Platform Policy that states: CUSU will campaign against attempts by any organisation within Cambridge University to provide a platform to, or actively promote, an individual, or a member of any group or organisation deemed to pose a very real threat to the welfare or security of our members, that CUSU should enact the No Platform Policy against the BNP, the National Front, the White Wolves, Combat 18, the Storm Front, Al-Muhajiroun, Hizb-ut-Tahrir and all known front groups, that the enactment of the policy against individuals or members of groups or organisations who are not mentioned in CUSU Resolves can only occur by a motion to CUSU Council, that there must be significant evidence to suggest that the individual is very likely to incite hatred on the grounds of religion, race and sexuality, or in another way pose a threat to the welfare and security of our members, to release CUSU's No Platform Policy to student media and make it known that

it can only be invoked on the occasion that there is significant evidence to suggest that an individual poses a very real threat to the welfare or security of our members, and establish clearly that CUSU does not wish to infringe upon freedom of speech, that this policy is subject to the legal conditions outlined below.

Protocols in addition to the No Platform Policy, as recommended by NUS Legal:

1. No campaign may be authorised under the No Platform Policy to take effect outside the campus and/or Precincts of Cambridge University.

2. No campaign may be authorised under the No Platform Policy unless:

- i. it relates to an individual, or a member of any group or organisation, who or which is or are known, or reasonably believed, on the basis of significant evidence, to have made any statement, either verbal or written, in contravention of section 18 of the Public Order Act 1986, as amended or re-enacted from time to time, and
- ii. on the basis of significant evidence of not only that but also any other relevant circumstances, it is reasonably believed that there is a real risk that such individual or member will commit an offence in contravention of that section, by which the security and/or welfare of any member or group of members of CUSU will, or are likely to, be detrimentally affected or threatened.

3. If serious objection to the authorisation of a campaign under the Policy is made by any member or group of members of CUSU, or there is any query or doubt about the applicability of the Policy or the authorisation of a campaign in relation to any particular individual, or a member of any particular group or organisation, written legal advice pertaining to such objection, query or doubt shall be obtained and considered by CUSU Council and Executive.

4. An authorised campaign may include a refusal to make available any premises which are occupied by CUSU, or over which CUSU has control, and, if and insofar as that may be relevant, such refusal causes or results in a breach of contract or any legal liability or obligation to provide financial compensation to anyone, subject to the taking and consideration of legal advice, the payment of such compensation may be an appropriate expenditure for CUSU.

5. An authorised campaign may include direct action by way of a peaceful demonstration of protest, subject to the taking and consideration of legal advice, and consultation with a relevant police officer as regards the numbers of persons to be involved in, and the place and duration of, any assembly or picket for the purpose of such demonstration. A written explanation of the legal requirements for any such demonstration shall be produced and provided with any leaflets promoting and encouraging such demonstration. Such leaflets shall contain a brief explanation of the reason for, or purpose of, the demonstration which shall not be confined to simplistic slogans.

6. Reasonable expenditure may be incurred by CUSU for the purpose of producing leaflets and other appropriate literature for the purpose of promoting encouraging and conducting an authorised campaign.

7. Subject to any legal advice taken in respect of any particular campaign authorised in accordance with these guidelines, each and every member of CUSU Executive and Council shall be entitled to claim an indemnity from CUSU in respect of any claims and/or costs, made against, or incurred by, them arising from either the authorisation or the conduct of any campaign.

Council Voting

CUSU noted that votes in Council are counted by the Chair and based on raised voting papers, that it is difficult for the Chair to distinguish between valid and invalid raised voting papers, that at last Council, people were voting even though they had no right to vote, and that Council has strict rules governing proxies and these are not always enforced.

CUSU believes that the only people that should vote in Council are those who have the right to vote according to the relevant Standing Orders for Council and by the CUSU Constitution.

CUSU resolved to better implement its own Constitution and Standing Orders, specifically those pertaining to voting in Council.

Submission of Motions

CUSU noted that currently for a motion to be put to a CUSU Open Meeting or Council Meeting, it needs two proposers, and that in Michaelmas 2005, several motions were proposed that were comprehensively voted down by council.

CUSU believes that a motion should have the support of more than two people before it is proposed to a meeting, so that wider support for the motion is demonstrated before it is put, that a motion with the support of several people will be more appropriate as it will not just have been proposed by someone at the last minute who got their mate to second it, and that this would serve as a safeguard against obviously illegal or impractical motions.

CUSU resolved to mandate the CUSU Development and Planning Committee to look into how motions are submitted, particularly with reference to how many people you need to propose it.

Strong & Active Unions – For a Campaigning NUS

CUSU noted that young people are becoming politicised as part of radical new movements that have shaped the way many of us see the world, and that millions of students across the world are challenging the priorities of global capitalism and imperialism.

CUSU believes that the gap between the newly radicalised generation on campuses and NUS leadership is stark, that instead of involving the many political students in our national union, NUS has cut back the size and diverse composition of annual conference, that the NUS has failed to lead a fight defending our right to a free, publicly funded education system, and that Students are prepared to fight. When NUS called a national demonstration against fees in 2003, 30,000 students responded to the call. Students in Italy responded to privatisation in November 2005 by occupying 50 universities for 3 weeks. We should follow their example. Occupations could have stopped course and department closures, and the closure of Plymouth University's Exmouth campus.

CUSU resolves to defend the block of 12 – no more attacks on democracy, to seek to involve more student activists in NUS and student unions, and to oppose attempts to further regionalise NUS decision making process, which will be less democratic and accountable.

PGCE Students

CUSU noted that Homerton has a large number (roughly 500) PGCE (Postgraduate Cert in Education) Students, that these PGCE Students are not only unique to Homerton, but are also members of Hughes Hall, Emmanuel, Queens, Girton etc , that PGCE students spend a large proportion of their time on school placements - such placements can be in geographically distant locations like Peterborough and Stevenage, that as well as placements a long way away many students live far away such as Peterborough, Harlow, Braintree, Stevenage etc. Many rarely even come into Cambridge, that Homerton Union of Students represents these PGCE students under a Graduate Society umbrella, with a Sabbatical President to look after their needs in full term, and that as an affiliating union to CUSU, HUS pays £2.51 per post graduate student.

CUSU believes that the representation CUSU provides to PGCE students is limited by the vast geographical spread of PGCE students, that PGCE Students have a firm commitment to remaining part of CUSU, with the associated benefits that brings, that PGCE students should not be subject to the same fees as postgraduate students, as PGCE students are not resident in Cambridge for a great proportion of the year, and thus cannot receive the benefits as resident postgrads in Cambridge.

CUSU resolves to adjust the affiliation rate for PGCE Students to less than that for the Postgraduate Rate, for the CUSU Services Officer to investigate a suitable rate, alongside HUS and other interested MCR Representatives, and

bring this back for Council's approval, and for this rate to be incorporated into the budget, and reflect PGCE students in colleges for the financial year 2006.

Council Mailing Lists

CUSU noted that the agendas and minutes of CUSU council are available on the CUSU website, and that there is no public means for ordinary members to be put on an email list that receives these documents.

CUSU believes that many ordinary members may find it more convenient to receive these documents via email rather than on the website, that a more effective distribution of agendas and minutes of council will encourage more ordinary members to become actively involved in CUSU, that increased involvement of grassroots members can only make CUSU more democratic, that ordinary members should be able to receive these documents with greater ease if a better means of distribution is easily set up, that there should be an email list set up solely for the distribution of Council agendas and minutes, and that any ordinary members should be able to join this list by applying through a form on the CUSU website.

CUSU resolved to mandate the Services Officer to create an email list to which the agendas and minutes of Council will be sent, and to mandate the Services Officer to create a form on the website by which ordinary members can add themselves to this email list.

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 made by the University of Cambridge, 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, and they have no union of their own, and that in the past CUSU has conducted casework for ICE students.

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 the situation is not clear as students for the B.Th degree will be matriculated at a Cambridge College, and that CUSU does not represent the students of the Cambridge Theological Federation per se, nor do they have a union of their own.

CUSU believes that every institution should have a strong students union, that the relationship between the Cambridge Theological Federation and the University of Cambridge needs further investigation.

CUSU resolved to mandate the CUSU executive and the Development and Planning committee to investigate the best way forward for these students working with the relevant parties, and to look into, but not be limited to

- a) recognising the students as CUSU members
- b) assisting with the set up of an independent union in the relevant bodies.

DPC Proposal

CUSU noted that there is a need for accountability of the Executive Committee in an organisation such as CUSU, that many members of Council have felt dissatisfied with the level of accountability of the Executive Committee in the last year.

CUSU believes that the simplest means of maintaining accountability is for members of the Exec to present short reports in a document to be distributed at each council, and that such reports should be available to all members in electronic format.

CUSU resolved to facilitate the publication of reports of up to a hundred words in length written by each member of the CUSU Executive on work they've been doing in the intervening period between councils, that these reports to be submitted to the CUSU Chair three days before Council, that an electronic version of these reports to be sent out alongside the minutes and also be made available alongside the minutes on the CUSU website, that a paper version of these reports should be made available at Council, and to amend the standing orders such that:

SECTION B.12

- (iii) Short informal reports of up to a hundred words may be presented by members of the Executive to the chair by noon three days before council.
- (iv) These reports shall be published in paper format for council as well as being sent out with minutes and being made available on the website.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2006/7

Student Card Situation

CUSU noted that despite opposition from the CUSU delegation, NUS Conference 2006 voted in favour of extending the NUS Extra card system nationally, that NUS Extra cards cost £10, and NUS no longer produce any free student discount cards, that due to this change in NUS policy, CUSU cards no longer give the holder a right to the national discounts that CUSU cards have had in previous years, that existing CUSU policy is to support the production of CUSU cards and to reject NUS Extra (See the 2006-7 CUSU budget, as passed by CUSU Council Easter 1 2006, for references to both of

these points.), that in line with this policy, the CUSU Services Officer purchased CUSU cards over the summer holiday, though it was known they would not have national discounts as they used to in the past, that these have been distributed to college JCR and MCR committees in accordance with the requests of college

JCR and MCR committees, that in addition postal forms were ordered from NUS that explain how NUS Extra cards can be purchased, that as with CUSU cards, these have been distributed to college JCR and MCR committees in accordance with the requests of college JCR and MCR committees. However it has been clearly noted to college JCR and MCR committees that CUSU policy is currently opposed to the production and distribution of NUS Extra cards, and that the NUS Extra forms have not been distributed to individuals, unless they have asked CUSU Executive members for such a form.

CUSU believes that past CUSU policy did not comprehensively deal with how to manage the new student card system, following the introduction of NUS Extra, that as an example, that NUS Extra cards are ordered by individual students makes it practically impossible for CUSU to reject NUS Extra cards. Also, no plans were made for how to deal with the money that CUSU would receive from students purchasing NUS Extra cards, that the measures taken were viewed by the CUSU Services Officer as the best way to manage the student card situation, which needed to be acted on over the summer when CUSU Council could not convene, that the new student card system is bound to be confusing for everyone, as with the introduction of the NUS Extra card, the prior student card situation no longer exists, and a new student card system exists. This is a transition year. However, it is possible that the current student card system (as in CUSU Notes) is still more incoherent and complex than it needs be.

CUSU resolved to work towards getting a number of local discounts for the free CUSU card, and regularly publicise the discounts to students, to further publicise to students how the new card system works, to continue to act towards the NUS

Extra cards as outlined in CUSU Notes, and to review the student card situation and the future of student cards at Cambridge University in early Lent, as openly as possible, when the effect of the new NUS Extra is clearer, with a view to determining policy for future years.

Budget Revision

CUSU noted that in the academic year 2005-6, CUSUents, and hence the whole of CUSU, lost around £17, 000 when Couloir Leisure (who own the Souttree club) went into administration, that partially due to this and partially due to other reasons, the CUSU Entertainments Manager and Services Officer over the summer believed that the CUSU Ents budget that was passed by CUSU Council for 2006-7, needed to be revised, that the major changes proposed are:

-Tuesday at Ballare is predicted to make £5, 000 less than in the previous budget, reflecting more realistic estimations.

- Wednesday at Fez as a CUSU joint-run night has been stopped. The night had been estimated to make £5, 000 profit (with costs of £2, 500 and income of £7,500.)

- The Freshers events (a week of club nights rather than one event) is estimated to make £4, 000 profit (previously £2, 000), to cost £6, 000 (previously £3, 000) and to have an income of £10, 000 (previously £5, 000.)

- The Sunday Service at Life is a new night, and is estimated to make £19, 500 profit (with costs of £5, 500 and income of £25, 000.)

- Crowd Control at Soultree is a new night, and is estimated to make £7, 000 profit (with costs of £5, 500 and income of £2,500.)

The minor changes proposed were: an extra £100 is needed for Ents admin, £90 more was needed for the society's fair presence, £100 more is needed for Ents committee development, £200 more for publicity distribution, a phone allowance of £180 is added, and £500 for Ents Manager training.

The net change is profit to increase from £61, 040 (with costs £28, 560 and income £89, 600) to £77, 870 (with costs £42, 230 and income £120, 100.)

CUSU believes that the attached reviewed and edited CUSU Ents budget is more accurate.

CUSU resolved to pass the reviewed and edited CUSU Ents budget, that the whole CUSU budget be reviewed by the CUSU Services Officer, and brought back to CUSU Council within Michaelmas term, that allocation of the excess profit from the new Ents budget be reviewed as part of the above process and similarly brought back to CUSU Council.

Societies Initiative

CUSU noted that the Office of Community Affairs approached the CUSU Services Officer to discuss the possibility of the Societies Syndicate funding training for society committee members and for CUSU to administer the training, and that a draft proposal was written up and is attached to this agenda.

CUSU believes that committee members of clubs and societies cannot currently access any training to improve the effectiveness of their organisation, that training would increase effectiveness of societies, e.g. in financial management, fundraising (and therefore sustainability), produce transferable skills for the individual committee members attending the courses, and allow more effective handovers between incoming and outgoing society committees, and that as such, access to high quality and relevant training would be very good for societies and is worth aiming for.

CUSU resolved to mandate the CUSU Services Officer (who sits on the University Societies Syndicate) and the other student members who sit on the Societies Syndicate, to approach the societies syndicate with the attached proposal, and to ask for funds for CUSU to organise a pilot Societies Training

Programme for 2006-07, that if this is successful, for CUSU to organise, promote and administer a full programme of training sessions open to committee members of student societies (registered and unregistered), sports clubs, and JCR and MCR committee members, that if this is successful, to mandate the CUSU Services Officer to take responsibility for interviewing and employing an administrator to deal with day to day running of the training sessions, with the CUSU Services Officer as ultimately responsible for the training sessions, and that the content and management of any training sessions, would be expected to be the same as on the attachment, but the CUSU Services Officer is allowed flexibility on the is matter, to change the content and management of sessions, as long as this is reported to CUSU Council.

NUS Extra cards income

CUSU noted that NUS Extra cards can be bought in a number of ways, including (but not limited to) online purchases and postal purchases, that NUS Extra cards cost £10, but not all of this money goes back to NUS. With online purchases, £4 goes to the student union the student is a member of, which is itself affiliated to NUS. With postal purchases, £2.50 goes back to the same student union. At Cambridge University, this is CUSU, thus, CUSU receives a certain amount of money from students purchasing CUSU cards. However the amount will vary between years and is impossible to estimate accurately. The CUSU Services Officer has approached NUS Officers with the idea that NUS cards should be charged at £6 to Cambridge University students, with no money going to CUSU. However the NUS Officers stated this was impossible as then NUS Extra cards would cost different amounts across different universities. That currently, CUSU has one Business Manager and one Entertainments Manager. There has been a Business Assistant employed by CUSU over the summer to help with publications.

CUSU believes that from the logic above, it can be seen that CUSU did not seek the money that it receives from students purchasing NUS, however the money is here now and it needs be resolved how it is to be spent. That both the Business Manager and the Entertainments Manager positions have a very large workload, and the two employees do not have the resources to actively seek local discounts for the CUSU card, that it is desirable that students have a free discount card, and as CUSU Council policy supports the production of a CUSU card, it follows that it is sensible for this free discount card to be the CUSU card.

CUSU resolved to aim to make the CUSU card a free local discount card (as opposed to the national NUS Extra card), that the money made from students purchasing NUS Extra cards goes into the employment of a Business Assistant whose sole role is to look for local discounts for the CUSU card, that the CUSU Services Officer is mandated to be responsible for the interviewing and employment of this Business Assistant, and to review this proposal in line

with any change in the student card system for students at Cambridge University.

HIV and Sexual Health Officer

CUSU noted that the position of HIV & Sexual Health Officer is due to be re-elected at Michaelmas Council III, and that World AIDS Day is on 1st December every year, shortly after the handover.

CUSU believes that World AIDS Day ought to be an important date in CUSU's Sexual Health Campaign. That although there are typically World AIDS Day events in many colleges, there has been little or no central involvement from CUSU, and that if the election date for HIV & Sexual Health Officer were postponed to cover World AIDS Day at the end of term then CUSU could help co-ordinate college events and raise the profile of the day.

CUSU Resolved to amend the standing orders to change the election date for this position from Michaelmas Council III to Lent I, to allow the incumbent Officer to retain his position until Lent I, and for the election to be held in subsequent years at Lent I council.

Budget Review

CUSU noted that following Ents and other developments, a budget review was needed, the revised budget 2006-7, and that the revised budget is presented in a simpler format than the Easter presentation due to limited resources currently..

CUSU resolved to pass the budget into policy.

Restructuring CUSU

CUSU noted that a number of CUSU members, including CUSU Council members and CUSU Executive members, have in the past expressed concern with the functioning of the CUSU Executive in particular and CUSU more generally, that 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.

