

## **Liaison Committee Minutes**

Wednesday 12th October 2011, 2pm, Old College Office

### **Attendance:**

Professor Worster, Senior Tutor  
Dr Pullen, Junior Bursar  
Professor Gray, Dean  
Chris Stolz, Chaplain  
Dr Levitin, Fellow  
Dr Coe, Fellow  
Amanda Talhat, BA Society President  
Steffen Losh, BA Society Secretary  
Nathalie Saurat, BA Society Liaison Officer  
Vicky Spence, TCSU President  
Laura Keys, TCSU Secretary

### **Apologies:**

Mr Landman, Senior Bursar  
Dr Sarris, Steward  
Dr Fitzgerald, Adviser to Women's studies  
Stuart Haigh, Senior Treasurer of TCSU  
Josh Mills, TCSU Vice President

## **1. Matters arising from last meeting's minutes**

Minutes of last meeting accepted.

### **1.1 Rent Increase Levels**

The increase to rent levels for the current academic year was 7.5% for all rooms in college, including student rooms and rooms available for hire.

### **1.2 Food Price Increase Levels**

It was agreed that food prices increase by 6%, with a commitment to review these prices in January.

## **2. Matters arising from College Council**

### **2.1 Tompkins table result**

The Senior Tutor relayed the news that Trinity has topped the Tompkins table again this year, and thanked the BA Society and TCSU for creating a supportive atmosphere among the student body, which he thought played a large part in the success.

### **2.2 Freshers' Week**

The Senior Tutor thanked TCSU and the BA Society for their organisation of events and for providing help to new students.

### **2.3 School Liaison Assistant**

Trinity and Magdalene have jointly appointed Rosanna Sharkey as School Liaison Officer. The Senior Tutor is looking forward to working with her on future outreach matters.

## **3. Matters arising from the Junior Bursar**

### **3.0 Weekend events**

The Junior Bursar passed on thanks from Helen Hales, Burrell's Assistant Housekeeper, for the smooth running of the Burrell's Party and effective clean-up afterwards.

The Junior Bursar was keen that the student body are made aware of how much damage was caused by the foolish actions of a few students during the early hours of Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October. The damage to Jaeger alone includes an oak floor, purpose created lighting, electronic tills and stock. All of these will have to be replaced at the expense of the college, and the shop will make a claim for loss of earnings since they were unable to open on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October. Bidwell's and a loss adjustor have agreed that this is the level of damage, and the cost of repairs is likely to be well into five figures. The Junior Bursar made clear that it is extremely likely that this was done by at least one member of college, as there was no evidence of intruders who came from outside. The investigation will continue to find the perpetrators.

### **3.1 Feedback on the Fire and Safety Briefings to Freshers by the Fire and Rescue Service and Police**

The Junior Bursar would be grateful if both TCSU and the BA Society could pass on any feedback they might receive concerning the briefings.

### **3.2 Initial analysis of the satisfaction survey conducted in Easter Term**

The next satisfaction survey will be conducted in Lent Term electronically in a hope to gain more responses from students. The Easter Term 2011 survey received 155 responses, of which 140 rated the College's provisions as either good, very good or excellent. It can therefore be assumed that College is providing a good service to students.

Most of the 'poor' ratings were concerned with housekeeping, with most students being particularly dissatisfied with the state of their bathrooms.

Some students asked for either bigger, better or more kitchens. Unfortunately this cannot be provided within existing buildings without major restructuring due to fire and environmental health regulations, but the New Court refurbishments will take this into account.

Laundry rooms were also an area of concern to students, and refurbishments are already taking place, with the Angel Court laundry room having already undergone this process during the Long Vacation.

The Junior Bursar was pleased with the initial results and will circulate a more detailed analysis at a later date.

### **3.3 Update on New Court planning following Buildings Committee Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October**

The Project Team have 'firmed up' the plans following comments from both TCSU and the BA Society and reported to the Buildings Committee on 10 October. This will be developed into a proposal for the College Council in order for approval to take it to a College Meeting. The start date for the work is still planned as the 2012 Long Vacation.

### **3.4 Update on the possible purchase of a new Graduate Hostel**

College Council have approved a bid that has been made to the vendor. However there are other bids, so it is not certain that College will acquire the new hostel.

The new hostel will be situated on McGrath Avenue between Chesterton Road and Victoria Road and it is planned that it will contain 41 rooms.

