

## **Liaison Committee Meeting Minutes**

*Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015, