

Liaison Committee Minutes

Wednesday 9th March 2pm, Senior Tutor's Office.

Attendance:

Mr Landman, Senior Bursar
Dr Pullen, Junior Bursar
Professor Worster, Senior Tutor
Professor Windle, Acting Dean
Dr Dobbin, Trinity Fellow
Victoria Spence, TCSU President
Josh Mills, TCSU Vice-President
Laura Keys, TCSU Secretary
George Gordon, BA Society President
Marijke Fagan, BA Society Secretary

Apologies:

Dr Hilton, Steward
Mr Stuart Haigh, TCSU Senior Treasurer
Alice Goodman, Chaplain
Dr Fitzgerald, Adviser to Women Students
BA Society Liaison Officer

1. Matters arising from last meeting's minutes

1.1 Fellows' Garden lights

It was discussed whether very low level lighting would be feasible, but it was decided that students should be completely discouraged from using the path through the garden since it is more dangerous than the public footpath and Burrell's Walk. The Police have advised College to try to discourage students from using this path and therefore no further action will be taken with regards to lighting.

1.2 New catering arrangements

Feedback given to TCSU suggests that students are generally very happy with the new arrangements. Some suggestions have already been passed onto the Catering Department, such as the addition of more bins to ease queues for the one that is currently in use. There have been no major objections to the usage of the gong to indicate when Formal Hall has finished and students should leave.

1.3 Allotments

The BA Society had previously asked if students could have access to allotments on College owned property, but the Secretary of the Gardens Committee has said that there is probably not space for this.

2. Matters arising from College Council

2.1 Student Bursaries

College Council have been discussing the issue of Student Bursaries and Maintenance Grants. The University had previously suggested that smaller Bursaries or Grants could be provided to allow for partial fee waivers. The Council is of the opinion that small fee waivers will only benefit higher paid graduates and even then the benefit is very delayed. They think that Maintenance Bursaries should be offered and larger value fee waivers offered to a smaller

proportion of students, with perhaps the entire fee being discounted in some very special cases so that the benefit will be felt sooner. There are indications that these views are becoming more widely held in the University.

The University has made a formal proposal to set aside money for access activities such as Summer Schools and bursaries in one fund, but it is not yet clear how much of this money will be used for bursaries.

The Senior Tutor emphasised that he is happy to talk to students individually about this matter.

3. Matters arising from the Junior Bursar

3.1. Identity questioning

There have recently been instances where members of College have been misidentified by Porters, generally in connection with inappropriate behaviour. Under University rules, students are obliged to give the Porters their correct name in such situations. The Junior Bursar asks that the student body be reminded of this, and asked to comply with the rules in future.

3.2 Grange Road area security

According to information in the press, the sex-attacker who was operating in the Grange Road area seems to have moved elsewhere. This area appears therefore no longer to be particularly unsafe to members of College, but caution should still be exercised.

3.3 Housekeeping

Members of the Housekeeping staff have recently been having to clean unpleasant material out of sinks in college rooms, most likely as a result of excessive alcohol consumption. The Junior Bursar asks that students are reminded that this is not appropriate behaviour and should stop doing it. He will treat any future occurrences very seriously.

4. Steward's Business

4.1 (Item from the Dean) Bumps Supper

The night after the Bumps Supper was not a pleasant one in College. There were numerous incidents that would not have individually been considered serious, but due to their number, posed a problem to College staff. Most of these incidents occurred in the early hours of the morning, and may or may not have been connected to the Boat Club. It was suggested that these were to do with excessive alcohol consumption during the evening. Josh, who was present at the dinner, attested that events organised by the Boat Club, namely the dinner and the party in the Wolfson Party Room, went smoothly without problems and that the alcohol at these events was provided in a controlled manner by College staff, who occasionally refused service to guests based on their level of inebriation.

It seems that the incidents happened after students left the Wolfson Party Room, and it was discussed if there could be a way for students to be staggered as they left to avoid future trouble. Vicky proposed that the bar be shut a longer time before the room is closed, meaning that people have enough time to finish their drinks slowly and leave gradually. The Junior Bursar said this would mean the bar shutting sooner before the end of the event, since Porter shift patterns mean that the room cannot be kept open past 1am, the usual end time for such events. This issue needs further discussion so that a solution can be found.

