

# CUSU Presidential Debate

CUSU Elections Committee

February 23, 2007

## **Standing Orders**

**Introduction** The following standing orders are loosely based on the rules of British Parliamentary-style debating. However, they have been somewhat changed, for the benefit of those who have little or no experience of this system.

**Suspension of Standing Orders and the Chair** For the duration and location of 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.

**Main Speeches** 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.

**Points-of-Information** Each candidate may offer up to two points-of-information (an interjection of less than ten seconds which may either be a question or a short statement pertinent to that moment in the speech) 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. (To pre-empt any questions from experienced debaters: there will be no "protected time" during any speech.)

**Floor Debate** 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. No points-of-information can be offered.

**General Conduct** Candidates are expected to conduct themselves with courtesy at all times and the Elections Committee will not hesitate to act should any candidate behave in an unacceptable way.