In attendance: Prof. Sachiko Kusukawa (Dean of College), Dr. Andrew Crawford (Steward), Dr. Jeremy Fairbrother (Finance Secretary, Senior Treasurer TCSU), Edward Knapp (Junior Bursar) Dr. Sean Curran (Title-A Fellow, Ex-Officio), Dr. Benjamin Spagnolo (Elected Fellow), Thomas Graff (BA Society Liaison Officer), Emily Song (TCSU President)

Apologies: Kirsty Ross (Chaplain), Isabel Vallina-Garcia (BA Society President), Annalise Higgins (BA Secretary)

Report on Developments in the College Council or in College Committees

Issues from the Senior Tutor: None Submitted
Issues from the Dean: None Submitted
Issues from the Steward: None Submitted

Issue from Junior Bursar: Signing Guests into College

A large proportion of guests in college are not signed in and are therefore unaccounted for. The Junior Bursar suggests the use of an app (or equivalent) that can be signed into by students. The current system for signing guests in does not allow for privacy and is inconvenient for students.

The Dean emphasises the necessity for the identity of all individuals in college to be acquired if necessary, and that it is not in the interest of the college to find out the names of guests unless in the case of an emergency (e.g fire).

The suggestion of login through MyTrin appears a preferable solution, which would maintain privacy and practicality. However, the issue will be discussed further by the BA Society and TCSU committees.

Issues from BA Society: Bike parking provision for BAs, Wi-Fi Provision

Bike Parking for BAs - (See additional documents)

Rates of bike theft and damage have been particularly high of late. Bikes are currently not well secured in areas that are generally accessible and close to public spaces (such as the
Portugal Street site). The BA Society proposes to look into the building of fencing around bike storage areas with a SALTO lock or the like to ensure limited access. The general access to such areas poses a significant security issue in itself. Concerns are raised within the committee about knowing to what bikes are currently attached, as well as the quality of the locks being used. The Junior Bursar points out that a number of bikes have been found to be left unlocked at the Portugal Street site in particular.

The Senior Tutor stresses the need to communicate the importance of locking bikes to students via the TV screens in college, which should take place as a matter of urgency.

Wi-Fi Provision - (See additional documents)

The Junior Bursar informs the committee that this has been discussed at length on the IT committee, and the procedure to implement this is in process. The plan for this is available for sharing upon request.

Related to IT issues, the BA Society raises the issue of slow printers and printer shortages at some graduate hostels. The committee notes that printer provision should, if possible, be extended so that also students have close access, which requires consultation of the IT committee via the Junior Bursar.

TCSU Issue: Scholars’ Benefits
The TCSU President presents the findings of the TCSU survey sent out in January. The option to disclose scholar status was included within the survey. The issue from TCSU relates to the provision of lower room charges outside of term time. While approximately 90% of survey participants were in agreement with the other benefits for scholars, such as position in the room ballot and straight financial reward, only a minority, both of scholars and non-scholars, were in favour of the lower room charges outside of term. TCSU argues that this seems counter-intuitive; students who do not achieve as highly are more likely to require rooms at more affordable rates outside of term time, a view supported by the survey. This also highlights the access issue of students from different backgrounds and those who are more likely to require accommodation outside of term time potentially being unable to financially support this.

The Senior Tutor mentions the ‘top-up’ scheme which offers bursaries to students whose family income is below £62k. She proposed that the provision of lower room rates should be opened up to students with a family income of up to £25k to ensure no students are left in a more difficult financial situation due to having to stay in college outside of term time.

The committee also notes that students may need to stay in college for welfare support over the vacation period, or simply for the reason that it is difficult for them to spend time at home. The Senior Tutor stresses that college is aware of this and that systems are in place to provide support to these students.

TCSU will draft a formal proposal, laying out the proposed alterations to the current Scholar’s benefits, in light of the liaison committee’s discussion.

Working space - supervision rooms
The TCSU President thanks the Junior Bursar and other people involved in securing the Wolfson South Seminar Room for Easter term as a group working space.
TCSU enquires whether the Burrell's Field supervision rooms, which are used considerably less than the other spaces in college, could be used as non-silent working spaces when they are out of use. The process for booking rooms is currently long and under-publicised, so solutions to all the above problems are sought. There are some points at which all the supervision rooms in college are in use at the same time. Mornings and late evenings provide the only windows during which there is any significant or consistent availability.

The process would require a different booking system, where priority for booking rooms would lie with supervisors. TCSU will correspond with the supervision coordinator to discuss this further.

**Issue from BA Society: Co-working space for graduate students**

The use of the Blue Boar and Burrell's Field common rooms as Postgraduate workspace was discussed at the last liaison. Data gathered by the BA Society states that most people say they would use such a space two to three times per week. Furthermore, approximately one quarter of students disagreed they were part of 'academic community' in the college. This initiative would also be aimed particularly at solving this problem, as well as student isolation issues. Students would meet termly to coordinate this system themselves. There are recent studies finding that such spaces can aid postgraduate study, providing incentives, structure and support for long term projects.

The common room at Burrell's Field is to be used as communal space in the short term on a temporary trial basis. A longer term solution, to prevent exclusion or the removal of social space, could be to check for other available spaces in college and refurbish them for academic purposes. Another possibility is for the working group of coordinators for the space to involve a correspondence between the BA Society and TCSU to work out a fair solution to minimise exclusion.

**Issue from BA Society + TCSU: Gym facilities and response to survey results**

(See additional documents)

The BA Society outlines that there are number of ongoing complaints about the gym facilities, with two clear main persistent complaints:

In the short term, the idea of converting one of the squash courts into extended gym space was extremely popular in the survey. This is aimed to tackle the claustrophobic feel of the space. The single biggest complaint has been the general feeling of uncleanliness, with lack of ventilation and dirtiness of equipment. The BA Society also present the idea of a small working group, a sports subcommittee, whose aim it would be to forward renovations in the sports facilities in the college.

Dr. Fairbrother states that the space at the Old Fields is, first and foremost, under the jurisdiction of the Field Club, who will need to be consulted on any large scale projects, also expressing concerns about the conversion of a squash court, which may taking sporting options away from some students. Dr. Fairbrother also states that it may be worth considering a full-scale rebuild in the long term, before spending comparable amounts of money to effectively to prop-up deteriorating facilities on a temporary basis.

While the long term outcomes are deliberated further, the reports of the lack of ventilation will be sent to the Buildings Committee on the grounds of a health and safety risk, whereupon the issue should be addressed, alongside the organisation of a deep clean of the gym to improve sanitation.

*The next meeting will be held Wednesday 1st May, M4 New Court at 14:15*