

# Liaison Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015, Old College Office

Apologies from: Paul Dominiak, Rory Landman

## 1. Matters arising from last meeting's minutes

-no matters arising

## 2. Matters arising from College Council

-no matters arising

## 3. Matters arising from the Junior Bursar

### a. Update on New Court

- original program envisaged that New Court would be in full use by next academic year, but this is no longer the case
- 50 student rooms on the Garret Hostel Lane side, and some accessible suites and fellows' rooms, will be ready by Michaelmas Term
- other rooms will not be ready until the end of the calendar year
- student ballot for rooms will not be completed before the end of Lent Term
- pricing of rooms: the proposed points system, that had been discussed with the previous TCSU Committee, produced a huge range of prices (most expensive and cheapest rooms within College in New Court)
- the point system has been found to be too crude, needs refining
- purpose of refurbishment is to provide good quality and affordable student accommodation near the centre of the College
- how big a spread of prices would student body be comfortable with?
- action point: TCSU to discuss this**

### b. Room charges for vacation storage

- College does not want it to be cheaper for someone to remain an occupant in their room than to use it for storage
- too late to implement changes for Easter vacation
- we need to continue thinking about it (Cornelius)
- should we incorporate storage units/options into future refurbishments? (i.e. Whewell's Cellars)

### c. Update on electricity

- moving from Wolfson to other areas of College can increase electricity charges
- why? – there are areas of the College where only sockets are included in the charge, whereas in others the whole room system is included (i.e. ceiling lights)
- this is supposedly factored into the room charge rate
- people should be aware of this
  
- would the TCSU prefer to see a system of a standard charge for electricity?
- this disadvantages the frugal, though

- metering should be maintained in order to provide incentives for saving electricity
- perhaps the different levels need to be revisited
- New Court will be metered on sockets, not room lighting

d. Graduate hostels kitchen equipment

- BA President
- kitchens are not in a good state
- would people prefer to bring their own equipment or use College supplies?
- people seem to be unaware of College provided equipment

**4. Matters arising from the Dean**

- no matters arising

**5. Matters arising from the Senior Tutor**

a. Halal food

- proving more complicated than anticipated
- certification that halal meat is coming from a pre-stunned source is difficult to obtain, and so College is unable to go ahead with halal food on a trial basis yet
- unless the certification is sorted, College is not comfortable with offering halal food
- suppliers are reluctant to talk about their processes
- not all meat would be halal; the intention is to trial one night a week for one term for halal food (Monday?)
- separate dish
- halal food would cost the same
- why can't all meat be halal? (Kshitij)
- C. Barnard: many people object to halal preparation methods if it does not involve pre-stunning of the animals

b. College bar

- at College council, the general consensus was that people were keen to take action
- Ian Reinhardt: taking TCSU officials on a bar tour around Cambridge to explore aesthetic options
- main constraint is that it must remain in the current location of the bar
- bar in Whewell's cellars could affect storage possibilities, but this is a consideration a long way in the future (Junior Bursar)
- designer will be commissioned to explore options, and options will then be costed
- proper coffee machine with trained staff for daytime use
- this refurbishment should be done over the Summer so the bar could be re-launched in Freshers' Week 2015
- this still needs to go through College council, and the Master will need to be on board, but the aim is to have this done over Summer
- Master's concern: we should not invest money in something that will not in fact generate greater use

- should the money come from TCSU reserves?
- Treasurer of Field Club may object to this, as TCSU reserves should be spent on sports facilities, equipment etc.
- Junior Bursar: potential redevelopment of the Brewhouse is being considered
- if we are to provide some kind of social facility, what should it be?
- Brewhouse would not be solely for students
- action point: survey of the student body to explore this question

c. Screen in the Porters' Lodge

- TCSU is able to put information up on the screen in the Porters' Lodge
- College information on the screen is good, but more information could be provided
- could other societies in College advertise events etc. on the screen?
- Head Porter makes decision on this
- the blackboard in Hall is proving useful

d. Table football in Burrell's Field Common Room

- raised at council that table football has to be paid for?
- Kshitij: this is not the case, Burrell's table football is free
- pool in the bar costs 50p
- what is the advantage of the bar pool table being operated by an external company?

## 6. Matters arising from the Steward

- no matters arising

## 7. Matters arising from TCSU

a. Counselling service

- pastoral care committee meeting to discuss mental health care in College
- the waiting time for seeing a counsellor in College is not too long (immediate-3 weeks), but counselling services are not advertised well
- there could be more demand if it was advertised better
- can we increase the number of hours available for counselling services?
- this could prevent students from intermitting or leaving College in some cases
- TCSU should formally write to C. Barnard to take to College Council

b. Room Booking Form

- complicated procedure for societies to book rooms in College
- online form to save time for both students and staff
- Junior Bursar: the current form has unified what used to be to a very separated process
- Junior Bursar is happy to help societies and people with such forms
- it is often useful to physically meet with people planning events; clarifications can be made more easily and rapidly
- preference of Junior Bursar is to maintain the current system

- but – it is frustrating for students to take the form to 5 different people/departments in order to book events
- each department needs to be consulted at some point because they look at different aspects of the event
- Junior Bursar: a web-based system may actually be less efficient
- could students receive an automatic email to come meet with people if their form needed clarification?
- Junior Bursar: some people do not fill out the forms properly
- options to deal with incoming online forms: approve, don't approve, physical visit needed
- would people make more effort if they could avoid seeing so many people?
- Junior Bursar: will discuss further with the Dean

c. Student Representation in Planning Decisions

- students don't receive much information about renovations around College, i.e. New Court
- Junior Bursar: when planning for current on-going renovations started, student body was not the same as now
- when New Court renovation was initially planned in 2010-11, there was a great deal of student consultation: options for en-suite, layout of different rooms
- Wessex Place renovation: Trinity bought this because it had a great deal of en-suite rooms, and BA society was consulted on how to make the most of the space
- rent/use of the Union Society site has raised concerns, but it is a sensitive issue within the City, especially before Planning Application is made
- Union Society made a public announcement because they feared that the information would otherwise be leaked
- the preliminary Trinity idea is for the site to be used as graduate accommodation; BA society will be consulted
- it is not possible for a student representative on the Buildings Committee; a lot of the discussions are not about student accommodations, and formally it is a committee of the College Council
- TCSU committee can see a mock-up of a New Court room, which was used for earlier consultations with TCSU and others
  
- what is the best way for students to raise concerns about their rooms?
- i.e. if their desk lamps are not bright enough
- existing provision within College should be brought to the Junior Bursar
- new provisions within College are being carefully planned so they are suitable
  
- at other colleges, there is student representation on college council
- Junior Bursar believes there is a more productive relationship between senior members of College and students from open discussions in the liaison committee than would be possible in the College Council; in such cases, agendas tend to have a restricted session without student representatives

d. Alcohol Policy

- £50-£100 fine raised by the Dean
- after pastoral care discussions, it is likely that this policy will not be pursued
- Junior Bursar: Durham police have decided to treat public student drunkenness as a crime rather than a social problem, because of the scale of the behaviour
- there are clearly problems with excessive drinking, and a very small minority of people will drink excessively and remain in denial about it
- monetary fine is not a solution: students should instead be made to see Tutor (students and Liaison Committee agree here)

## **8. Matters arising from the BA society**

- no matters arising