That the CUSU Development and Planning Committee (DPC) have been investigating ways to address these, and other, problems, for the last year, that the DPC have sought to consult widely on these issues with members of CUSU, that the DPC have distinguished between relevant proposals that would not restructure CUSU but more improve its general work practice, and larger, restructuring proposals, that this motion supports the latter, though the larger restructuring does incorporate many of the non-restructuring, fine-tuning proposals, that the restructuring proposal requires a referendum to change the CUSU Constitution and Standing Orders to the proposed attached

Constitution and Standing Orders, that the contents of the restructuring proposal centre 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 is to consist of 4-7 members as relevant, with all (other than the Ethical Affairs team) to be chaired by a Sabbatical Officer, and 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 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 resolved that the proposed Constitution and Standing Orders be taken to a referendum, alongside the main CUSU Elections in Lent term, that, if this motion is accepted, a further motion be brought to CUSU Council on how the changes would be brought in, if the referendum were to be successful.

Online Voting

CUSU noted that the consistently low level of voter turnout in CUSU cross-campus elections has been a cause of concern to the CUSU Elections committee, that making cross-campus elections online is logistically possible, and if work is started shortly, could be used for the major CUSU cross-campus elections in Lent term, that the Graduate Union currently has an online voting system, which both works and has increased voter turnout, that in Graduate Union election system, there is a paper ballot box open in the GU during pre-announced election times, but that there are no open paper ballot boxes in any college, that generally within the Aldwych group of universities, there has been a move towards online voting, which have generally led to higher voting figures, that some of these universities have combined paper and online ballots, some run only online ballots.

CUSU believes that a move to online voting (with or without an additional paper ballot) may increase voter turnout in the long term, that a move to only having online voting and not paper ballots would make elections significantly easier for JCR and MCR committees and Returning Officers, and also for the CUSU Elections committee, that changing electoral system to online voting is a very significant change to the electoral system, and that an abrupt change may lead to unwanted consequences in the short term, such as reduced voter turnout due to voter confusion, that subsequently there are benefits to having online voting and paper ballot boxes in colleges for the first, transitional year, when online voting is being introduced, that it is unclear if these benefits may or may not still hold at elections after the major CUSU cross-campus elections in Lent term, and it is unclear if it would remain beneficial to have both an online and paper ballot.

CUSU resolved to mandate the CUSU Elections Committee to reform the CUSU cross campus election system in time for the major CUSU cross-campus elections in Lent term, that this be done in such a manner that voters can vote on-line, and that also there will be a paper ballot box in every college where students can vote, that the CUSU Elections Committee review the election with a view to removing most paper voting in future years if online voting turnout is high, and to act accordingly if it not, that there will be a standard paper ballot elections as in previous years, if the Elections Committee are at all concerned about the technical running of online voting.

NUS Extra

CUSU noted current CUSU policy against NUS Extra, and that owning an NUS Extra card is not the only way to achieve student discounts.

CUSU believes that NUS Extra is unlikely to be removed by the NUS, and that its impact must be controlled before CUSU consider endorsement.

Societies Publication

CUSU noted that there are 500 plus University Societies in Cambridge, and many many more college societies, that CUSU has good access to these Societies, that a £1000 grant was received from the Societies Syndicate for a Societies publication, on the condition that CUSU spent £200 of its own money on the publication, and also made £350 from advertising in the publication which it spent on the publication.

CUSU believes that CUSU does too little for societies and should do more, that the Societies Fair, though very popular, can be confusing and at times overwhelming for students and societies, and that having a publication encouraging students to get involved in societies in Lent term, as part of a 're:refresh' campaign would be of benefit to students and societies.

CUSU resolved to grant the Services Officer retrospectively £200 of the new Campaigns budget for the Societies Publication, and that the Services Officer should review the format, budget and popularity of the publication, to see if it should be repeated next year.

Transition

CUSU noted that CUSU currently operates under something resembling a system, and that CUSU Council has unanimously voted to bring a different system to referendum this term, that there is a great deal of difference between the old system (Old) and the new system (New).

CUSU believes that New will not be able to be nearly as New or as good as it could be if can't be efficiently and expediently dismantled, that Officers elected or appointed under Old should not be cruelly snuffed out from the CUSU Universe, depriving us of their already committed energy and talents, that CUSU need to know what to do if the referendum goes through, and what to do if it doesn't. One of the two is bound to happen.

CUSU resolved to adopt the Orders for Transition of Officerships, which seeks to quickly anchor the Newness while eliminating the need to remove officers before the end of their terms.

CUSU Logo

CUSU noted that the current CUSU Logo was introduced in 1997, the redesign of other Student Union logo's, as well as the recent redesign of the NUS logo, and the impending move of the CUSU office from Trumpington Street to the New Museums Site.

CUSU believes that the current Logo is outdated, and should be redesigned, that with the office move happening in the coming months (and the address for publications and stationary already having to change) this would be the best time to change the logo, that a new logo, in conjunction with the more central office building, will help improve the image of CUSU both in and outside of the University, that Cambridge contains a wealth of design talent and as such the logo should be designed by members of CUSU.

CUSU resolved to mandate relevant members of the CUSU executive to set up a working party to submit and judge new logos, and to bring a prospective new logo to Lent IV for approval by the CUSU council.

“Governance Reform in Students’ Unions”

CUSU noted the prompting of the charities bill is creating a drive to governance reviews strengthening the service culture in students’ unions and undercutting activism and democracy, that the NUS has failed to give clear guidance on governance or to encourage unions to wait and see the effects of the charities bill, and that external trustees are a retreat from student run and lead unions and should be clearly resisted by the NUS.

CUSU believes that unions like Kings College have rushed into significant changes that are likely to adversely affect student interests and imbed business unionism, that external trustees create a body higher than the elected executive and outside democratic influence and amplify existing problems caused by the continuity of senior staff and rapid turn over of student officers, that closer control by either universities or the charities commission must be

resisted, and that students have the right to control their unions free from the restraints of external trustees or university boards.

CUSU resolved to mandate the DPC to explore the status of Union trustees and, employing such advice as might be necessary, bring to the CUSU Council a number lawful options as how the trustees of the Union could be changed, and to campaign clearly against any damage to campaigning and democracy that is likely to result from the charities bill.

How Many Roads Must a Reform Walk Down?

CUSU noted the extremely serious nature of the problems and shortfalls that spurred the initiation of the full audit of CUSU that began in Lent 2006, the stark contrast produced by the open, transparent, and interactive nature of the planning process as opposed to previous initiatives, the unprecedented success with which varied proposals for solutions to the CUSU's procedural and managerial issues were synthesised into a broad-based working consensus, the near-unanimity with which the CUSU Executive teams, both outgoing and incoming, have embraced the overhaul of the Union, the total unanimity displayed by the Council in two consecutive votes in favour in Michaelmas and Lent, the 85% margin by which those who voted in the referendum supported it, the "yes" vote's achievement of 89% of its quota for passage, the upcoming changes to the Charities Act, with the prospect of increasing pressure on attention to the CUSU's governance, the growing challenge to the viability of small subjects, with the prospect of increasing pressure on CUSU's meshing with faculty insiders and representatives, the Development and Planning Committee's absolute resolve to, in contrast to previous iterations, maintain its cohesion, fulfil its mandate, and *then* disband itself.

CUSU believes that the CUSU cannot credibly tackle, or ask that others tackle, deeply-rooted institutional vices in an 800-year-old organisation that impede the personal and academic development of students so long as it so conspicuously fails to address its own structural shortfalls, that regardless of the best intentions of varying generations of sabbatical and part-time officers, both the Union's internal auditors and its executive recognise that the problems brought by continued growth on the current ad-hoc system of management and governance will only weigh the organisation down to an ever-greater extent, that the Referendum suffered from several contextual factors limiting the response rate during the last election, namely:

- a) The greater psychological ease of leaving blank a pull-down menu
- b) The virtual separation of online votes from the literature meant to inform voters
- c) Widespread ignorance of the need for a quota of "yes" votes to be tallied
- d) The omnibus nature of the reforms and their reach into very different areas of the CUSU's operation, complicating attempts to effectively abridge and simplify information about them

That the referendum also suffered from a deficit of general informative publicity relative both to its importance as an issue and to its unusual need for a quota (as opposed to other sabbatical elections, in which only one candidate reached an equivalent gross number of votes), that the present confidence of the student body in CUSU's personnel is not a permanent remedy but rather a temporary respite, one which will only prevent future floundering if taken advantage of as quickly as possible,

a) That the upcoming rebranding of the CUSU and its physical transfer onto new premises is a unique opportunity to increase both the visibility and interactivity of the Union's operations.

b) That the incoming Executive team will not be able to fully take advantage of this opportunity while mired in administrative and procedural vagaries.

That a delay of another 12 months is unacceptable, and that a delay of another 7 months will have serious consequences for the new Exec team's effectiveness, and that we need an answer, a real answer, as quickly as we possibly can get one.

CUSU Resolved to recognise the vital importance of acting on CUSU's fundamental operational weaknesses, to repudiate the old precedent of the DPC, Exec, and Council descending into bitter chaos when confronted with daunting procedural obstacles, to stand solidly in demanding a response from the general membership, to send the Constitution and Standing Orders, as agreed at Lent I, to a dedicated vote of the CUSU's general membership, and to request that the Elections Committee:

a) Endow the publicity of the referendum with a budget of £250, £100 for, £100 against and £50 neutral.

b) Open the polls exclusively online for a three day period, in conjunction with the part-time cross campus elections if any prove necessary

CUSU further resolved to commend the tireless and competent work of Lizzie Sharples as she steps aside after more than a year as chair of the Development and Planning Committee.

