

Minutes of the KCSU Open Meeting, 18th February 2010

Apologies: Louisa Loveluck

Emergency Motions: None

Reports and Announcements:

Jacob: CUSU Council on Monday at 7.15. Nominations for Sabbs open at the moment. Six full timers, usually third year, run the union. Nominations close on Monday, after CUSU Council on Monday there'll be the first hustings.. People should get along to that. Most important thing that affects student welfare. Some interesting motions.

Tindall: Green officers filling in things for GLT. Ranks colleges. I might be milling around looking at showers and things. Apologies in advance if you catch me sneaking round.

Cameron: ON Sunday in here we have an LGBTQ film night. If anyone knows anyone who'd like to come, come, get them to come.

Juan: College are open to a bust of Alan Turing.

Barnaby: We have a legal constitution – College council ratified it.

Jacob: Also, it's not only Sabbs being elected. A few part-time roles. NUS Delegates. 5, down from 12. Being elected at the same time. Ethical Affairs. A few other part-time officers. Tell any people you think are ethical or national, etc.

Questions to the Executive: None

Motions:

LGBTQ Library Budget

Cameron: Good to have more money for LGBTQ DVD Library. Hasn't been money spent in a while. I have a long list of requests from other people. Some really good films, such as Maurice, have been put forward. Used a lot. I see no reason that we can't have some more.

Jack Goss: Could we pass it on the condition that we have enough money? On the idea that if it's £100, then, fine, but if the treasurer thinks it's a matter of distress..

Juan: Treasurer has veto anyway

Vote taken: Majority in favour, 2 abstentions. Motion passed.

Debating in the Bar:

Jack Goss: essentially, bar is a space we can talk, chat, it's a pub. Plenty of other debating spaces. Can have any debate you like at any time in college. Any debate can happen, wouldn't hurt anybody to move them. Bar staff, people who don't want to hear the debate, having a happy drink. They shouldn't have to move. Because you could do it somewhere else, why should it be in the bar?

Juan: Against this – there have been a lot lately, but there were some issues we and the college felt were very important to all. You have a point that we could have these in other rooms. When it comes to the hammer and sickle – Chetwynd, Keynes were not available. In student representation meeting, there were 54 people at the joint open meeting, between 7 and 10 people playing pool on the side. Another point, the people playing pool were drifting in and out of listening to the meeting. I disagree that the bar is a pub – that's one of the functions. It's also a space for big decisions about student life to be taken.

Harry Frankish: If I'd gone down to the bar for a pint, seen there was a thing on, I would have just left. To say there were only a few people playing pool – this could be because there was a debate going on.

Jacob: Factually, it's not true that we can't get other rooms sometimes. Would prevent us in future. Theoretically, we're not talking about debates between random societies. These are debates of entire undergraduate population. In practice, lots of our issues, even budget issues, affect everybody. It's a place where we drink, but we're one of the only colleges without a JCR. Bar is officially our common room. It'd be ridiculous to say we can't do things other unions would do in their common rooms. Having it in a public space can involve people who didn't know they wanted to be involved. I'd say that on balance I don't think your feeling of disenfranchisement outweighs this.

Jack: Not taking the Keynes room – having open meetings on other days? I fail to believe that every single room in college would be booked.

Jacob: Factually, we were in this position, we had to organise this debate, there were no other rooms.

Jack: Your paternalistic idea that KCSU has a better idea of what I want to go to than I do is ridiculous. We have an agenda, we have minutes, I can read – the idea that I didn't know I was interested, no no no.

Juan: We're not telling you we know better than you do. We apologise that there are cases where a lot of people care, but not everyone. It is KCSU policy to have them not in the bar as much as possible. In future, we'd only do it in cases such as these.

Shayan : Amendment. KCSU resolves to hold debates in the bar only when no other room in King's is impossible.

Jack: When at least three possible days have been suggested. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. Why Thursday particularly?

Juan: One of the reasons is, our treasurer would not be able to attend budget etc.

Luke: I think that it says literally to ban debates in the bar, different from banning open meetings in the bar. We might actually want to arrange something like a debate, socially. You can replace the word debate with loads of other things, and it reads and makes sense. Nobody has ever said we shouldn't have gigs, art exhibitions, poetry nights in the bar. All of these things could impinge on people's enjoyment. Jacob's band – I could complain.

Jack: If someone wants to put forward a motion banning it, I'm happy to listen.

Luke: Your motion could apply to any of these.

