

## Minutes of the meeting of the meeting of the Student Christian Council 11<sup>th</sup> May 2004, Fisher House Library

**Present:** Becky Bowtell (Fusion); Steven Cooper (CCMS); Kelly Hockey (Fisher House); Geoff Martin (Ark); Connor McDonough (Fisher House); Clare McQuitty (Taizé Worship); Chris Rayson (MethSoc); Carys Underdown (Retiring Convenor); Hannah Vaughan-Spruce (Fisher House).

**Apologies:** Chau Diem Nguyen (new CGS rep.); Simon Perry (Senior Treasurer).

Action points

- **Opened in Prayer**

- **Minutes of last meeting, etc.**

Apologies for Absence, Notification of AoB, etc., were given.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read; Matters arising were:

- **Groups to be contacted by the SCC:**

Carys has had an e-mail from the Lutherans, who will get back to her;

CGS have a new rep;

Connor to ask Orthodox friends about OrthSoc/SCC;

Simon's reply from UCCF worker is that, in terms of where the 'chain of command' lies, UCCF have no authority over CICCUC. Simon has approached a past president of CICCUC, but has got no further, as yet;

Becky told us of a group praying for unity, particularly with regard to the CICCUC/Fusion situation. Bex to forward details to e-mail list.

Sister Valerie is getting back to Kelly with information on the Aquinas group.

It was suggested the editor of [www.christiancambridge.org](http://www.christiancambridge.org) be invited to future Council meetings.

- **Ceilidh:**

It was decided that the Ceilidh be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October, door opening 8pm.

The Timber Merchants to be asked to play (by Steven).

Freshers' information to be on display in the FH library.

Connor & Hannah to check re. opening Fisher bar.

- **"A New Vision for the SCC"**

Steven presented a draft proposal for the SCC's "New Vision", based on what was said at the previous meeting, as a starting point for discussion. The plan was broadly approved, and it was recommended it be revised, and then presented to societies for their consideration.

The following points were raised:

☆ That there should not be a compulsory fee.

☆ Whether CEUC membership would be 'opt-in' or 'opt-out' should be for individual societies to decide (not all groups work on a subscribed-membership basis anyway, which would make the mechanics as outlined in the draft difficult).

☆ There was indecision as to whether membership cards were necessary/useful/dispensable; their cost to be investigated.

☆ An open meeting to discuss the proposals was decided to be unlikely to move the matter forward; a 'proper' Council meeting, with as many society reps. as possible in attendance, is definitely needed.

☆ The vision for CEUC provides an opportunity for students in College chapels, etc., to get involved in a wider Christian 'scene'. Deans and Chaplains' thoughts will be vital – their comments to be sought on the second draft (via Simon) ASAP.

☆ A system of 'College reps' could also be included.

☆ The new name, Council structure, and purpose met with approval.

## • Society Plans

☆ CCMS's May Week Show, "A Tragedy To End All Tragedies":  
17<sup>th</sup> June at 1.30pm & 4.30pm, venue TBC;

☆ There will be pre-exam prayer and breakfast at Fisher House, 8.00-8.20am, daily (not Sundays) from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May.

☆ Taizé are praying, Ark are acting (CGS dinner), Chris will send out MethSoc's programme for the term shortly...

## • Planning Events

### • Freshers' Fair

CUSU have published no information so far, so we don't need to pester them yet. Once they do, we need to ask about having SCC society stalls together.

### • May Week

☆ All invited to Fisher House Garden Party: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June, Blackfriars, Buckingham Road, 3.00pm, with live music, free Pimms™ and entertainments.

☆ Punt Race: Teams to be from a mixture of Societies – draw of names (in pairs if people want) at 2pm.

☆ SCC Football to be held on Jesus Green near Jesus Lock.

## • Booklet

Kelly suggested the idea of a "What's Christian in Cambridge?"-type booklet. This would contain expanded versions of the information in the current society/church guides, plus other material. Decisions/ideas/suggestions/other thoughts:

☆ Expensive to produce; might not be affordable to give it away. Becky suggested sponsorship (e.g. from Christian or 'Ethical' companies) and volunteered to investigate. Societies might also be able to offer some help with funding the project.

☆ Booklets might be tied in with CEUC membership.

☆ Societies need to be responsible for producing the details for their own page.

☆ Other things to include could be:

- Courses, contacts or recommended books for people interested in finding out about Christianity (Div.Fac. members and C.S.Lewis suggested);
- An article on why Ecumenism.

## • Any Other Business

### • Discussion Groups

The idea of discussion groups for finding out what Christians from other backgrounds (really) believe was raised again, and agreed to be a Good Thing.

The format for such groups was considered; an primarily issues-based approach would probably be best, with some combination of presentation/small group discussion/panel debate.

To go on the agenda for the next Council meeting, with a view to starting the programme in Michaelmas.