Standing Orders Plan B

CUSU noted the Constitutional Referendum, and that attached to this motion is a

"Plan B" version of the Standing Orders that can function without being tied to the Constitutional changes brought by DPC in 2006/7, that also attached to this motion is a detailed point-by-point explanation of what it is and is not possible to do without changing the Constitution.

CUSU believes that it needs to do everything it can to reform itself as soon as possible to the greatest possible extent given the lacklustre extent of outside participation in, e.g., referenda, that something is better than nothing, and that it is time to disband the DPC once and for all. Please.

CUSU resolved to implement the Plan B version of the Standing Orders, with the understanding that if the Referendum were to pass, its new combined Constitution/Standing Orders one-two punch would supersede the Plan B.

CUSU Card 2007-8

CUSU noted the introduction of NUS Extra cards by NUS, and its displacement of NUS's free student discount card, has affected the Cambridge student card

Situation, that currently and subsequently there are a number of student cards Cambridge students can apply for/have, including the Cambridge University card, NUS Extra, the CUSU card, NUS Democracy, and ISIC, that the initial response agreed on at CUSU Council Michaelmas 1 was to keep the CUSU card, which stopped being a national discount card, and to review the student card situation for 2007-8. Following a limited review, two proposals for Cambridge student cards are proposed for CUSU Council to decide on: that CUSU cards are got rid of, and that CUSU cards stay. Both proposals propose to work towards getting the CUSU logo on the back of the University card - the University Card Service have made it clear to the CUSU Services Officer that if colleges desired, the CUSU logo could be put on the back of the Cambridge University card.

CUSU believes that the CUSU card is of value in making CUSU more visible to students, in that the card notes they are members of CUSU, and shows how to contact CUSU, that the student card situation is not very complex, and if students are confused, this is just due to the recent change of the student card situation following the introduction of NUS Extra, that the profit the CUSU card makes is

Very valuable, when CUSU is under funded and some campaigns in particular need more funds. This profit could be budgeted to be £1000 for a year, and that the CUSU card should be kept for the foreseeable future.

CUSU resolved to lobby to get the CUSU logo on the University card, that irrespective of this, the CUSU card should be kept for 2007-8, and reviewed at a later date for 2008-9, with the assumption it is kept for that year as well unless a review recommends otherwise, that profit made from the CUSU card, go to the 'Fund for New campaigns' Budget Heading in the proposed budget for CUSU 2007-8.

Cross Campus Elections – Dealing with the confusion

CUSU notes that the CUSU constitution is unclear, that the referendum on the constitution has currently not passed with sufficient votes to meet the quorum, and therefore we are stuck with an unclear constitution for the meantime, and that the elections committee wish the council to have the final say on CUSU elections.

CUSU Believes that the part-time positions of Ents Officer, Mature Students Officer and Open-portfolio officer (one place) should be co-opted by the council, that this co-option should take place at Easter II.

CUSU resolved to advertise the elections of the aforementioned positions, to hold the election for these positions at Easter II.

NUS Motions

CUSU noted that the Standing Orders give no guidance on how to deal with motions to be sent to NUS Conference.

CUSU believes that such guidance is required.

CUSU resolved to amend the current CUSU Standing Orders, the Standing Orders proposed by the Development and Planning Committee at the Michaelmas IV Council, and any other Standing Orders proposed between April 2007 and March 2008, unless they explicitly modify this motion, by the addition of the attached text.

The Changes in Brief

1. All NUS motions to come to designated meetings (rather than being split over two or more meetings).
2. All NUS motions to be debated as a group (rather than being mixed in with ordinary motions).
3. NUS motions do not automatically become CUSU policy.
4. An indicative vote to be held to decide which motions to send to the NUS, when more than one motion is proposed for one specific zone.
5. Those in charge of CUSU motions at NUS Drafting Commissions (or "compositing") are to be specifically elected by the Council and will be regarded as CUSU Officers during the compositing process (so they are legally mandated to carry out CUSU policy).
6. A simple by-election procedure is put in place in case changes need to be made to the personnel sent to composite.
7. An observer shall be sent to compositing who will give an aural report to Council.
8. CUSU motions cannot be composited by non-CUSU members. If they are, then they are immediately withdrawn.

Improving the Elections Process

CUSU noted that several complaints were submitted to the Elections Committee regarding various aspects of the conduct of the CUSU Elections 2007. Most of these were with regard to Elections Committee's decisions about election rules, that a complaint about Elections Committee members

running in the election to be an NUS Conference delegate was taken to the Junior Proctor. He ruled that the complaint could not be upheld, but recommended that in future provisions are made to stop Elections Committee members running in the election to be an NUS Conference delegate - several Standing Orders regarding the elections are contradictory or unclear.

CUSU believes that election rules that are drawn up by the elections committee should be approved by Council so that in future the rules are questioned prior to elections and not once they have begun, that provisions should be made to stop members of future elections committees from running to be NUS Conference delegates, and that the Standing Orders need tidying up.

CUSU resolved to replace Standing Order C.2 (iv) with, "A document stating Elections Rules which are additional to the rules laid out herein should be submitted by the Elections Committee for ratification by Council Lent II. In the event that no such rules are submitted, the last Elections Rules that were ratified will apply", to ratify the Elections Rules that were used in the Lent 2007 elections, to change Standing Order C.2 (i) to read, "No member of the Elections Committee can stand as a candidate in any of the elections that the Elections

Committee has responsibility to oversee. Thus they may not stand for election to the Executive or to be an NUS Conference delegate", change the first sentence of Standing Order C.4 (ii) to read, "A copy of the Elections Rules and CUSU Elections Standing Orders has to be distributed with all official nomination forms", to delete "b. CUSU Chair" from Standing Order C.7 (iv) and renumber the other posts accordingly; to replace from Standing Order C.9 (iv) the words, ",in accordance with the Constitution J.21" with a full stop and to delete the phrase, "(allowing for gender balance)" from Standing Order C.9 (v).

Paper Agenda Waste

CUSU noted that the Standing Orders require that paper copies of the agenda for CUSU Council are sent to council members prior to every council, that over 120 paper copies are sent out, even though council turnout rarely exceeds 50, that the chair has the responsibility for photocopying these; putting stickers on every one, and sorting them into the correct college outboxes at the CUSU offices. This process takes between one and three hours depending on the number of pages on the agenda and the state of repair of the CUSU photocopiers, that 30 paper copies are brought to council anyway, for those not on the council mailing list and for those that are and have forgotten theirs. CUSU also noted the existence of e-mail.

CUSU believes that the present system is very wasteful of time, paper and photocopying resources, that email is a sufficient way of conveying the agenda in advance of council meetings.

CUSU resolved to abolish the requirement to send out paper copies of the agenda prior to council, and to change Standing Order B.6 (i) to “Agendas are to be emailed to all Council members nine days before the meeting. Paper copies are to be made available at the meeting itself.”

Transition Motion Plan B

CUSU noted that the CUSU is clearly determined to fix itself one way or another before the end of Academic Year 2006/7.

CUSU believes that regardless of whether the new referendum passes, everyone needs a clear schedule for how to do elections moving forward.

CUSU resolved to adopt the Orders for Transition of Officerships, Plan B.

Welfare

ACADEMIC YEAR 2005/6

Religious Student Welfare

CUSU noted our commitment to our equal opportunities policy, which states “Cambridge University Students Union (CUSU) seeks to enable all members to have equal opportunities and shall seek to protect the rights and opportunities of its members”, CUSU’s commitment to providing for religious diversity in its Equal Opportunities Policy: “CUSU recognises that a large number of religious faiths are represented across its membership and will seek to ensure the accessibility to available facilities and opportunities for students who adhere to a recognised Faith”, that the NUS endorse similar policies of equal opportunities, and that religious festivals and obligations often coincide with term dates.

CUSU believes that respecting a student’s race or religion is vital to ensuring their welfare on campus, and students should never have to choose between their religion and their studies, that the NUS should be progressive body, a model of good practice as regards equal opportunities and participation for all, that although text has been passed by NUS, and a campaign has been run, few Constituent Members are fulfilling their duties with respect to the Race Relations Amendments Act, that Equal opportunities training for student union officers and academic staff is below average, and should be compulsory.

CUSU further believes that the scheduling of NUS or Union events on any religious holiday, festival or occasion is unacceptable, and should be avoided and discouraged at all costs, that religious festival diaries are sent out to all CMs, Freshers Fairs should not be planned to take place during any

religious holiday, that diversity in race, religion and culture is something to be celebrated, and should not only be noticed as a characteristic for anti-racism campaigns, that religious students are often at a disadvantage academically, as observance of religious festivals often results in absence in lectures and seminars, and postponement of exams

Improved information on sexual harassment and violence

CUSU noted that it is not clear as to whether all college staff are police checked, and that college staff are not given clear guidelines about interaction with students, that Freshers are not given clear information about the options and support services available to them should they suffer sexual harassment or violence, that college tutors cannot be relied upon to offer consistent and appropriate advice to students who have reported sexual harassment and violence.