Andrew: A lot of the officers do use the bar throughout the day. We have an environmental council, etc. Does this motion cover that during the day when the bar isn't open. Very ambiguous and badly worded motion. Needs to be restructured to remove ambiguity. Say KCSU should ban open meetings and debates within the bar. It's not a motion that can be passed. Whole spectrum of amendments.

Jack: It should say public debate not private discussion. I take the point. Secondly should say that music should definitely be accepted. Because it's a JCR, it should be 'when the bar is open'. "To ban organised public fora in the bar when it is open".

Harry: The only times I've been in the bar and felt I couldn't talk with my friends is when these debates, discussions, hustings etc have happened. When there's music on, I can still get a drink, chat etc. These are intrusive.

Matt: If this motion is to be passed, it should be passed in the bar with as many people as possible. It only happens once a week, usually in this room. This term, emergency things that affect everyone, still quiet areas.

Chad: Is this reworded resolves going to stop us going hustings?

Jack: Yes. Hustings should be on a stage, Keynes hall. You can fit as many people in there.

Ben Sheilds: Whole point of this thing is, if people want to be here, they can be here. If they're that bothered they can be here. Re: hustings, you're told to be quiet.

Juan: Announcing – all of these open meetings were announced in advance. Surely there's another space you can go. There are alternatives, it's not like it's our only space.

Jacob: Getting caught up in amendments. Shouldn't change our discussion. Paraphrasing me when you said I was paternalistic. Some people do get involved without realising they wanted to be. In terms of going to a specifically booked room – private space. The bar is a public space – whether it's to socialise or drink, is a moot point. Hustings happened in the town centre, in the market place, where all the booze was. Politics and unions developed out of beer halls, where people sat together to drink and discuss these things. Your argument to say you personally disagree with this, shouldn't stop the far larger body of people who don't mind it/think it's a good thing.

Tindall: Quite a few people have spoken to me, saying reason they like it in the bar, people who really want to go to it/don't want to, won't. Those who don't read emails, etc, have busy timetables, forget about these things. Strengths of having big public space, you can leave and enter as you will. Leaving a small space like this, obvious. Bar gives you change to slip off politely.

Jack: No problem with people advertising in the bar just before meeting. I don't believe most people read emails, they'll read the subject. Not knowing an open meeting is on not a reason to have it in the bar.

Ben: They went to the bar, they chose it over the meeting.

Matt: People who're in the bar are more interested if it's down there.

Luke: I'm trying to work with you – talking about public fora is going to include a lot of societies who meet up in small groups. I propose you pick which one of these you like "To ban KCSU, KCGS, CUSU and GU open meetings and hustings occurring in the bar while it is open" or "To hold these in venues other than the bar, when possible, while it is open".

Jack: I accept second.

Luke: "Resolves to [above]"

Juan: This is only KCSU. We can't stop KCGS, but we can stop CUSU GU.

Jacob: I don't think that we should just amend it like this. I think we should vote this down. None of these amendments change the fact that it's not a bad thing to have meetings in the bar.

Juan: I agree with Jacob. I still think that we should vote against this. KCSU will take this as a point to work on.

Tindall: This amendment would leave the possibility to have open meetings in the bar, if other rooms are booked, etc. Potentially this leaves the opening up. I don't like having open meetings in the bar, it's a big space, hard to talk through it when people make noise.

Luke: I agree with Jacob – reason I’m amending it, not that I hope it gets passed, but it’d be unfair to completely reject a motion because it was ambiguously written.

Harry: I don’t think the amendment made it less bad. What I would like to be banned are things where, if I was making a lot of noise, quiz machine, table football etc. Noone should stop me doing that. A lot of people would be telling me to shut up. Discussion of a society round a table aren’t going to tell me to shut up. I would like to make amendments and pass it where that’d be the case.

Leo: Surely on this, we should ban pub quizzes.

Luke: It’d be a big mistake not to have KCSU hustings in the bar. A lot of people wander through and think “ooh, hustings etc’.

Jack: What’s lost is the main point. People will still go if they want to. If hustings is popular enough, then have it in the bar. The point of this is that some people don’t want these there.

Tindall: People who really don’t want to hear debate will go to the Eagle.

Amended Motion: To hold KCSU, CUSU GS meetings and hustings in venues other than the bar except when other suitable areas are unavailable:

6 in favour – 2 abstentions – 12 against. Motion Rejected.

Meeting closed.