



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

CUCA Lent 2022 TGM

Order of Business of Tuesday 12th April 2022

Convener: Roberto Salvia (Chairman, Easter 2022)

Recorder: Florian Sittler (Secretary, Easter 2022)

Present:

Florian Sittler, Roberto Salvia, Hugo Williams, Lara Brown, Zachary Marsh, James Vitali, Parley Ruogu Yang, Sam Hunt, Alistair Mathieson, Amy Garcia Szego, David Eagleson, Charles Palmer, Devika Shah, Ellie Breeze, Emeline McClellan, Harry Hopkins, Ike Quian, Isaac Figliuoli, Jack Alderman, Jacob Griffin, Joel Shah, Keir Bradwell, Phoebe Pickering, Sam Bidwell, Sam Davidson, Thomas Cross, Toba A., Owen Cooper.

[Vice Chairman James Appiah is notably missing](#)

Excused: Sam Spiri

Guests: N / A

AGENDA

1. Introductions, roll call
2. Constitutional amendments proposed by Roberto Salvia (Appendix I)
3. Discussion
4. Vote
5. Constitutional amendments proposed by Sam Bidwell (Appendix II)
6. Discussion
7. Vote
8. Constitutional amendments proposed by Zachary Marsh (Appendix III)
9. Discussion
10. Vote
11. Constitutional amendments proposed by Harry Hopkins (Appendix IV)
12. Discussion

13. Vote

14. AOB

15. Adjournment

Minutes

16. Introductions, roll call

17. Constitutional amendments proposed by Roberto Salvia (Appendix I)

18. Discussion

19. Vote

20. Constitutional amendments proposed by Sam Bidwell (Appendix II)

21. Discussion

22. Vote

23. Constitutional amendments proposed by Zachary Marsh (Appendix III)

24. Discussion

25. Vote

26. Constitutional amendments proposed by Harry Hopkins (Appendix IV)

27. Discussion

28. Vote

29. AOB

30. Adjournment

Appendix I. Constitutional amendments proposed by Roberto Salvia

- The replacement of 'Conservative' by 'conservative' in three places in **1.1**
- **The amendment was passed with 17 ayes, 0 nays**
- The addition of the following clause to **1.2 Notes on Interpretation**: *"The version of the Constitution uploaded to the website is to be considered the definitive version. It is the duty of the Librarian to update it after every TGM to ensure its position as an up-to-date, legitimate document."*
- **No discussion, motion passed with 20 ayes to 0 nays**
- The removal of clause **1.7**
- **No discussion, motion passed 20 - 0**
- The renaming of the position of 'Secretary' to 'Librarian'.
Librarian as a new role with new duties, caretaker of minutes and constitution, noble documenter rather than political apparatus, no discussion, 19 – 0, motion passed
- The redefinition of the powers to the Secretary/Librarian in **3.13** to the following:

Hugo Williams: why delete committee meetings? Might be helpful and interesting to keep history of society.

Zachary Marsh: committee meeting minutes should not be available online due to privacy concerns – change meaning of meeting as it might concern committee meetings – recruitment might be too much work, moves secretary to higher position

James Vitali: agrees with Zach on recruitment drive

Removal of last phrase regarding recruitment

20 – 0, motion passed

"The Secretary shall properly record the results of the meetings of the Association in the Association's minute book Google Drive, accessible to all via the CUCA website, and provide adequate notification of the date, time and place of Committee meetings to the other people eligible to attend. Minutes of Committee meetings will be uploaded to a second Google Drive, accessible only to the Committee and deleted at the end of each Term. The Secretary Librarian shall also keep accurate and fair records of the membership of the Association and attendance at meetings of the Association on the Committee's Google Drive, and is tasked with leading efforts to maximise recruitment of new members, especially during the Michaelmas Term.— Minutes of committee meetings will be archived separately.

The Librarian is responsible for making sure the Constitution of the Association is updated at the end of every Meeting if need be and that the version of the Constitution on the CUCA Website is up-to-date."

