



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

CUCA Easter 2022 TGM

Order of Business of Friday 24th June 2022

Convener: Roberto Salvia (Chairman, Easter 2022), James Appiah (Vice-Chairman, Easter 2022)

Recorder: Owen Cooper (Librarian-Elect, Easter 2022)

Present: Roberto Salvia, Owen Cooper, Aron Thomas, James Appiah III, Emeline McClellan, Parley Yang, Oliver Howes, Isaac Figliuoli, Jacob Griffin, Alistair Mathieson, David Eagleson, John Lush, Zachary Marsh, Jason Singh, Charlie Palmer.

Excused: N / A.

Guests: N / A

AGENDA

1. Introductions, roll call
2. Constitutional amendments proposed by Owen Cooper (Appendix I)
3. Discussion
4. Vote
5. Constitutional amendments proposed by Aron Thomas (Appendix II)
6. Discussion
7. Vote
8. Constitutional amendments proposed by Isaac Figliuoli (Appendix III)
9. Discussion
10. Vote
11. AOB
12. Adjournment

Minutes

1. Introductions, roll call

1. Roberto Salvia: Hands over to James Appiah III and new CUCA Committee.
2. James Appiah III: Thanks Roberto Salvia, thanks ET2022 and LT2022 Committees.
3. James Appiah III: Encourages members to get involved with Conservative Party and other societies, thanks new Vice-Chairman John Lush, etc.

2. Constitutional amendments proposed by Owen Cooper (Appendix I)

1. Owen Cooper: Four amendments are to make our elections fairer and more competitive.
2. Owen Cooper: First two amendments are to increase Hustings turnout, third amendment is to give the Association independence from CUSU, fourth amendment is to implement a simplified two-strike policy for electoral misconduct rules.

3. Discussion

1. First amendment
 1. Owen Cooper: Advertise Hustings earlier to get higher turnout.
 2. Zachary Marsh: Supports motion, asks about potential election timetable issues.
 3. Owen Cooper: Hustings can be advertised before close of nominations.
 4. James Appiah III: Agrees.
2. Second amendment
 1. Owen Cooper: Hustings held before final Port and Policy of Term increases turnout.
 2. No discussion.
3. Third amendment
 1. Owen Cooper: We need constitutional independence from CUSU, CUSU has caused us issues with the recent delayed Vice-Chairman election.
 2. Jason Singh: What is CUSU?
 3. Owen Cooper: CUSU is old name for Cambridge SU.
 4. Roberto Salvia: Proposed CUSU motion last TGM, CUSU software is independent from CUCA, teething issues with CUSU software, next election may be easier, CUSU is independent from CUCA, Constitution needs specific voting software for electoral legitimacy.
 5. Jason Singh: CUSU software worthwhile, issues with discrepancies.
 6. James Appiah III: CUSU has issues, better to propose specific software.
4. Fourth amendment
 1. Owen Cooper: Two strike rule simpler than confusing current rules surrounding removing multiples of 10% from offender's vote share.
 2. Roberto Salvia: Three strikes give more chance.
 3. James Appiah III: Agrees with Roberto, two strikes is too harsh.
 4. Jason Singh: Returning Officers should do a presentation of what the rules are.
 5. Aron Thomas: Returning Officers can decide punishments with current Constitution.
 6. James Appiah III: Agrees.
 7. Owen Cooper: Will not take amendments to amendment.
 8. Jason Singh: Think carefully about realpolitik, perhaps make a guide to what is allowed in elections.
 9. Aron Thomas: There are examples in the Constitution of levels of misconduct, impossible to list all forms of electoral malpractice.

4. Vote

1. First amendment: Proposition 6, Opposition 0, Abstention 0 – Motion passed.
2. Second amendment: Proposition 5, Opposition 0, Abstention 0 – Motion passed.
3. Third amendment: Proposition 1, Opposition 6, Abstention 0 – Motion rejected.
4. Fourth amendment: Proposition 1, Opposition 5, Abstention 0 – Motion rejected.

5. Constitutional amendments proposed by Aron Thomas (Appendix II)

1. Aron Thomas: Motion extends Campaigns Officer Role from one term to three terms, inappropriate to extend to a year in my term of office, changing Campaigns Officer

every term is confusing for local Conservative Association, we need longer term for our Campaigns Officer.

6. Discussion

1. Jason Singh: Puts too much work on one person, suggests amendment of two Campaigns Officers (junior and senior) to create a Campaigns Officer team for CUCA.
2. Aron Thomas: Recognizes valid concerns, however two Campaigns Officers is too many for a small Committee, constitutional capability to form sub-committees.
3. Roberto: Good argument but other officers have same issue, Campaigns Officer is a first position for many Committee members, fewer Campaigns Officers over time gives fewer members chance to serve as Campaigns Officer.
4. James Appiah III: Echoes statements, CUCA could just become a group of friends which we want to avoid, suggests having Campaigns Officer-Elect (like Speakers Officer-Elect) as amendment.
5. Aron Thomas: CUCA underperforms in campaigning relative to other political societies.
6. James Appiah III: Problem is with Cambridge electoral body, not CUCA itself.
7. Jason Singh: Main officer could become power broker, one officer serving a year and a sub-committee could lead to abuse of power, two Campaigns Officers could be feasible, disagrees with Aron's motion.
8. Aron Thomas: Recognizes concerns, will not make amendments to motion, Social-Events Officer needs LSM relationship which works without concern, local Conservative Association wants a Campaign Officer who serves for a year making requirements for Campaigns Officer different to Social-Events Officer.