CUSU further noted that a near identical motion to this was unanimously passed by a quorate Women's Council.

CUSU believes that college unions need to provide students with comprehensive information on the options available to those suffering sexual harassment and violence, that information on options and support services should be made delivered in a comprehensive way to students that college tutors should provide consistent and supportive information to students, and that for these changes to take place, Women's Officers would greatly benefit from the support of their college presidents and college union executives as a whole.

CUSU resolves to investigate if college staff are routinely police checked and if college staff are given guidelines about interaction with students, to develop an information pack about sexual harassment and violence for college unions to deliver during Freshers' Week, to compose and distribute information about the options available to students who have been the victims of sexual harassment or violence, and to work with college tutors to ensure that the information they give to students is supportive and reliable.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2006/7

Mental Health Awareness Week

CUSU noted the Mental Health Awareness week which takes place later this term, that the Mental Health Officer has one of the smallest budgets on the CUSU exec.

CUSU believes that Mental Health Awareness week requires greater funding to be a success than that which is currently available to the Mental Health

Officer, that CUSU should allocate funds from the New Campaigns Budget to allow the week to be the success it deserves to be.

CUSU resolved to allocate £200 to Mental Health Awareness Week.

Misc

ACADEMIC YEAR 2005/6

Campaign Against Climate Change

CUSU noted that "Climate change is the most severe problem that..." our world is "...facing today..." , that the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicts that future greenhouse gas emissions are likely to increase average global temperatures by between 1.4 C and 5.8 C this century, and that the impacts of climate change could be massive for example disappearing glaciers in Europe; lethal storms and floods in Latin America and South Asia; depleting arctic ice and permafrost in Canada.

CUSU believes there is an urgent need to reduce emissions of the greenhouse gases that cause climate change, especially CO₂, by replacing fossil fuels with alternative, renewable forms of energy, that there is an urgent need for an international emissions reductions treaty that will reduce total global emissions to a level that will not dangerously destabilise global climate, that the decision by the US government not to ratify the Kyoto Agreement should be condemned, that the UK government's recent decision to retreat from their original position of ratifying the Kyoto Agreement, and to adopt a stance similar to the US government is just as worrying, that students stand to inherit the major burden of climate change, unless urgent action is taken immediately, that many students are involved in areas of study and research directly or indirectly related to energy resources and consumption, and that in light of the above students consequently should be an important part of the campaign against climate change.

CUSU resolved to do everything possible to promote the Campaign against Climate Change, in terms of publicity and awareness events, especially in the run up to the London Climate Demonstration, to support and promote the day of action over climate change that has been called to take place on all university campuses by the NUS on Thursday 17 November, to send a delegation of those students wishing to attend, and banner, to the London Climate Demonstration on Saturday 3rd December 2005, which is part of an international day of climate protest coinciding with the Montreal Climate Talks and to provide transport for the above demonstration if requested by interested attendees

International Student Visas

CUSU noted that the government is currently in the process of removing the right to appeal for those turned down for a visa, that 25% of students turned down for their Visa and who then appeal are successful, the Open Letter from Universities UK to the Financial Times published on the 5th July 2005 where all 120 members condemned the governments plan to remove the right of appeal, that this bill has received 2 readings in the House of Commons and is expected to go through the committee stage and the third reading with little difficulty.

CUSU believes that international students provide a valuable diversity to the University, that international students provide a revenue stream that under the current funding arrangements the University finds invaluable, that this action will exasperate the problem of reduced numbers of overseas applications experienced this year, that the best place to stop this is in the House of Lords, that CUSU is remarkably well placed to lobby on this issue due to it's high proportion of international students and the high number of peers associated with this University, and that working with the University on this issue is more likely to achieve results.

CUSU resolved to lobby as many members of the House of Lords on this issue as possible, to encourage the College Unions to lobby the peers associated with their College on this issue, and to work with and support other groups working on this issue including NUS, the Aldwych Group and the University of London Union.

Holocaust Memorial Day

CUSU noted that the Government established Holocaust Memorial Day four years ago, that the aims of Holocaust Memorial day include "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, and the UN's recent adoption of Holocaust Memorial Day

CUSU Believes that the Holocaust is an event that must not be forgotten, that HMD is a fitting tribute to ensure a collective memory of these events lives On, that HMD seeks to engage society in examining and challenging prejudice, that it is vital that students engage with HMD, that as citizens of a student society, it is incumbent upon NUS members to support HMD in order to provide a national focus for educating subsequent generations about the Holocaust and the continued relevance of the lessons that are learnt from it and furthermore promote a democratic and tolerant society, free of the evils of prejudice, racism and other forms of bigotry, and that every NUS NEC member should endeavour to attend an HMD event.

CUSU resolves 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 affirm commitment to the National Holocaust Memorial Day, to ensure HMD is part of the CUSU educational cycle, and the NUS year, and to send a version of this motion to NUS conference

Sports Injury Clinic

CUSU noted that the University is in danger of losing the Drop-in Sports Injury Clinic Facility currently provided at Addenbrookes, that there are various perceived problems with the current service, including the cost to Colleges and lack of use, as well as funding issues within the NHS Trust, and that the cost of private treatment for Sports Injuries is prohibitively high.

CUSU believes that the quality of sport and number of active sportspeople in the University demonstrate the need for such a facility, that the current cost to the Colleges is not in fact that high, as a proportion of annual spending per student. A levy of £1 per head, even if the service is not used by a very large number of students, is still an extremely small amount to pay for the quality of service provided, that there is little value to suggesting that the service is underused and then admitting that any significant increase in users would put it under too much strain, that the University should carry out a more comprehensive process of consultation to assess the value of the service, and that there is little that can be done to influence the policies of the NHS Trust, but that the policy of the Colleges should be one that reflects junior member opinion.

CUSU resolved to collect, in co-operation with College JCRs and SUs, a petition in support of the Sports Injury Clinic, to ask University and College Sports Captains to investigate the use of the service, in order to be able to justify its value, and to present the results of these to the appropriate University Committees, as well as encouraging JCRs and SUs to lobby at a College level.

CUSU's transport policy: the next steps

CUSU noted the launching of a transport survey in February 2005, the report on the results of this survey distributed and presented at this CUSU Council, that the report contains interesting information on the Citi4 bus, students' concerns about poor lighting, the cost of taxis, the lack of public transport in the evenings, and many other issues, that almost 550 responses were received, that many Colleges outside of the city centre (particularly Girton, but also Churchill, Fitzwilliam, Homerton, Newnham, Robinson and Wolfson) had the highest response rates, and that College student unions cannot always lobby the University and e.g. the City Council on transport and personal safety issues alone.

CUSU believes that the issues of transport, particularly late at night, lighting, students' and students' feelings of safety (or otherwise) whilst moving around the city, are all very important, that CUSU may not have given sufficient attention and time to lobbying on such issues on the past, or in the present, that CUSU has an important role to play on a cross-campus basis on these issue, that CUSU should work harder to help College students' unions take the concerns of their students further, and that the 2005 transport survey, for all its flaws, raises many important issues and areas of concern, and offers at least a framework for taking some of them forward.

CUSU resolved to mandate the relevant CUSU sabbatical officers to use the results of the survey to lobby the City Council, the University's Estates Management and Building Service (EMBS) and any other appropriate organisations, to address some of the issues raised (the Citi4 bus, lighting, cost of taxis, improvements to College taxi schemes etc.) where necessary, to mandate the relevant CUSU sabbaticals to work closely with College students' unions from Colleges which are often neglected in matters of transport, due to their location (particularly Girton), and to help them improve provision of transport for their students, and to use the results of this preliminary survey to identify the key needs of the students who responded and to draw up a longer-term plan of action, or list of desired objectives, which the CUSU Executive can use to plan for the future, in an organised and directed manner, which is of help and use to College students' unions.

CUSUents and May Week

CUSU noted that May week events as a whole are very successful, that CUSU/CUSUents doesn't currently offer one, that last year's smaller scale A+E & Distorted Minds events were very successful and serve as evidence that CUSU/CUSUents has the potential to organize high quality summer club nights/events, that large financial risks are not appropriate for the student union, and that recent approaches had been made to the Ents Manager by private/corporate partners regarding underwriting such an event.

CUSU believes that yet another May Ball would not be the best way forward given the current market, that the full spectrum of events is not currently offered and that gaps in the market could be identified and explored, that it is important to learn from previous events, both successful and less so, in order to understand what best suits the Cambridge market, and that full research should be undertaken and presented to Council before any decisions are to be made.

CUSU resolves to allow the Ents Manager & Services Officer to put together a full evaluation of the merits of such an event, CUSU resolves to bring such an evaluation to the first council of Lent Term.

AUT Pay Negotiations

CUSU noted that the Association of University Teachers (AUT) is current involved in pay negotiations, that the AUT and other teaching Unions supported students in opposing top-up fees, that an argument used in favour of top-up fees during the Parliamentary debate was that Vice-Chancellors promised to commit one third of the extra revenue to increasing lecturers' wages. This has not happened and that the AUT is currently balloting on industrial action, including the possibility of boycotting the marking of assessments.

