

Liaison Committee Meeting

Wednesday 2nd May 2pm, Old College Office

Attendance:

Prof Worster, Senior Tutor
Dr Pullen, Junior Bursar
Prof Gray, Dean
Dr Sarris, Steward
Dr Haigh, Senior Treasurer of TCSU
Chris Stoltz, Chaplain
Dr Coo, Fellow
Dr Levin, Fellow
Nathalie Saurat, BA Society Liaison Officer
Steffen Loesch, BA Society Secretary
Karim Ahmed, TCSU President
Emma Colliver, TCSU Vice President
Matthew Willetts, TCSU Secretary

Apologies

Mr Landman, Senior Bursar
Amanda Talhat, BA Society President

1. Matters arising from last meeting's minutes

No matters arising

2. Matters arising from College Council

2.1. The Senior Tutor tells the committee that the BA Society now has a seat on the Computing Committee.

3. Matters arising from the Senior Tutor

3.1. Review the Code of Practice for Student Complaints

The Junior Bursar notes section 6.2 – the last sentence (“The committee will investigate the complaint ab initio and make recommendations to the Council.”) does not exist in this form for the equivalent document for staff complaints.

The Junior Bursar makes the argument that an appeal should be against a decision, thus the previous decision should be considered by the panel, and consider fresh evidence that might be produced. If it is ab initio then that means that the process starts again, which is not appropriate for an appeal.

The Dean agrees that this is a correct argument and that an appeal process should not be ab initio.

Corrections to the appendix:

The TCSU Senior Treasurer points out that the treasurer of the Field Club is Dr J Fairbrother.

The puntman is P Joyst.

4. Matters arising from the Junior Bursar

4.1. Student Room Occupation – Easter Vacation

First holiday with new online system and it has worked well. IT has resulted in a few cases of subletting, where someone does not swipe out and someone else lives in the room.

4.2. New procedures and flat rate charges for Long Vac

The rental charges will move to be £15 per night regardless of the room, so as to avoid complicated calculations of precise rent. A guide to the new system is provided to the committee for their eyes only along with a copy of the email to be sent out to the College tomorrow.

4.3. Night time safety: City Centre

There was an incident of assault a few days ago. A small group of students were attacked on the corner of Rose Crescent and Trinity Street in the small hours of the morning. The city centre is no safer than anywhere else at night. Possible projects to improve the city centre are being considered by the city council with input from the colleges and local businesses. The colleges want to improve nighttime security and plans may be made by the end of this calendar year.

The Steward notes that he sees many students walking around in gowns, and this may not be a wise move.

4.4. CUEC: Green League Table Team

The College has not been in the league since it does not focus on the main issues and it mainly the preserve of its founding members. Unless the TCSU and/or BA Society wish to be involved then we will remain out of it.

4.5. Student “Switch-Off” Campaign

A BA Society rep and the Junior Bursar went to a Switch Off campaign meeting. The current campaign will not work for the colleges until some aspects of the campaign are changed, though the colleges agree in principle. It would require around £500 from the College, though the cost per college decreases if more colleges get involved. This is a student led operation and needs to be one. More information will be forthcoming.

4.6. New Court: Update

There have been some changes to the internal design as a result of further consultation, and the mock up in the Brewhouse is being remade to reflect these changes. The final application for listing building improvements has not been made. Work on the south east corner to the gate into Bishop’s Hostel will begin at some point next academic year.

4.7. Wessex Place: Update

Refurbishment is on track for the building to be available for occupation next academic year. A visit will be arranged for interested tutors and BA Society representatives when the building is closer to completion.

4.8. Rents for 2012-12: Preliminary Thoughts

No firm figure for rent rate increases is yet available. If the TCSU or BA Soc has any ideas for cost cutting arrangements to keep the costs of accommodation down, not necessarily next year.

5. Dean's Business

A measure of understanding and quiet in the coming quiet period would be appreciated and this message should be spread wherever possible.

6. Steward's Business

The steward has received a letter of complaint from that the TCSU is not using college facilities, and that if this continues that the future of the WPR and the bar are uncertain due to the loss that they make.

The president notes that the Clare Ent is in the model of a previous event held last year in hidden rooms with Gonville & Caius College.

These events are to allow the easy mixing of students from Trinity and another college, and that this event is a replacement of the snow-cancelled Burrell's Ent using money that was intended for that.

The Senior Tutor notes that the advertising may have led to complaints if the event were to be held in the College property.

The Junior Bursar says that if the TCSU uses the WPR less then perhaps the College will allow others to use the WPR more. Also the free drink may worry the police.

TCSU says that there will be a token system to limit drink and there is not change in TCSU policy on WPR usage. The TCSU does not see any issues to do with more societies using the WPR other than the effect of noise on freshers.

The Dean notes that anything that has the name of Trinity on it must be treated with care. The idea that the TCSU should be moving off shore to remove itself from the Dean's influence is unfortunate.

7. Matters arising from TCSU

7.1. Laundry

TCSU says that they have sent out a form to students, asking for any views they would like to express. Students feel that they do not get their money's worth with laundry and that it is unnecessarily expensive. They also quote the particular example of Bishop's Hostel for which, of the three washing machines, only one is in service. The form of

payment is also described as inconvenient and the fact that several cycles of a dryer are taken to dry clothes is mentioned. They ask if anything can be done about the price and also ask about alterations to the infrastructure.

The Junior Bursar describes this as a long-running problem composed of two separate issues:

1) The College's laundry system is unlike that of other colleges; we have a larger number of small laundry rooms compared to their fewer larger rooms. The proposal of bringing in a specialist contractor like other colleges do would not work with the current set-up of lots of smaller rooms and when investigated in the past, they could find no one to take it on. The proposal is made to get one or two larger laundrettes- perhaps one in Great Court and one in Burrell's. The JB invites opinions about this option.

2) The payment system for laundry; it was previously proposed that a fixed laundry charge be added to the rent. Strong concerns had been raised about people bringing in washing from other colleges. An auto-system, using university cards, had also been previously proposed but rejected.

Dr Haigh suggests that the driers are re-programmable to increase the number of minutes per run. The Junior Bursar makes the suggestion of a variable drier time.

The BA Society asks about the provision of drying rooms. The Junior Bursar responds suggesting that there isn't an available space at present.

On being asked to clarify whether the problem is with driers or washers, the TCSU says that the problem is that the driers are inefficient and that washers are often unavailable.

The Junior Bursar reopens the proposal of two laundry rooms- one at burrell's, one at great court- with a more efficient external service. The BA committee reject the proposal on the grounds of increased distance to laundry rooms for many.

The Junior Bursar explains that at present the machines are owned by us, so that they don't have the same level of service as if an outside contractor took profit from them and owned them. The BA committee asks about how much more the cost would be to bring in an outside contractor. The Junior Bursar suggests that it would have to be discussed with a contractor.

The TCSU makes the suggestion that they are aware of a company called Circuit Group that the college might approach if they want to buy new machines; laundry can be paid for by university card, they are environmentally friendly, and you receive a text message when laundry done.

7.2. Vacation room storage

The TCSU notes that Vicky Spence led the way with a proposal for locks on small cabinets in rooms to leave stuff over vacations. The Junior Bursar says that no progress has been made through problems of resources, not principle. This issue is not relevant to long vacation and will be pursued by Works Department.

8. Matters arising from the BA Society

No matters arising

9. AOB

No matters arising