

Liaison Committee Meeting

Wednesday 7th March 2pm, Old College Office

Attendance:

Prof Worster, Senior Tutor
Dr Pullen, Junior Bursar
Prof Gray, Dean
Dr Sarris, Steward
Dr Haigh, Senior Treasurer of TCSU
Amanda Talhat, BA Society President
Nathalie Saurat, BA Society Liaison Officer
Karim Ahmed, TCSU President
Emma Colliver, TCSU Vice President
Matthew Willetts, TCSU Secretary

Apologies

Mr Landman, Senior Bursar
Chris Stoltz, Chaplain
Dr Coe, Fellow
Dr Levin, Fellow
Steffen Loesch, BA Society Secretary

1. Matters arising from last meeting's minutes

The Junior Bursar raises the 'Switch Off' campaign. He has not heard anything from TCSU on this issue.

2. Matters arising from College Council

No matters arising.

3. Matters arising from the Senior Tutor

3.1. Review the Code of Practice for Student Complaints

Section 8.1 of the Code states that from time to time the Liaison committee should discuss its contents. The paragraphs that reference TCSU are 2.2 and 3.4 and should be discussed at the next Liaison Committee meeting, though discussion will not be limited to these paragraphs.

4. Matters arising from the Junior Bursar

4.1. New Court refurbishment

The Junior Bursar tells the committee that work continues on the New Court refurbishment with a visit to Trinity Hall, which has a similar ventilation system installed and discussions with the City Council planning department.

The Senior Tutor asks when it will be known if the rooms held back from New Court can be released. The Junior Bursar tells the committee that this will be when the college knows if the work can proceed in the coming academic year or not, which will not be before the middle of Easter term.

The Junior Bursar repeated that the reverse ordering of the 2nd and 4th year ballots was agreed with TCSU and was done because it is more acceptable for 4th years to move into graduate accommodation than 2nd years, if it is deemed necessary.

4.2. Wessex place purchase

Planning permission was given that morning for the change of use, with 2 provisos:

- 1) The footpath that crosses forecourt to Castle Rise will remain open to public use
- 2) Students living there will not park cars on the property or in the vicinity. This is beyond the normal college statutes, that cars can not be parked on college property. This means that no parking permits will be given.

A visit for BA Society committee members, the Senior Tutor, and others will be arranged.

4.3. Graffiti in New Court

Graffiti was daubed on doors in G staircase over night of an obscene, personal and childish nature. It was removed next morning by the bedders so it not a part of formal investigation though photos of it do exist. The Junior Bursar does not recall a similar incident and does not think that this kind of behaviour is likely to become common. The Committee is being told since many Committee Members will be unaware of this incident.

4.4. Tampering with fire equipment

The Junior Bursar reminds the Committee that this is a serious matter, and the equipment is there for all our safety. In addition there is an increase in risk if the College does not know about any damaged or missing equipment.

4.5. Abandoned items in Overseas Storage

There has been a gradual accumulation of such items over many years, some going back decades. They have been moved in bulk from College to the College owned storage on the outskirts of Cambridge and will now be disposed of. The method for this is yet to be decided.

4.6. Renovation works at Joules (Trinity Street), Strada (Trinity Street) and Catfish (Green Steet)

The Junior Bursar informs the committee of building works on three college properties. Joules on Trinity Street is merely redoing their shop front, while Strada on Trinity Street is having more major work. There will be no work before 26th March, and it will be completed before Easter so that the Easter term will remain quiet.

Catfish on Green Street is reaching the end of its lease, and the proprietors are contractually obliged under the lease to rectify dilapidation. This must be done

before end of March. It has been agreed that there will be no early morning or late evening work, nor will there be work done at weekends.

4.7. Changes to Long Vac room rents

The Long Vac room rents are currently 1/70th of the termly room rate per night. Since students often live in a different room over the holidays to that which they live in during term time, and students only find out what room they are in relatively late on in the process, the rent charged can vary unpredictably. Thus there will be a new policy of a flat rate, £10 per night for scholars and £15 per night for other students. This is roughly what is paid now on average.

This change does not affect graduate students since they have a different License to Occupy that includes this.

5. Dean's Business

None raised

6. Steward's Business

None raised

7. Matters arising from TCSU

7.1. The College Bar

TCSU President tells the committee that TCSU wishes to make improvements to college bar. There used to be bar committee and TCSU is interested in reforming it in some manner. The Steward and Dean are happy for it to exist. TCSU imagines membership consisting of relevant members of the BA Society and TCSU, keen students and certain fellows interested in improving the bar that can liaise with College Council. The changes would not be structural changes but instead changes in lighting, furniture and similar.

The Junior Bursar notes that the bar is the responsibility of both the Junior Bursar and the Steward, so both need to be present or represented on such a committee if it were to exist.

Steward and TCSU president agree that TCSU and BA Society should come to the next liaison committee meeting with recommendations for improvements for the bar.

8. Matters arising from the BA society

8.1 College network bandwidth limits

The BA Society President notes that the current limit is from 2005 and does not take modern changes in tech like skype and the move to downloads of software instead of optical media. This is primarily an issue for the daily cap. The Senior Tutor recounts that this issue came up at the previous Computing Committee meeting, and agrees that the daily limit may cause issues particularly with software downloads. TCSU should bring the question of the daily cap issue up at the Computing Committee, which it has a seat on.

The Junior Bursar notes that TCSU has a representative on Computing Committee while the BA does not. This should be raised at College Council, with the proposal that a BA Society representative is added.

9. AOB

None raised