

Drafting Commissions—A Dull Motion for a Dull¹ Organisation

CUSU Notes

1. The National Union of Students;
2. The chaos that is the annual Drafting Commissions meeting or “compositing”;
3. That observing the 2007 “compositing” nearly drove the normally mild-mannered CUSU Education Officer, 2005-2007, and Anti-Racism Officer, 2005-6, to commit acts of physical violence;
4. That CUSU has no control over what happens to our motions at “compositing” and, because of this, CUSU motions have frequently come close to being combined with texts which conflict with CUSU policy and with which most Cambridge students would strongly disagree;
5. That people still cannot pronounce “composite” .

CUSU Believes

1. That property is theft.

CUSU Resolves

1. To try to get a grip on what happens at the Drafting Commissions;
2. To amend the current CUSU Standing Orders and Standing Orders proposed by the Development and Planning Committee at the Michaelmas IV Council by the addition of the attached text;
3. To compost anyone who cannot pronounce “composite” .

¹In the antonymical sense of “bright” .

Article X²—NUS Motions

For such time as the CUSU is affiliated to the National Union of Students the following Standing Orders shall apply.

Designation of Council Meetings

1. For each body within the NUS for which CUSU may submit motions, the Chair of CUSU Council shall designate suitable CUSU Council and Open Meetings at which:–
 - (a) Motions may be proposed for submission to the NUS;
 - (b) Amendments to any published motions may be proposed;
 - (c) Members of the CUSU may be elected to represent the CUSU at Drafting Commissions, as Drafting Officers.
2. No motions for submission to the NUS, nor amendments to published motions, may be submitted at any meeting other than one which has designated for such purposes by the Chair.
3. Motions proposing text to the NUS, including those passed by an Open Meeting and requiring ratification, shall be considered together, separately from other motions and any resolutions contained therein shall not become resolutions of the CUSU unless such resolutions are passed as a separate Ordinary Motion.
4. Should the CUSU be limited in the number of texts it may send to the NUS, then an indicative vote shall be held by the Council to decide which motions should be sent. If applicable, the Chair shall rule as to which “zones” or “baskets” within which the texts fall.

The Senior Drafting Officer

1. The CUSU President shall be designated the Senior Drafting Officer and shall observe all meetings of the Drafting Commissions.
2. Should the CUSU President be unable to observe any given meeting (either through an inability to attend; a wish to composite text; or some other reason) then the position of Senior Drafting Officer shall pass, *in loco tempus*, to the Chair of CUSU Council and then to some person as designated by resolution of the CUSU Executive.
3. The Senior Drafting Officer shall be responsible for assisting the Drafting Officers in their work, particularly with regards to matters pertaining to CUSU policy, and shall make an oral report to the CUSU Council on their work, following the Drafting Commissions.
4. The Senior Drafting Officer shall be permitted to draw attention to any Drafting Officer who, in his or her opinion, failed to represent the CUSU at the Drafting Commission.

²F in the current Standing Orders; H in the Michaelmas IV ones

Drafting Officers

1. The CUSU Council shall elect, at some meeting as designated by the CUSU Chair, a number members of the CUSU as Drafting Officers equal to the number of representatives CUSU may send any specific Drafting Commissions.
2. The CUSU Council shall be encouraged to give preference in these elections to those involved in drafting or proposing any texts sent by the CUSU to each specific Drafting Commission.
3. Only members of the CUSU may stand for election and Re-Open Nominations shall be an option.
4. A Drafting Officer shall only hold Office for the length and location of the Drafting Commission.
5. Should any member of the CUSU, elected to be Drafting Officer, be unable to fulfil his or her duties, or a vacancy occur, a replacement shall be co-opted by:–
 - (a) The next CUSU Council Meeting, unless it shall not meet before the Drafting Commission;
 - (b) The next CUSU Executive Meeting, unless it shall not meet before the Drafting Commission;
 - (c) The Senior Drafting Officer.
6. Prior to the election, the CUSU Chair may designate the specific responsibilities for each Officer (for example, to represent the CUSU in a specific “zone” or to composite a specific motion or amendment).
7. It shall be the responsibility of the Drafting Officers to ensure that any text submitted to the Drafting Commission is composited in a way that, as much as is practicable, is in line with existing policy of the CUSU.
8. No text proposed by the CUSU shall be composited by anyone other than a Drafting Officer and the rights to control a text be delegated to a person who is not a member of the CUSU, then it shall be considered as withdrawn by the CUSU.