CUSU believes that a well paid teaching staff is essential to a high quality education, that the students should support the teachers in their negotiations for better pay, that if we must have top-up fees, the Vice-Chancellors should keep their promises and more money should be spent on lecturers wages, and that although we support the aims of the AUT, action which affects students so drastically such as to not graduate is not appropriate.

CUSU resolved for the CUSU President to write a letter to the Cambridge AUT supporting its demands for better wages, for the CUSU President to write a letter to the Vice-Chancellor saying that Cambridge students support the wage demand of the lecturers and encouraging her to use the money gained from top-up fees for this purpose, and to meet with the local branch of the AUT to discuss how it and CUSU can work together and to encourage them to use methods of action that will cause as little disruption to students.

CUSUents Summer Event

CUSU noted Motion k of Michaelmas IV 2005 resolving to investigate the possibilities of adding a summer event to the range of event offered by CUSUents, that several possible events have been considered by CUSUents, with the aim of finding the most popular option for students based on records of attendance over several years, that since that motion, that the CUSU Ents Manager has been approached by a financial backer, and that Diablo 2004 was poorly attended partly because of its location.

CUSU believes that members of CUSU want CUSUents to provide an affordable, financially safe and low risk event, and that this does not necessarily mean large scale, and that any event would have to be held in Cambridge to avoid the attendance problems faced by Diablo 2004. One option being considered is a public green-space in Cambridge, that the date of the event is important; it must not compete with similar events, that a black-tie occasion is not going to be competitive in the Cambridge summer events market, that a well-attended event is better on the whole, even if it is smaller, that a well-promoted club night, such as *A&E* last year can be held alongside other, more unusual events, that many people would like to see more alternative events; there is a market for non-ball-goers who would like more of a 'festival' approach, and that the 'silent disco' is something to explore as this would open up a variety of outdoor locations.

CUSU resolves to allow the CUSU Ents Manager to:

- a. continue talks with financial backers and the Council.
- b. investigate the availability of a silent disco or other alternative attractions.
- c. create an event brand that will attract the largest number of attendees, focussing on the market of people who would not normally attend balls or events.

Bursarial Committee Representation

CUSU noted that Cambridge students currently lack representation on the Bursars committee, that Rent increases continue across the university, and representation for students on all other important university wide committees.

CUSU believes that 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, and that representation would give JCR/MCR representatives a better negotiating position with regards to rents and charges,

CUSU resolved to campaign for CUSU representation on the bursars committee through relevant channels, to mandate relevant CUSU exec members to petition the university for representation

CUSU Anti-Racism Play

CUSU noted that in her hustings speeches for the position, the CUSU Anti-Racism Officer stated her interest in increasing the profile of the Anti-Racism Campaign through theatre.

CUSU believes that putting on a 'CUSU Anti-Racism Campaign play' will encourage more people, particularly black students, to get involved in theatre, that the theatre is a way through which the Anti-Racism Campaign can increase awareness of itself and of the problem of racism.

CUSU resolved to support the Anti-Racism Officer in her application to put on a production of 'In The Blood' by Suzan Lori Parks to be performed in Michaelmas 2006.

Cambridge University Faiths' Forum

CUSU noted the motion to Council in Michaelmas, where Council recognised the BNP's attempt to create 'division and discord' between faith communities in Cambridge, that Cambridge University Faiths' Forum (CUFF) was an informal project initiated by the CUSU Anti-Racism Officer (2004-2005) to

encourage communication and understanding between the Cambridge University faith communities, that until early last term, the CUSU Anti-Racism Officer was responsible for convening CUFF, that at the end of last term, interested parties ratified a Constitution, thereby enabling CUFF to become a 'society', where the convenors and committee are members of the faith societies and not members of the CUSU Executive, that the CUSU Black Students' Officer is currently mandated to attend and vote at CUFF Council meetings subject to this remaining in the CUFF Constitution., and the CUFF Constitution's inclusion of

CUSU Officers:

"E.1. That the CUFF Council shall comprise of two Convenors (ex officio), at least one Representative from each CUFF Affiliated Society, up to two Council-Elected Representatives, the CUSU Anti-Racism Officer and the Black Students' Officer"

and

"L.1. That the purpose of CUSU officers (as defined in (E1) above) on the council shall be to maintain links with CUSU. 2. That each of these officers (as defined in (E1) above) shall have a single vote."

CUSU believes coordination and cooperation between faith societies in Cambridge is very important and should be supported by the CUSU Anti-Racism Campaign.

CUSU resolved to ratify the CUSU Anti-Racism Officer's involvement in CUFF, as stipulated by the CUFF Constitution.

Ethical and Environmental Committee

CUSU noted that the Ethical and Environmental Committee (EEC), has worked successfully over the last 2 years, that its function however has drifted away from what is officially constituted.

CUSU believes that the EEC is a fundamental part of the CUSU Green role.

CUSU resolved to change the constitutional description of the EEC (see appendix below).

Appendix

EEC Constitution:

The Green Campaign is important and it should engage more with individual students, societies and green officers who are interested. In order for the Green Officer to campaign effectively on such a diverse range of issues some

level of sustainable support is strongly desirable and the most appropriate way

to fulfil these aims would have been a formalised committee with a concrete connection to CUSU. The EEC provides an incentive for individuals and societies

to participate, whilst remaining open and inclusive. CUSU will create and recognise the 'CUSU Ethical and Environmental Committee' made up of:

a. Facilitator – (by default the CUSU Green Officer)

b. Five Campaigning posts:

i. Ethical Investment

ii. Fair Trade

iii. Recycling

iv. Sports and Societies

v. Open Portfolio

Meetings to be open to all interested students, and actively advertised to college

Green Officers and relevant University Societies.

Meetings will be held on the 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th weeks of Michaelmas and Lent terms and on the 1st, 3rd and 7th weeks of Easter term.

Ethical Investment Campaigning

CUSU noted that Selwyn, St-Edmund's and St-Catharine's are the only colleges to have ethical investment policies that exclude arms companies, that a recent report by Campaign Against the Arms Trade revealed that a number of Cambridge colleges hold significant investments in large arms companies, that this has been corroborated by research undertaken by the CUSU EEC Ethical Investment Officer, requesting bursars to disclose their investment portfolios under the Freedom of Information Act, that, whilst charities have a legal obligation to maximise returns, recent research by EIRIS suggests that

significant portions of the market (up to 20%) can be excluded from an investment universe without affecting financial performance, that other charities, such as UEA and the Church of England, have ethical investment policies that do not compromise the legal obligations of their trustees, that the Oxford Research Group estimates that the British arms industry receives around £900 million a year in government subsidies, that the Institute for Fiscal Studies estimates

that the net amount raised by top-up fees will be in the region of £500 million a

year, that Cambridge Students Against the Arms Trade has launched a well received campaign and has so far collected more than 700 signatures by University members on a petition calling for Cambridge colleges to disinvest from

the arms industry, and that CUSU's own ethical policy precludes association with companies involved in the manufacture and sale of arms.

CUSU believes that the arms trade has devastating and destabilising effects worldwide; it sustains conflicts and fuels human rights abuses as well as diverting resources from health and education in some of the world's most impoverished regions, that holding shares in a company is tantamount to condoning its actions.

Given the points made above, there is good evidence to suggest that holding shares in arms companies conflicts with the duty that colleges hold under the Charity Commission Guidelines: CC14 section F to avoid investments which might alienate its members or supporters, that following from notes, there is no

reason to suggest that the adoption of an ethical investment policy which discriminates against arms companies, would involve a risk of significant financial detriment to colleges.

CUSU resolved to give official backing to Cambridge Students Against the Arms Trade's campaign for colleges to institute and implement ethical investment policies, in the form of:

1.1. giving official support for a university-wide online petition calling for colleges to disinvest from arms companies and linking to the petition from CUSU website.

1.2. mandating the CUSU Executive to look into staging a university-wide demonstration in Michaelmas 2006 against colleges' investments in arms companies.

CUSU also resolved to mandate CUSU to publicly denounce careers fairs which include arms manufacturers and to lobby the Careers Service to provide more ethical career choices to engineering graduates, to mandate the CUSU Ents officer to organise a Michaelmas Ent along the theme of "Drop Beats not Bombs" and give a proportion of the profits to a relevant charity, and that in the event that CUSU secures representation on the bursars committee, to use this position to lobby for ethical investment.

AUT Action

CUSU noted the action taken by the AUT including the boycott of assessments.

CUSU believes that our lecturers deserve to be well paid.

CUSU resolved to support the AUT in their national claim for a decent pay deal.

CUSU Ethical Policy

CUSU noted that CUSU's previous ethical policy has lapsed, that an ethical policy can provide a framework in which CUSU's suppliers, sponsors and associates are regulated by a code of conduct, that this policy will be made practical by the purchase of an EIRiS survey. This survey will provide CUSU

with a list of acceptable and unacceptable companies according to the code of conduct identified in the policy, and that the CUSU services and business manager will decide where to 'draw the line' on the list of acceptable and unacceptable companies, therefore CUSU will not lose any vital finances, it will instead do business with more ethically sound companies.

