

# CUSU Presidential Debate

CUSU Elections Committee

February 16, 2007

For the 2007 CUSU Elections, the CUSU Elections Committee hopes to be able to work with the Cambridge Union Society in order to hold a “CUSU Presidential Debate” at the Union. The CUSU General Election is one of the most important political events in the University year and as many CUSU Presidents have either held major Union Society Offices or spoken at Union Society Debates, it is hoped that holding a “Presidential Debate” would be of mutual benefit for both Unions and help build stronger links between the organisations.

The paper-ballot for the CUSU Election will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> March—the same day as the Union Society’s Election. If possible, it is hoped that the “Presidential Debate” could be the climax of week of campaigning and therefore be held on evening of the 7<sup>th</sup> March, perhaps after the Union Society’s hustings (which follow the MBM at 5P.M.) and before the “Great Balls of Fire” Ent at 8P.M.. In this way, members of CUSU who are more interested in the Union Society than CUSU might be more likely to stay for the CUSU Debate and visa-versa. Additionally, Union members might be more inclined to stay in the building and therefore go to the ent later in the evening. If these arrangements are not possible, then perhaps the debate could take place on an evening between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March.

## **Standing Orders**

For the “CUSU Presidential Debate”, the CUSU Standing Orders will be suspended, and the following Standing Orders will be used instead. A member of the CUSU Elections Committee will be in the chair and be able to preside over the proceedings with total discretion.

Each candidate will be allowed to speak for up to seven minutes, in an order determined by chance. During his or her speech each candidates may refer to the policies of other candidates but must refrain from making racist, sexist, homophobic or other bigoted remarks.

Each candidate may offer two points-of-information during each of his or her opponents’ speeches by rising to his or her feet and saying “on a point of information”. The candidate who is speaking may choose to accept or decline each point. There will be no “protected time” during any speech.

Following the speeches, the chair will open the debate to the floor, accepting as many questions as the time allows. The candidates will answer in a rotating order for up to a minute. Each candidate may refer to the answer of another candidate but must refrain from making racist, sexist, homophobic or other bigoted remarks.