5. Matters arising from TCSU

5.1. Taxi Fund

Other colleges in Cambridge have a system whereby students can take a taxi back to college after dark and have the cost reimbursed by their college, at their Tutor's discretion. TCSU would like to know if this could also be implemented in Trinity.

Currently the Porters can order a taxi for members of college on Account in necessary situations. The Junior Bursar agreed to examine if such a system could be extended to reimburse taxi bills, but would feel more comfortable if it went through the Members Accounts rather than cash. Students can already ring Porters to order a taxi for them on Account. It was suggested that nevertheless there could be a fund in the Porter's Lodge for emergencies.

5.2 Torches in Porter's Lodges

Due to members of College, particularly Scientists and Medics, often having late supervisions in poorly lit areas of Cambridge, TCSU wondered if it would be possible to have a supply of torches in the Porter's Lodges that could be signed out and returned later. The Junior Bursar said they this would be unfeasible because the torches would probably go missing, and because students can buy them very cheaply for themselves.

5.3 Bishop's Hostel gate

TCSU requested that a Salto lock be installed on this gate to provide access after it closes for the night. This will hopefully be implemented at some point, but there are problems with the Heritage Authorities, and with the power supply to the gate. At the moment Fellows all have keys to this gate, but these are being phased out in favour of SALTO locks to improve College security.

5.4 Lockable cupboard for holiday storage

TCSU inquired as to whether cupboards could be made lockable in all student rooms to provide provisions for leaving some items in rooms over holidays. The Junior Bursar said that the Accommodation Office are considering designating some rooms for storage over the holidays, and that this could solve the storage problem. Thinking was at a very early stage and nothing will be able to be changed before the Easter Vacation. He would consider the alternative proposed by TCSU and come back to a future meeting of the Committee.

6. Matters arising from the BA society

6.1. Online formal booking system update

The trial of the online booking system went so well that this system will continue to be used by the BA society. It was asked whether a professional company, or the Trinity IT staff, could design a system that would allow the tickets to be instantly billed to college accounts. The Junior Bursar said that this wouldn't be feasible in the short term, since the College account system is currently not integrated in this way, although it will probably change within the next eighteen months. After the accounts system is changed it may be possible to have an online billing system.

6.2 BA Room Incident

After unauthorised guests were discovered in the BA room by Porters, the BA Society have started more carefully regulating their room booking system to ensure that this should not

happen again. The bookings are now being checked thoroughly, with contact details required so that if this should reoccur, the member of College who booked the room can easily be contacted and the matter can be resolved.

6.3 Bidwells Complaints

The BA Society has received complaints about the way in which Bidwells handle the renting of college BA accommodation, particularly the flats for married couples. A full discussion will be had at a later date concerning this and other issues about BA accommodation.

7. AOB

7.1. New Court Mock up

The Junior Bursar and Fellows of College had been surprised that previous TCSU and BA Society Committees had said they would prefer having more rooms without ensuite bathrooms, rather than a fewer number of rooms with ensuite bathrooms. The BA Society and TCSU stated that this is still a preference of students, as long as there are a sufficient number of toilets and showers close to student rooms.

The BA society were impressed by the mock up, and preferred the 'Plan D' arrangement which would provide a greater number rooms, as this would increase the chances of Graduate students being able to live in college in future years. The society also liked that with 'Plan D' there would be a greater range of room rents. Concerns were raised about the amount of storage in the smallest rooms.

TCSU also liked the plans, particularly the lighting, heating and electric/data point systems. It is felt that panelling should be in sections, rather than covering all the wall space to avoid a clinical feel. Concerns were raised about the spacing between shelves, which needs to be large enough to accommodate A4 sized folders, and that the smaller room size would not be acceptable on the upper floors where there are sloping ceilings. The bathroom walls would also need to be properly insulated to avoid pipe noise disturbing residents in adjacent rooms. TCSU and the BA Society would like to be able to have copies of the pamphlets detailing the plans if possible.

It was suggested that there should be separate meetings concerning the plans for the works as these plans develop further.

Laura Keys, 9th March 2011