CUSU believes that an ethical policy is a vitally important to the workings of a responsible institution.

CUSU resolved to accept the CUSU Ethical policy (http://www.cusu.cam.ac.uk/union/council/0506/easter/2/Ethical_Policy.pdf) as CUSU policy.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2006/7

Ethical Investment Demonstration

CUSU noted that the motion 'CUSU support for ethical investment campaigning' was passed by the quorate CUSU Open Meeting of Easter 2006, that this motion committed CUSU to give official support to Cambridge Students Against The Arms Trade's campaign for ethical investment, including looking into the staging of a demonstration in Michaelmas 2006, that the ethical investment officer has looked into the matter, and that CSAAT is planning a demonstration for February 2007, to take place during One World Week, that the staging of a demonstration is a major organisational task which will require CUSU's practical and financial involvement to succeed, particularly with regards to:

- a) the procurement of a PA system and generator
- b) the booking of appropriate and high-profile speakers
- c) liaison with University officials
- d) publicity
- e) stewarding

and that the university authorities have so far refused permission to use Senate House Lawn for the demonstration, and that this amounts to a denial of the opportunity to demonstrate on university grounds.

CUSU believes that the ethical consequences of colleges' investments are an issue of mounting concern to students over which grassroots campaigning is already taking place, and that, as the representative body of Cambridge students, it is crucial that CUSU is an integral part of such movements.

CUSU resolved to work together with CSAAT, and other interested university groups, towards the organisation of an ethical investment demonstration in February 2007, and to treat this as an official CUSU event, to focus the demonstration on the issue of college investments in arms companies, and to use it to call for colleges to draw up ethical investment policies in consultation with their student bodies. to mandate the Green Officer to facilitate CUSU involvement by establishing a steering group to include representatives of

CUSU, CSAAT and other student groups involved in ethical investment campaigning, to allocate £200 to help meet the costs associated with the demonstration, such as hiring a PA system and generator, travel costs of speakers, publicity, banner making, etc, and to mandate the CUSU president to:

- a) lobby the university authorities for permission to use Senate House Lawn for the demonstration
- b) make a speech on behalf of CUSU at the demonstration.

Sudan Divestment

CUSU noted that there is a humanitarian crisis occurring in the Darfur region in the Sudan, a humanitarian crisis that has killed over 400,000 civilians since February 2003 and 2.5 million people have been displaced, that foreign investment has been of great importance in enabling the heavily indebted Sudanese government to finance its military policy of genocide, that the last reliable source of information indicated that University bodies held a large amount of stocks in companies which meet guidelines for divestment by 'Sudan Divestment UK, that the guidelines for divestment have been implemented by a large number of organisations, with American states, cities and Universities all adopting restrictions on their investments, and that of the top 4 Universities in the world (as ranked by the most recent table compiled by Shanghai Jiao Tong University) Cambridge is the only one which has not enacted or even considered a divestment plan.

CUSU believes that the ethical consequences of colleges' investments are an issue of mounting concern to Cambridge students, that in the CUSU open meeting of Easter 2006, the first quorate CUSU open meeting for four years, a motion passed in support of 'ethical investment campaigning', that targeted divestment is a powerful method of influencing the Sudanese government, that it is incumbent upon the rest of the world and Cambridge University in particular, to do everything possible in order to facilitate the end of the genocidal killing of civilians and the restoration of security and the rule of law to the Darfur region.

CUSU resolved to call for the University and all its affiliates (including colleges) to divest from those companies identified as meeting the 'Sudan Divestment UK' guidelines on Sudanese divestment following a review of the holdings of the University and its affiliates, to call for the University and its affiliates to make a statement of its intention not only to divest but to refrain from investing in any companies which meet the 'Sudan Divestment UK' guidelines until the situation in the Darfur has been resolved, and for the executive committee of CUSU to actively pursue the issue through meetings with the relevant administrative bodies.

Anti-Islamophobia

CUSU notes that since the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, there has been a steady increase in racism and Islamophobia, which has often manifested itself in physical attacks, this has reached new heights following Jack Straw's comments about the niqab being a barrier to participation in society, which were subsequently endorsed by Tony Blair. A wave of racist attacks followed these comments including at least one instance of a niqab being ripped from a woman's head – in this and other incidents, the attacker specifically cited Straw's comments, that Bill Rammell has affirmed his support for Imperial College's banning of the niqab, and plans have emerged from the Department for Education and Skills asking staff to spy on "Asian looking" students, and that the fascist BNP called the local elections of 2006 a "referendum on Islam", and more than doubled their number of elected representatives. The party has said the New Labour ministers' comments have "left BNP spokesmen trailing".

CUSU believes that with the question of the niqab, as with any other item of clothing, we must defend a woman's right to choose, that the comments from Jack Straw, Bill Rammell and the Department for Education and Skills are not about "integration" but are fostering the climate of scapegoating which ultimately benefits the far right, and that Islamophobia has increased throughout the "war on terror"

CUSU resolved to oppose the current racist and Islamophobic backlash and any attempts to ban religious or other clothing, by working with Islamic societies and other groups fighting racism and attacks on civil liberties, and to defend the right for Islamic societies and other groups to organise politically on campuses except those named in CUSU's no platform policy; we should welcome those who are fighting back against the racist policies and rhetoric of the government, and their effects.

International Freshers' Week

CUSU noted that a recent survey conducted by the Council for International Education reveals that international students are more closely integrated with their co-nationals and other international students than with local British students, that international freshers are burdened by administrative tasks and chores in Freshers' Week and thus have less time to socialise.

CUSU believes that by encouraging international freshers to come into residence earlier, they can carry out the administrative tasks before Freshers' Week starts, that this puts them at an equal footing with British students and so they should be able to fully take part in social events with the locals.

CUSU resolved to support JCRs' petitions to colleges for 3 days of free accommodation/accommodation at reduced rent before term starts for International freshers, that JCRs should organise orientation days that aims at helping international students set up bank accounts, mobile phone numbers, etc., which are to happen before the official Freshers' Week, and that all

colleges should send out the International Freshers' Guide compiled by CUSU International to international students before they arrive at Cambridge.

World Chechnya Day

CUSU noted the role of the CUSU Anti-Racism officer and CUSU Black Students' campaign is to tackle the roots of racism and discrimination, that on Wednesday 23 February 1944 Stalin ordered the deportation of the entire Chechen and Ingush populations, along with neighbouring tribes, to Central Asia, Siberia and Kazakhstan, that the deportation and subsequent exile resulted in the deaths of over half the Chechen nation, that the roots of this deportation stem from the deep-rooted racism for the North Caucasian people in general - and the Chechens in particular, that on 26 February 2004, the European Parliament recognized the 1944 Deportations of the Chechen people as an act of genocide, that t5. This day is marked worldwide as World Chechnya Day to remember the innocent victims of the Day of Deportation and in doing so participants assert a continuing commitment to oppose racism, victimisation and genocide, that the extent of the Stalinist genocide of the Chechen people, and of other nations within the former Soviet Union, is not known and World Chechnya Day is not marked amongst the Cambridge student population.

CUSU believes that in combating racism and preventing future human rights abuses awareness of such crimes is essential, that the victims of the 1944 mass deportations of the North Caucasian people should not be forgotten, and that the student population of Cambridge would benefit from an awareness raising event supported by CUSU.

CUSU resolved to support an annual awareness-raising event coinciding with World Chechnya Day, and to publicise the World Chechnya Day event so as to encourage as full a response from the student populace as possible.

Affiliation to the Cambridge Living Wage Coalition

CUSU noted that given high living costs in the Cambridge area, low wages, even though meeting the national minimum wage level, can be insufficient for meeting basic needs and thus produce hardship; that the recent establishment and progress of the Cambridge Living Wage Coalition (Facebook: 'You wouldn't want less than six and a half'), an alliance of individuals, Cambridge student societies and students' unions, campaigning for a living wage for Cambridge University and college employees of at least £6.50 per hour, a figure supported by UNISON; the Freedom of Information requests carried out by the Cambridge University Labour Club to Cambridge colleges, which showed that over 1,000 employees across the colleges currently earn below the living wage; the

University of Cambridge's 2006 pay settlement which will guarantee all University (but not college) employees a wage of at least £6.50 per hour in the near future, that Queen Mary's, University of London, decision to become the UK's first Living Wage Campus in 2006, following a successful campaign by student and other activists.

CUSU believes that, following the University's and QM's lead, all Cambridge colleges should adopt a living wage policy to pay all staff at least £6.50 per hour of work, excluding full time students, that with the benefits brought to students through membership of the University come moral and social responsibilities, that the aforementioned moral responsibilities include the duty to support University and college employees in their efforts to secure a decent standard of living relative to the society of which they are members, that in addition to the moral case, a strong business case exists for colleges to pay a living wage, including the arguments that colleges paying the living wage may experience:

- i) Lower staff turnover and therefore less waste associated with retraining;
- ii) Higher staff motivation, with resulting gains in productivity;

That CUSU's affiliation to the Cambridge Living Wage Coalition would provide additional weight to the Living Wage Campaign begun by University societies, College bursars should not use rent rises caused by the increase in wages to justify further rises above and beyond the cost to the college of providing all of their staff with a living wage.