### **3.5 Multiplying mallards in hall**

TCSU had previously asked to display the Mallard in one of the glass cases in the Bar. However, due to the current number of Mallards (the Catering Department have two, the

Junior Bursar has one, and there is one in the rafters of the Hall) the Junior Bursar would not like to display any Mallard, since it will probably return to the rafters or breed more copies.

### **3.6 Wolfson lift**

Despite the repeated jamming of the doors, especially on days when many students are moving into the Wolfson Building, there is not a clear solution to stop the doors from jamming in future. He asked again that students be encouraged not to "wedge" the doors open.

#### **4. Steward's Business**

No matters arising.

#### **5. Dean's Business**

##### **5.1 Weekend events**

Fifteen separate events were brought to the Dean's attention from the weekend beginning Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October, ranging from students being inconsiderate to outright criminal damage. The Dean understands that it is only a tiny proportion of the student body committing these deeds, but wants to remind the student body that any future events will be dealt with very seriously.

#### **6. Matters arising from TCSU**

No matters arising.

#### **7. Matters arising from the BA society**

##### **7.1. Increasing BA Dinner numbers**

Due to the huge popularity of the BA Dinner, the BA Society proposed that the number of seats be increased from the current capacity of 200, with 10 seats reserved for Fellows. This has especially become a problem since the introduction of the online booking system, meaning that tickets can now sell out in as little time as half an hour, and last week 90 tickets were sold in the first 5 minutes that they were on sale. Last year only one BA Dinner did not completely sell out. The BA Society have already reduced the number of guest tickets that students can buy, and are not allowing them to buy guest tickets until the day after student tickets go on sale. Despite this, an increase in numbers would still be needed to accommodate demand.

The BA President has previously spoken to the Catering Manager who has said that an extra 30 places could easily be added. He has since revoked this statement, citing budget cuts and extra strain on the kitchens.

The Dean and the Senior Tutor think it is reasonable that the spaces be increased and will raise the issue with the Steward and College Council.

To attempt to ease congestion before the BA Dinner, the committee would like to have access to some sort of gong or bell, in order to alert students to the time when they are allowed to start queuing, at 7.55. They should discuss this further with Ian.

The BA Society would also like further clarification about what sort of events, if any, they are allowed to hold in the Old Kitchens.

##### **7.2 Burrell's Lighting**

In the wake of recent attacks around Cambridge, some students have again raised the issue of lighting the Fellows' Garden path. The Junior Bursar stressed that lighting simply along the path is less safe than leaving it dark, since this allows a potential attacker to see the victim,

but the victim would be unable to see their attacker. He also stressed that Burrell's Walk is the safer path to use to access Burrell's Field, since this is busier at night and less isolated. Several alternate solutions to lighting were put forward, including the use of torches, rape alarms and locking the Fellows' Garden completely at night. The Junior Bursar recognised that actively sweeping the path and bushes ahead with a torch would increase safety, but passive torch usage again poses a greater risk to the user. College advice remains not to use the path at all after dark, even with the aid of a torch. The idea of completely locking the garden raised difficulties with other College members..

The Dean raised the issue that Burrell's Walk is not completely safe, due to the fact that there is not a chance to escape if there is an attack. He suggested the possibility of resurrecting a shuttle bus system that has been used in the past, although this may prove to be cost ineffective and under used.

Panic buttons, CCTV and an intercom system were also discussed and rejected, due to the Porters' Lodges being too far away to provide effective assistance. Again the Junior Bursar would not like any system put in place that encourages the use of the path.

The Junior Bursar wanted to remind students that the centre of Cambridge is more dangerous at night than the Grange Road area, and that there have not been any attacks in the Grange Road area for some time.

It was agreed that the Junior Bursar would be happy to provide extra funding for the purchase of rape alarms, so that students would feel safer around Cambridge as a whole. He also said that he had already offered to meet with representatives of TCSU to discuss the matter further; he would be happy if representatives of the BA Society also attended any meeting.

## **8. AOB**

### **8.1. Great Court Run**

The Dean reminded TCSU of their duty to publicise the run and the food afterwards in the bar.

### **8.2 Incoming BA Students**

Some students were omitted from certain lists, meaning that they did not have pigeon-holes or email addresses and other problems. This issue was especially concerning BA students who were once Trinity Undergraduates, who have returned after an absence of a year or two. The BA Society are to email the Senior Tutor with more details to ensure the problem does not happen again.

### **8.3 Internet cables**

The cables that were lost before the arrival of the Freshers have been recovered and returned to the IT Department. The BA Society are welcome to claim some of these, in return for their cables that TCSU were forced to hand out to incoming students.

Laura Keys, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011