

Liaison Committee Minutes

Wednesday 6th March 2013, 2pm, Old College Office

Attendance:

Professor Worster, Senior Tutor
Dr Pullen, Junior Bursar
Professor Gray, Dean
Chris Stolz, Chaplain
Mr Levitin, Fellow
Miss Coo, Fellow
Gonzalo Garcia, BA Society President
Julia Attwood, BA Society Secretary
Sarah Dew, TCSU President
Anna Elliot, TCSY Vice-President
Amber Stevenson, TCSU Secretary

Apologies:

Dr Sarris, Steward
Stuart Haigh, Senior Treasurer of TCSU
Stan Wang, Liaison Committee Officer
Rory Landman, Senior Bursar

1. Matters arising from last meeting's minutes

Minutes of last meeting accepted.

1.1 Wifi update

The Junior Bursar reported that there was now an agreement to install wifi in Burrells Field, and that there was a programme for further installation across the rest of college although there was no timescale for this.

2. Matters arising from College Council

2.1 Meningitis update

The Senior Tutor reported that since the precautionary email saying that a student had been hospitalised with meningitis last week, the student had since made a full recovery and returned to college.

3. Matters arising from the Junior Bursar

3.1 Refurbishment of New Court: Update

The plan to refurbish New Court has been accepted by the City Council and has raised no issues of national importance. Therefore it now needs to be approved as a local issue as it is a listed building. There was a suggestion that the new TCSU along with the BA society should be updated on the issue. Although not certain yet there is a chance that refurbishment will start in the Long Vacation. The room ballot has been delayed until the planned refurbishment date is certain, and therefore will take place at the start of the Easter term.

3.2 Curtains in Great Court

There have been two reports from the Porters of several curtains in the south range of Great Court being pulled down in the middle of the night on each occasion. The cost of repairing and replacing them is not particularly significant, but it was hard to see this as anything other than vandalism.

3.3 Theft at the end of term

The Junior Bursar emphasised the fact that the end of term is the most vulnerable time for petty theft to occur in college. This is because large numbers of people who do not belong to the college are coming in and out of the accommodation and the porters cannot keep track of who everyone is. TCSU agreed to remind everyone of this issue and to advise people not to leave their belongings unattended.

4. Steward's Business

Nothing to report

5. Dean's Business

Nothing to report

6. Matters arising from TCSU

6.1 Proposal for the renovation of the bar and JCR

TCSU presented the results of an online survey that asked if people wanted change in the bar and if so, what they wanted to change. 49 students responded and it was clear that there would be support for aesthetic refurbishments to the bar. The BA society agreed that they would support such a move. The Senior Tutor commented that 49 responses was a very small proportion of the student body and that it might perhaps be better to get a wider picture of the college's views some other way. The BA Society President suggested offering prizes as an incentive to undertake future surveys. The Junior Bursar said that there was definitely a case for looking at undertaking improvements to the bar, and that the view of the Steward and Catering Manager was important. It was noted that there is no provision in the college's budget for changes to the bar at the moment, but that it was possible there could be in the future. TCSU agreed to meet with the Catering Manager and to find out if there was such a thing as a Junior Catering Committee. TCSU also said that they had contacted some external design companies who said that they could offer professional advice on the refurbishment if it was approved by college.

6.2 Living Wage Campaign

The Access Officer of TCSU has submitted a motion that asks Trinity to consider paying all its employees above the living wage (currently £7.65 an hour). There has been a petition sent to the student body via email asking people to sign in support of this. The Junior Bursar clarified the current salary levels in college. All established staff are paid above the living wage, and only two apprentices are paid below it – this is because their job is educational and they have agreed such a wage with the college. Casual workers in the catering department are currently paid below the living wage, but this is without their free meals being factored in. The College Staff Committee meets twice annually to review pay rates in college, and the next meeting is in May with changes in pay taking effect from July 1st. It is believed that the casual worker's wages will increase to above the living wage following this meeting. Therefore by July, excluding the apprentices, all Trinity staff will be paid above the living wage. The Senior Tutor proposed that this information should be made public to the student body, so that they are fully aware of the situation.

6.3 Lighting in the Fellows Garden in Burrells Field

The Vice President of TCSU stated how many members of the student body had concerns about the lack of light in the Fellows Garden – the main route from college to the accommodation in Burrells Field. The Junior Bursar said that the official advice of the

police is that people should not walk through the Fellow's Garden after dark but should instead walk down the public and lit Burrells walk. The issue is that even if the Fellow's Garden was lighted, it is still an isolated place and the light would in fact illuminate a potential victim and allow an attacker to hide in the vegetation surrounding the path. There was discussion on the merits of making the garden inaccessible after dark by locking it, but there is still the issue of people climbing over the fence. Lighting the garden could also potentially encourage outsiders to enter the garden. It was also pointed out that the situation is different to the recent case of CUSU campaigning to have lighting in Parkers Piece, as that is an open and public expanse of land with no threat of people hiding in vegetation. The Secretary of TCSU suggested putting this information in the next year's Freshers Handbook, as it is obviously an issue that the student body is misapprehended about. The President of TCSU said she would find a way of communicating the information to the current student body as soon as possible, and the Junior Bursar said he could give a talk to an open meeting of students if people so wished.

6.4 Laundry Rooms

There was a suggestion of having a flat payment via the college bill for laundry room facilities as this removes the problems that occur when the machines swallow people's cards and don't work. The previous Secretary of TCSU had also raised the issue of having the machines replaced, but there was an issue of no company wanting to maintain the current system of many small laundry rooms scattered throughout college. The college would therefore need to replace the machines themselves instead of a company coming in to run the facilities. There was support for this, and TCSU said that they would send out a survey to the college.

7. Matters arising from the BA society

7.1 Update on out of hours emergency calls in graduate hostels

The president of the BA society had undertaken a survey about the maintenance of the graduate hostels and had found that many people were unhappy with the provision of care. The Junior Bursar agreed that the response to call outs had been unsatisfactory, and that the existing contract had been terminated and a new company had been contracted in to deal with emergency maintenance issues. The only exception being with the boilers as they had been installed by Munro's who were responsible for the maintenance of them. The Junior Bursar pointed out that calls on weekends would only be addressed on Monday mornings, but that the porters were able to give emergency rooms to people in certain circumstances.

8. AOB

Collective registration by AN UK

The Junior Bursar provided an overview of how student accommodation at all colleges was registered with AN UK and how the review of accommodation was carried out. The peer to peer system agreed by AN UK avoids detailed oversight by the city council and allows colleges to review each other. This should have happened at the end of Lent term, but has been delayed as the necessary date had not yet been received by AN UK.