

Date: 02/05/2018

Chair: Catherine Barnard, *Senior Tutor*

Minutes: Rebecca Shepherdson, *TCSU Vice-President*

LGBT+ Follow up (Prof. Barnard, *Senior Tutor*)

- Prof. Barnard reminds the committee of the previous discussion of difficult issues regarding flagpole and LGBT+ flags in student windows. She notes she sent an email to all students in college, to which there was no feedback.
- She notes she has followed up the rules for displays in windows with other Senior Tutors. Most colleges have a firm rule stating nothing can be displayed in windows. This clarification will be helpful for Porters.
- She notes she has urged Anna Dimitriadis, LGBT+ officer to come back in Autumn to discuss the flagpole, and to think of alternatives for celebrating the role of LGBT+ students in the College, for example rainbow bulbs in Neville's Court. Molly agrees to come up with ideas to present to College Council.

Vending Machines (Prof. Barnard, *Senior Tutor*)

- Works department has suggested that the college use and manage the two existing free vending machines, monitoring use to agree what is required in the longer term.
- Works Department are happy to manage/monitor the machines and re-stock on a regular basis, using the stock from TCSU. All they need to do is check that the condom packets TCSU fit the machines, work to provide suitable signage and decide how the change is promoted by TCSU.

Student concerns (Molly O'Brien, *President, TCSU*)

Library facilities

TCSU have received consistent requests, highlighted at the last Open Meeting, for comfortable seats in the library for silent reading. Students want to be able to read in silence in a library environment, but the current facilities are not very comfortable. Library staff have taken the idea on for consideration. These comfortable seats would replace current seats one-for-one in order to keep the library capacity the same.

Temperature controls are also important, especially heaters in the winter. It was noted that this could cause problems with power cuts. There is also a request for air conditioning in summer. The library is looking at working with works.

Lights in Burrell's/Avenue

Molly notes that lighting in Burrell's field has been a point on TCSU manifestos for the last 6 years.

- Burrell's Field is seen by the student body as a frightening place to walk especially in winter, to get to supervisions or accommodation. Molly states that despite how scary the walk through the gardens is, popular opinion is that it is still safer to be on Trinity property with Porter protection than on the dark path of Burrell's Walk.
- Molly states that she is aware that the police have stated that were there to be lights, potential assailants could hide in the shadows. However, now students use

flashlights their phones to light the path, making them even more visible and also highlighting that they are carrying a valuable item.

- There is a suggestion of timed lights and a faster closing gate as potential solutions.

Lights in hall

There are multiple requests for more lighting in the dining hall during canteen hours. Students feel that the atmosphere is dark and oppressive, to the point of not being able to see the food on plates, which is especially detrimental to Freshers when they first arrive. This would not affect formal halls in anyway, but it is proposed to put in some up-lights during canteen hours. This has been discussed with the Catering Committee and with Ian Reinhart who is in favour of the proposition, especially as this is a growing safety concern for catering staff who find it difficult to see hazards when clearing the hall at night. This has been referred to Buildings Committee.

The committee is informed that the college is installing lights in the gallery, involving English Heritage and that any future long-term plans will need to learn from that.

Laundry facilities

Molly notes the state of the laundry facilities is poor, being both expensive and ineffective. She notes that it takes at least three drying cycles to dry clothes and that there are ineffective controls on the washing machines, which are regularly out of service.

Molly notes that students would appreciate either free central washing such as provided at John's, Emmanuel and Jesus, or they would be happy to pay for better quality machines. Currently seven colleges have their supplies managed by Circuit an external company which supplies machines and gives an app monitoring the system that students can use.

Prof. Barnard suggested that we look at the service contract and find a convenient point in contract to renew with a different company, if this was to be considered. This will be followed up by the JB.

Furniture in rooms

Molly passes on multiple requests from students for larger ($\frac{3}{4}$) beds in colleges. She notes that lots of colleges are phasing in bigger beds: for example, when beds are being replaced in Selwyn they are slowly being changed over. Molly acknowledges that this proposal was rejected with New Court redevelopment. She was wondering if it could be outlined what the initial problems were? Mark (*BA President*) notes that with the renovation of Round Church Street accommodation this was a real priority for students.

He notes that there were various reasons for the rejection, including the difficulties of laundry with different sheets. Molly notes that she thinks students would be willing to pay a small premium (around £50) to cover the costs. Dr Cullen raises that a survey of sleep quality in college would be useful information to gather.

Showering facilities

Molly raises the large numbers of baths in older accommodation blocks. She notes that baths are rarely used by undergraduates, whilst there are queues for showers. It is noted

that this is a cultural point, due to a change in culture which means that people use fewer baths and that older Fellows also prefer showers. It is asked if it would be possible for college to adapt baths into showers.

Communication

Prof. Barnard asks about the screens outside hall. It is noted that there is a place for the screens and they just need to be ordered. Prof. Barnard will follow up the matter.

Freshers' Week Plan (Prof. Kusakawa, *Dean*)

Prof. Kusakawa reports that there has been a review with representatives from TCSU and the BA Society as well as the Heads of Department which went well. She notes her thanks and reminds the committee that next time the plan will go fully budgeted to Council.

Prof. Kusakawa also raises concerns that council accepted external events that cause disruption to Fresher's Week; specifically accepting external events means that key events including the Masters' Reception have had to be moved. This also causes problems with the marquee in Neville's Court, as it has to be erected for longer, thereby further damaging the lawns. Ideally, she states this week would be like the quiet period, focussing on settling in students, which is the primary mission of the college.

BA Committee Handover and Thanks (Mark Burrell, *BA President*)

Mark notes this is the current BA committee's last liaison meeting. He expresses it has been a pleasure to work with people looking out for the students of the college. The elections will be on 9th May, handover 17th at which point emails will change. Prof. Barnard offers her thanks for commitment of time and energy and the excellent work they have done.

The next meeting is arranged for 14:15 Wednesday 13th M4 for the next meeting (2 hours) to be chaired by Prof Kusakawa.