## • Date of next meeting

Provisionally agreed to meet over lunch at 1.00pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, in Simon's rooms at Fitz<sup>0</sup>. Lunch to be provided by Geoff and 'volunteers'.

## • Closed in Prayer

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<sup>0</sup> Later confirmed.

## **SCC: A New Vision (Draft proposal)**

*NB – This was the original version for discussion; several changes have already been recommended, as outlined above, and a revised draft should be available soon.*

*It is included here to make the minutes make sense.*

### **Introduction**

This paper sets out in partial detail a proposed radically new structure for what is presently the SCC. The intention is to create an organisation that will realise the aims and purpose of the SCC much more actively and visibly than at present, and of which many more individuals than at present will be afforded a real awareness and sense of ownership and participation.

In simple terms, the new organisation would be a Union — in similar sense to a Students' Union — of all individual members of affiliated Christian societies, and any other individuals who wished to join. The organisation would have a Council, mainly comprising appointed representatives from each of the affiliated societies. (This Council would be more-or-less equivalent in style to the present SCC committee.)

In line with the change in nature of this new organisation from the present structure of the SCC, it would have a new name. The proposed name is the *Cambridge Ecumenical Union of Christians (CEUC)*.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the CEUC shall be to foster communication, understanding and support between the various Christian societies and between all Christians in Cambridge, united in the worship of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and to bear witness to that same unity.

### **Structure**

All Christian student groups and societies in Cambridge shall be encouraged to affiliate formally to the CEUC.<sup>1</sup> Affiliated societies or groups shall make a contribution of £5 per year to the CEUC.<sup>2</sup>

Each individual member of a CEUC-affiliated society or group shall by default be a member of the CEUC. Such individuals may opt out of membership if they so wish. Any other individual shall be welcome to join the CEUC — membership of an affiliated society is not a requirement for membership of the CEUC. Every member of the CEUC shall have a membership card. The CEUC Treasurer shall keep a list of all members' names and email addresses. Every member shall pay a subscription of 25 pence per year.<sup>3</sup> In the case of those who are members of the CEUC through an affiliated society, the individual subscriptions shall normally be levied by the affiliated society (except of course from any individuals who choose to opt out of membership of the CEUC) — probably along with the society's own membership subscription if it charges one — and paid to the CEUC by the society, along with a list of such members and their email addresses. Similarly, membership cards shall be issued through societies. (Of course, individuals who are members of more than one CEUC-affiliated society need only be registered with CEUC through one of them.) Individuals who are not members of a CEUC-affiliated society may join the CEUC by paying 25 pence to the CEUC Treasurer, who will provide a membership card, and will record their name and email address.

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<sup>1</sup> Formally, affiliation of a society or group shall be at the discretion of the Council, in the same way that societies presently become members of the SCC. At the Council's discretion, affiliated groups might not necessarily be specifically student groups.

<sup>2</sup> The Council may, at its discretion, waive the £5 subscription for a particular society or group.

<sup>3</sup> Both the possession of a membership card and the payment of a nominal subscription will help to foster a proper awareness of, and a real sense of being a part of the CEUC. This alone will be a very significant aspect of fulfilling the CEUC's purpose. In addition, the nominal subscription will amount to a useful income for the CEUC, and will more than cover the cost of the membership card.

## **Council**

The CEUC Council shall comprise a Convenor, and at least one representative from each CEUC affiliated society, and two Council-elected representatives (elected annually). A member of the Council shall be appointed as Secretary, and another as Treasurer. Affiliated societies may send more than one representative to the Council, but each society's representation shall only have one vote in total. In addition, the two Council-elected representatives shall each have a vote.

The Convenor shall not have a vote, save for a casting vote when required.

The two Council-elected representatives need not be members of an affiliated society (though they may be). Anyone may stand for election for one of these posts. The Council, in its election of these two representatives, shall be directed to have a view to making the Council as widely representative as possible, within the purpose of the CEUC.

In practical terms, the functions of the Council will be similar to those of the present SCC committee.

## **Activity**

Initially, the main practical activity within CEUC will be the sending of a weekly email bulletin to all members advertising all Christian activities for the week, as submitted by affiliated societies (or others). Affiliated societies shall, as a matter of routine, submit to the Secretary selected events for promotion in this email bulletin. (Members may opt not to receive the weekly bulletin if they wish.)

There will also be CEUC events from time to time as organised by the Council (along similar lines to those currently organised in the SCC; e.g. Unity Service). Such events shall be publicised to all members (regardless of whether they subscribe to the weekly bulletin).

## **Name**

The name proposed for this new organisation is the *Cambridge Ecumenical Union of Christians*.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> This name says in the best way possible what the organisation is. It is a simple and honest title, and the ordering of the words makes it suitably distinct from the Cambridge Intercollegiate Christian Union, and the general prevailing model of a 'Christian Union', whilst hopefully not giving the impression of being at odds with that in any way.