CUSU resolved to officially affiliate to the Cambridge Living Wage Coalition.

Oxford and Cambridge Careers Handbook Website

CUSU noted that annually CUSU creates, alongside OUSO (Oxford University Student's Union), a publication called the Oxford and Cambridge Careers Handbook (OCCH), that this publication is aimed by the two students unions to be of service to students as a source of general field and company specific information for future employment, that the publication also makes a large amount of money for CUSU (approximately £25, 000 for CUSU 2006-7) which funds the other work that CUSU does, such as its various campaigns, that there are a rising number of companies trying to link students and graduate recruiters, which might in the long term threaten the revenue of the OCCH, that the OCCH currently has a website, but the Business Managers and Production Managers (at CUSU, the Services Officer) of the OCCH both felt this to be in a very bad state, having little functionality primarily, but also as being very challenging to edit, being inflexible, and poorly designed, that the Business Managers and Production Managers of the OCCH at both students unions have made a website tender for the website redesign and received 11 responses from interested companies, that one tender has been agreed upon by both Student Unions Business Managers and Production Managers as the best tender. That this preferred tender has the following cost for the two student unions together: the website tenderer will receive £20, 000 up front costs, plus the

first £10, 000 the website makes in advertising, and subsequently 20% of the website profit for three years. CUSU would have to pay £10, 000 up front. Purchasing such a website would be considered as an intangible investment, as future income would at least cover the costs of the website, Business Managers and Production

Managers of the OCCH at both students unions agree that the website is likely to make a minimum of £40, 000 in its first year. £10, 000 will go to the website tenderer, leaving £30,000 income. Of this, 20% will go to the tenderer, leaving £24, 000. This will cover the up-front costs of £20, 000 and leave £4, 000 between the student unions, with £2, 000 going to each.

CUSU believes that there is a risk involved in this project, which involves an expenditure of £10,000, that due to the competition facing the OCCH, there is a large risk in not developing such a website, that by paying through the website

particularly by commission and not only with up-front costs, reduces some of the risks involved, and that there is a very large potential; here for the OCCH to be of further use to students and for it to make significantly more profit than now. Following this, that the development venture is a sensible way forward, and that over the next few years, moving the OCCH progressively more online would ease the difficulty of distributing the OCCH.

CUSU resolves to spend £10, 000 on the OCCH website, under the responsibility of the CUSU Services Officer, that, after the payments to the tenderer as pointed out in CUSU notes, the first £10, 000 made from this website will fill the previous year's cash outflow.

Ethical Clothing Suppliers

CUSU noted that CUSU's Ethical Policy commits CUSU to "promote good labour and environmental standards within CUSU and its "suppliers/ sponsors / associates", that CUSU is affiliated to the Cambridge Living Wage Campaign, that while we do not buy from companies deemed unacceptable to work with by the EIRIS (Ethical Investment Research Services) survey, some suppliers of CUSU clothing do not carry the Fairtrade Mark, that the Fairtrade Mark is an independent consumer label which appears on products as a guarantee that the product must meet the rigorous international Fairtrade standards, that there are Fairtrade, union-friendly clothing companies, for example "Ethical Threads" that will print shirts to order.

CUSU believes that CUSU's Ethical Policy should be carried out not just by avoiding blacklisted companies, but also by seeking out and dealing with explicitly ethical companies, that unionisation is needed to help guarantee the sort of standards that the Ethical Policy demands, and that CUSU, itself a union, should support the right of workers to form democratic, independent unions, that the higher price on ethically sourced goods better reflects the true cost of those goods.

CUSU resolves to purchase CUSU clothing only from suppliers that carry the Fairtrade Mark, to purchase CUSU clothing only from suppliers which allow

unionisation at all stages of the production process, to inform any suppliers with whom we thereby cease to trade of our reasons for switching out, in order to encourage them to recognise their employees' rights, and for the same standards to apply to all clothing that bears the CUSU logo

Contract & Converge (C&C)

CUSU noted that C & C works on the following assumptions:

a. A cap in atmospheric CO₂ concentrations is necessary to prevent large scale climate change:

b. All people have an equal right to emit CO₂, thus emission quotas should ultimately be calculated on a per capita basis.

c. CO₂ emissions credits can be brought and sold on a global market.

Thus C&C advocates that global CO₂ emissions must 'converge' to per capita quotas and contract to a 'safe level' at which wide-scale climate change is avoided. This 'safe-level' is to be decided by politicians and climate scientists when the framework is implemented.

CUSU believes that students as members of the global society deserve to live in a future unmarred by climate change. C&C secures this future, that a cap in atmospheric CO₂ concentrations is necessary to prevent large-scale global climate change, that all people intra - and inter -generational, have equal right to emit CO₂, and that CO₂ emission credits are a commodity and thus should be bought and sold on a global market.

CUSU resolves to support C&C, to support the University and the Students Union in taking steps to reduce carbon emissions.

a. More specifically support 3Cs a student umbrella organisation working to tackle climate change in Cambridge.

b. To provide 3Cs support in holding a Climate Change awareness raising night.

To call for the UK government to seriously consider C&C as a method of global climate change prevention.

CUSU Special Awards

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

CUSU believes that besides CUSU Anti-Racism and Black Student's Campaign, other student organisations within Cambridge University should be encouraged

to promote understanding and dialogue, that it is better to promote understanding as a preventative measure, rather than fight racism and discrimination after it has occurred, that by providing an annual ceremonial "CUSU Special Awards" to two organisations and/or individuals within Cambridge, a platform for positive action will develop to proactively counter discrimination through reducing ignorance, that 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 resolves to hold an annual small event where two "CUSU Special Awards" are presented to the winning nominees at the first Council of Easter Term, that the winners will be announced on the CUSU Bulletin and in TCS, that the nominations will be open throughout Michaelmas and Lent terms of the same academic year and Easter Term of the previous Academic year. Two students must propose the nominee (the nominee can be either an individual or a society or an individual on behalf of a society), that 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 next year's awards) and will include:

| *Name of Individual/Organisation:

| *College:

| *Year of Study:

| (optional) Declaration of any affiliations with Student 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 Student's Campaign and CUSU Welfare Officer will unanimously short list 7 nominees for consideration at the voting Exec meeting. In an event of disagreement Anti-Racism will chair this meeting, and any concerns will be raised to 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 student organisation / individual (to be used to further promote the activity), the "CUSU Award" for Promoting Understanding will consist of second prize of 50sterling pounds for the student organisation / individual (to be used to further promote the activity), and both awards will be accompanied by a small memorial plate

Citi Bus Scheme

CUSU noted that the Stagecoach Citi Bus Trial, which charges students a discounted rate of 50p for bus usage in the Cambridge area, will end this summer, that the Uni 4 will continue to run, at a cost of 50p per journey for students.

CUSU believes that contributing to a Citi wide bus subsidy for all staff and students would be a better investment than subsidising one bus route, that the Uni 4 is of no benefit to Girton students, and of a lesser benefit to Homerton students than the current scheme, and that if the Uni 4 is to continue to run, it should revert back to being a free service for university card holders (but that this should be of a secondary priority).

CUSU resolved to put pressure on the University and Stagecoach to continue the 50p scheme for all students, to campaign for the Uni 4 service to be a free service, as it was under the previous arrangement (when it was known as the Citi 4).

Visa fees for International Student Sabbaticals

CUSU noted that international Students (non-EU) wishing to be sabbatical officers of CUSU must pay a fee for their Visa to be processed.

CUSU believes that this may be a prohibitive factor for International Students wishing to run for CUSU Sabbatical Positions, that there should be so financial barrier to any student wishing to be a CUSU sabbatical officer (other than the wages..)

CUSU resolved to pay the visa fees for all future CUSU sabbatical officers (including current sabbs-elect) who are International students, as a necessary expense of employing these individuals. This will come from "legal fees" - budget heading 6415

Honorary Life Membership – Lizzie Sharples

CUSU noted the outstanding work done by Lizzie Sharples as Chair of the

Development and Planning Committee, and her work on the same committee over of a period of nearly two years, and that despite being forced into the chair of DPC, she has performed exceptionally.

CUSU believes that regardless of whether the DPC referendum passes, we should thank Lizzie by making her an Honorary Life Member of CUSU.

CUSU resolved to make Lizzie Sharples an Honorary Life Member of CUSU.

Honorary Life Membership – Jacob Head

CUSU noted Jacob Head, and that Jacob Head took on a position which his predecessor felt had no merit, turning the position into one of the strongest on the CUSU executive, that he has performed the arduous task of being the Undergraduate rep on the General Board this year, and that Jacob has worked exceptionally hard through his time in CUSU, furthering the aims of faculty reps and trying at every opportunity to bring educational issues to the fore.

CUSU believes that we should thank Jacob by making him an Honorary Life Member of CUSU.

CUSU resolved to make Jacob Head an Honorary Life Member of CUSU.