

Liaison Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 4th June 2014, Junior Parlour

Attendance

Prof Grae Worster – *Senior Tutor (Chairman)*
Prof Kevin Gray – *Dean of College*
Mr Rory Landman – *Senior Bursar*
Dr George Corbett – *Fellow*
Revd Paul Dominiak – *Chaplain*
Matthew Griffiths – *BA Society President*
Jeremy Bernstein – *TCSU President*
Thomas Hughes- McLure – *TCSU Vice-President*
Leo Sands – *TCSU Secretary*

Apologies

Dr Tim Gibbs - *Fellow*
Dr Peter Sarris - *Steward*
Dr Rod Pullen – *Junior Bursar*
Dr Stuart Haigh – *TCSU Senior Treasurer*

1. Matters arising from last meeting's minutes

- a. Last meetings minutes were accepted.
- b. The Junior Bursar has communicated that all the action points proposed in the last meeting had been carried out, except the visit to the Whewell's Court Cellars with the BA Society and the TCSU Committee.

2. Matters arising from College Council

- a. The Senior Tutor reported from the Council minutes:
 - i. All college staff salaries are to be increased by 1.6% from 1 July 2014 in line with rising living costs.
 - ii. Rates of pay for casual staff directly employed by the college will be no lower than the lowest paid member of the permanent staff.
 1. One consequence of this change is that all staff paid directly by the college will be paid above the Living Wage, from 1 July 2014.

3. Matters arising from the Junior Bursar

- a. The Junior Bursar communicated the proposal to increase room rents by 2.5% for students living in college, and graduate students living in hostels. This is yet to be approved by college council, however.
- b. The TCSU President expressed concern over why the RPI index was being used, and not the CPI index, which he argued was more commonly used and was lower (1.6%).
- c. The Senior Tutor expressed his belief that compared to other colleges and other universities, Trinity College room rents fared quite well and he did not believe that they were too high.

4. Matters arising from the Dean

- a. No matters arose from the Dean

5. Matters arising from the Senior Tutor

- a. No matters arose from the Senior Tutor

6. Matters arising from the Steward

- a. Dr Sarris communicated his proposal to increase *Servery* charges by 6%, in line with food inflation, and the KFC by 2.5%, in line with general inflation, for the academic year 2014-2015.
- b. It was noted that the TCSU President expressed concern over the 6% rise to *Servery* charges, which he suggested was greater than food inflation. He also questioned, again, the use of RPI in order to raise the KFC charge by 2.5%, and not CPI, which would have raised it by 1.6%.
- c. It was agreed that before this proposal proceeds to the college council, knowledge of the specific index being used should be queried.

7. Matters arising from TCSU

- a. It was established that a TCSU Open Meeting would be held on the following Monday 9th June, to which the Junior Bursar is invited to discuss matters concerning the Living Wage and the environment, as well as other issues.
 - i. The Senior Tutor has expressed that the college has made no promise to meet the Living Wage.
 - ii. It was agreed that it is important to raise awareness about what the college does in environmental terms (e.g. offsite recycling of private waste).
- b. The TCSU President suggested that the rents for TCSU Executive Committee members returning to residence a few days before Michaelmas Term begins to help out with Freshers' Week be reimbursed.
 - i. The Senior Tutor suggested that it would be easier to discuss this latter after consulting previous procedures. This will be discussed at the Freshers' Week Planning meeting on the 17th June 2014.
- c. Matters concerning visiting hours of college for prospective students.
 - i. In a recent case, a group of six or seven prospective students were denied access to the college, which the TCSU President suggested was in breach of college policy of giving access to the college to prospective students.
 - ii. The Senior Tutor agreed that this was an issue. One solution, he suggested, may be to set up some official light-touch identification procedure, which may entail collecting a pass from the Admissions' Office, this could work on the lines of a room booking form.
 - iii. The TCSU President will communicate further with the Senior Tutor on this issue.
- d. It was noted that new sofas arrived this morning in the JCR.

8. Matters arising from the BA society

- a. Matters concerning the status of associate members of the BA Society.
 - i. At the last meeting the status of affiliate members were discussed, (undergraduates who already have an undergraduate degree), and it was agreed that these should become full members of the BA Society.
 - ii. This triggered a discussion of other potential members of the BA Society (such as fourth year students). The Senior Tutor suggested that this is a matter for the BA Society, not for the college.
 - iii. The TCSU Vice-President added that it was possible for graduate members to opt-in to the TCSU, so any change to the BA Society constitution would be unlikely to conflict with the TCSU Constitution.
 - iv. It was suggested that an opt-in rule for affiliate members and other fourth-year undergraduates be implemented.
 - v. There was no objection to this from the Committee.
- b. Matters concerning dining contact between fellows and BAs at BA Formal.
 - i. The prospect of greater social contact between BAs and fellows was raised. The High Table Committee had suggested to the BA Society that six Fellows be allowed to eat at the tables at the BA Society at each BA Formal. However the BA Society declined this proposal, and would prefer a more controlled system, such as planned subject formals – which would be less *ad hoc*.
 - ii. The BA Society President was interested in knowing what fellows' response would be to this.
 - iii. Dr Corbett suggested that at the drinks beforehand, a general segregation of subjects at the tables be announced, which would encourage BAs to sit with Fellows in the same discipline with them, and would also make Fellows more likely to sit with BAs.
 - iv. BA Society President suggested that a planned subject formal hall would operate as a normal BA Formal, but a number of seats be reserved for those who wanted to attend the 'subject formal'.

9. AOB

- a. A vote of thanks was raised to Jeremy Bernstein as outgoing TCSU President.