7. Vote

1. Proposition 2, Opposition 6, Abstention 0 – Motion rejected.

8. Constitutional amendments proposed by Isaac Figliuoli (Appendix III)

1. Isaac Figliuoli: Proposed amendment removes automatic election of unopposed officers and reinstates RON for all contested and uncontested positions.

9. Discussion

1. Emeline McClellan: RON necessary for CUCA due to RONning of female members preventing them from joining Committee in the past.
2. Jason Singh: Echoes concerns.
3. Roberto Salvia: Culture in CUCA has changed; however, RON could be used to discriminate against members based on conservative factions.
4. Isaac Figliuoli: Removal of RON was a temporary fix, CUCA is friendly to women now, women will no longer be RONned, RON is necessary for democracy, uncontested elections are not democratic so RON must be reinstated to give us democratic elections.
5. James Appiah III: We are not constitutionally bound to democracy.
6. Roberto Salvia: Agrees with Isaac but believes standing in election against a candidate you disagree with is more courteous way of dealing with a disagreement, RON does not embody values of CUCA.
7. James Appiah III: Legitimacy could come from required quorum of 10 votes for elections.
8. Isaac Figliuoli: Cambridge SU gives abstain option but no RON, people should have right to abstain from uncontested elections which is similar to RON, quorum of 10 votes gives same benefits as RON.
9. Jason Singh: Amending the Constitution for uncontested elections is the real problem, not voting.
10. Isaac Figliuoli: Happy for amendments, amended amendment removes 5.4.(a) and change 5.4.(b) to remove reference to RON.
11. Isaac Figliuoli: Changes amendment again to leave 5.4.(b) unchanged and only removes 5.4.(a).
12. Jason Singh: Come up with a different amendment to solve this issue.

10. Vote

1. Proposition 5, Opposition 9, Abstention 0 – Motion rejected.

11. AOB

1. No other business.

12. Adjournment

Appendix I. Constitutional amendments proposed by Owen Cooper

- The addition of a sub-section relating to the advertisement of Hustings under **5.5. Hustings** to ensure the membership are aware well in advance of when the Hustings will be held:

"(f) Hustings shall be advertised with at least 72 hours' notice."

[Vote]

Proposition: 6

Opposition: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion passed.

- The addition of a sub-section relating to the format of Hustings under **5.5. Hustings** to increase attendance by preferably holding Hustings at the start of the final Port and Policy of Term before the election:

"(g) Hustings shall be held in-person at the beginning of the final Port and Policy of Term before the election. If this is not possible, Hustings will be held online via a videoconferencing software chosen by the Returning Officers."

[Vote]

Proposition: 5

Opposition: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion passed.

- The following rewording of **5.4.(b)** to remove specific mention of using CUSU election software to ensure that the Association remains constitutionally independent of CUSU:

"Any contested position is resolved by electronic ballot using software chosen by the Returning Officers, 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."

[Vote]

Proposition: 1

Opposition: 6

Abstention: 0

Motion rejected.

- The changing of the penalties for electoral misconduct under **5.9.(c).i - iv** to enforce a simplified two-strike policy:

“i) For the first minor offense in which there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Candidate was unaware that they were breaking the electoral rules of the Association, the Returning Officers will issue the Candidate with a private written warning.

ii) For the second minor offence, a first minor offence with proven intent beyond reasonable doubt to break the electoral rules of the Association, or a first offence of sufficient seriousness as determined by the Returning Officers, the Candidate’s candidature in that Election will be terminated. Termination of candidature alone will not affect the Candidate’s Membership of the Association. However, if the offence is of sufficient severity to bring the Association into disrepute, the Committee may follow the process for revocation of Membership as set out in Section 2.2.”

[Vote]

Proposition: 1

Opposition: 5

Abstention: 0

Motion rejected.

Appendix II. Constitutional amendments proposed by Aron Thomas

- Amend 5.1. Elections as follows:

“Elections shall be held before every TGM for contested offices other than those of Chairman, Treasurer, Speakers and Externals Officer, Campaigns Officer, and appointed members. The two Returning Officers for the election are to comprise the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Association, respectively.”

- Insert 5.2. Election of Campaigns Officer:

“An Election shall be held before the Easter TGM for the Campaigns Officer, if contested. The position of Campaigns Officer shall be held for the period from the Easter TGM to the following Easter TGM, i.e. an entire Academic Year.”

- Insert 5.3. Provision for Election of Campaigns Officer for the 2022-23 Academic Year:

“An election shall be held before the 2022 Michaelmas TGM for the Campaigns Officer, if contested. The position of Campaigns Officer shall then be held for the period from the 2022 Michaelmas TGM to the following Easter TGM.”

[Vote]

Proposition: 2

Opposition: 6

Abstention: 0

Motion rejected.

Appendix III. Constitutional amendments proposed by Isaac Figliuoli

- Remove 5.4 (a)
- Modify 5.4 (b) to:

“Any position is resolved by electronic ballot from 7 am to 7 pm, at a date prior to the TGM. The option to re-open nominations (RON) shall be provided for both contested and uncontested positions”

[Vote]

Proposition: 5

Opposition: 9

Abstention: 0

Motion rejected.