- The removal of the line "*is an appointed role*" from **3.14 The Powers and Duties of the Social Events Officer**

No discussion, 21-0, motion passed

- The deletion of clause **3.15 The Powers and Duties of the Events Financial Officer**

No Discussion, 30 – 0, motion passed

- The deletion of the line "*It must be at least seven days before the Termly General Meeting.*" from **4.4.Nomination Meetings**
- The addition of "*, or 50% of events held that term – whichever is lower.*" to **5.3.(g)**

No discussion, 19 – 1, motion passed

- The following rewording of **5.4.(b)** to add mention of using CUSU election software specifically and making sure the election does not occur when CUSU are likely to be unavailable to publish the results quickly:

"Any contested position is resolved by electronic ballot using CUSU software, open from 7am to 7pm, at a date prior to the TGM on a weekday excluding Friday. The Returning Officers must disable the Re-Open Nominations (RON) option."

Zachary Marsh: prefers on day results, CUSU best worst option, impartial arbiter, terrible software yet most fair option

Hugo Williams: CUSU is unreliable, mention of strikes, high workload due to individual vote entrance, do not specify CUSU

Parley: not necessary to attach our constitution to CUSU software

Sam Hunt: polls should not close on Friday, no elections on Friday

Owen Cooper: asking for specific reason of RON absence – not answered

16 – 7, motion passed

- The rewording of **5.3.(d)** to:

“The Returning Officers will enable members to individually verify determine whether or not they are included on the Electoral Roll 24 hours before voting opens. Any discrepancies must, if appropriate, be corrected. The Electoral Role on the close of polls is final.”

No discussion

19 – 1, motion passed

- The deletion of a floating paragraph in **5.6. Campaigning Regulation**.

No discussion

20 – 0, motion passed

- The changing of the penalties for electoral misconduct under **5.9.(c).i - iv** to:

“i)For the first minor offence a verbal warning.

ii)For the second offence, or a sufficiently greivous first offence as determined by the Returning Officers, a written warning.

iii)For the third offence termination of the person in question’s candidature in that Election. This will not affect the Candidate’s Membership of the Association. If the offence is of sufficient gravity to bring the Association into disrepute, the Committee may follow the process for revokation of Membership as set out in Section 2.2.”

Zach Marsh: opposes motion, old system allowed hierarchy of punishment, 3 strike system might allow for free pass for major offense,

--Roberto Salvia: public written warning

6 – 11, motion NOT passed

Appendix II. Constitutional amendments proposed by Sam Bidwell

- Change 'Sunday' to 'Saturday' in 4.8:

Hugo Williams: Sabbaths often on Saturday, Adventists etc

--Sam Bidwell: you observe the Sabbath every day

Thomas Cross: only weekdays

--Sam Bidwell: people might be busy on weekdays

19 – 7, motion passed

Appendix III. Constitutional amendments proposed by Zachary Marsh

- Add to **5.3(k)** “but must not have previously held the position of Chairman/Vice-Chairman.”

No discussion
20 – 0, Motion passed

- Add to **3.13 (Powers and Duties of the Secretary)**:

‘The secretary should also, in the course of each term, produce a written record of the speakers hosted by the Association, the approximate attendance at each of them, and anything notable said during these events. They should also include a record of the Port and Policy events held, the motions debated, and the paper speakers on each motion. In addition to this, the secretary should record any additional significant events that occur within the society, including but not limited to special events, relevant news stories, and partnerships with other bodies. This record should exist electronically and also be filed as a paper copy.’

Zach Marsh: secretary/librarian to create history of society of the term, create objective history, improve record keeping

Parley Ruogu Yang: cannot find Uni library box, isn’t in constitution,
No further discussion

- Add to **5.3(f)** (‘He must have, if currently serving as secretary...’):

‘... in addition to a complete record of the Association’s activities that term, as laid out in 3.13’

Motion passed, 20 – 1

Appendix IV. Constitutional amendments proposed by Harry Hopkins

- The creation of the role of a Commissioner:

CUCA shall elect a Commissioner to investigate electoral, financial or other malpractices within

CUCA. This election shall follow the same format as an election for a committee position with the following changes:

1. Candidates must not have previously held or currently hold a committee position within CUCA or the Cambridge Union. Past co-opt positions do not bar a member from standing.
2. The election shall take place at the start of the term following the TGM (Easter term 2022). The vote shall take place within 10 days of the start of the Full Term.
3. The list of eligible voters shall be the one used for the previous term's elections (Lent 2022 elections).
4. The position of Commissioner is not a committee position. Whilst in office, the Commissioner may not be a co-opt in the committee and may not attend committee meetings.
5. A current or former Commissioner may not run for an elected committee position within CUCA following their period as Commissioner.

The Commissioner may appoint volunteers as unelected aids to help him/her in writing the report. These aids do not follow the same restrictions as the Commissioner (i.e. they may be past/present committee members, may run for an elected committee position in the future, etc).

The Commissioner shall write a report over the course of the term in which they are in office. This report will deal with any malpractices they find. The Commissioner is encouraged to focus on the previous term and on instances of malpractice brought up at the previous TGM, however, they may investigate other areas of malpractice should they deem it beneficial to CUCA for them to do so. All malpractices found should be listed in the final report.

The report shall only contain proven malpractices and shall not contain unproven accusations (with one exception noted below).

The report shall be delivered verbally at a members-only event (either as the whole or event or as part of a larger members-only event). The report shall also be delivered in writing to all CUCA members via their Cambridge University email address, in this version individuals shall not be named, except in the following cases:

1. Any individual who has been proven to have deliberately obstructed the progress of the inquiry.

2. Any individual who has given their express permission to be named.
3. Any individual who has engaged in illegal activity (illegal by UK law) to the clear detriment of CUCA and its members.

Any individual who deliberately obstructs the progress of the inquiry when investigating an accusation against said individual will have allegations against them listed in both the verbal and written reports. In each instance, the Commissioner must make clear that these are only allegations.

The Commissioner shall have no authority to force participation with the inquiry other than being able to name those who deliberately obstruct the progress of the inquiry.

The Commissioner shall have no authority to alter the constitution based on the findings of the report, however, they may suggest amendments to the constitution in their report. These suggested amendments will then be voted on at the following TGM.

The Commissioner shall have the authority to remove the name of an individual from the verbal report if they offer to give the Commissioner information regarding other, more significant, malpractices. When doing this, the Commissioner should understand that the aim of the inquiry is to identify CUCA's vulnerabilities, rather than to name and shame.

Roberto S.: questions efficacy of role due to lack of enforcement

--HH: it is more a matter of transparency – to put up with TGM – having made previous amendments above we can move forward as a society, not open up new wounds

Parley RY: supports Harry. Website currently offers negative links, CUCA consistently making bad press, independent body might be able to issue press statements, official records might add formality and investigation

--Roberto S.: this is not the purpose of this amendment

--HH.: committee can do this with a legitimate chairman

Sam Bidwell: this would not do the job, create awful culture as it might encourage hearsay accusations – we are already doing enough, current committee is dedicated enough and aware of the issue

--HH.: society is to strengthen against malpractice, name drop out not like name and shame

--Sam B.: bringing in constitution to dwell on particular incident is not necessary

Sam Hunt: Mechanisms for dealing with this malpractice are already in place. Investigations only dropped due to drop out. Commissioner is not safe from issues of corruption, no

guarantee against it. Small organization does not allow for a true outsider position.

Amendment does more harm than good

Zachary M.: noble cause, but it is difficult to put in long term amendments because of a single current incident, amendment issue: journalists are already present within CUCA, excuses to name individuals are too plentiful, plea-bargain clause highlights partiality of commissioner, commissioner could simply recruit his friends into it. The amendment is bad for the long term health, CUCA doesn't need a termly smear paper. Zachary not concerned regarding last incident.

James Mathieson: Zachary voted, is he allowed to – acc. To Mathieson he is not – he is not, vote taken from the register

6 – 17, the motion did NOT pass

Meeting concluded.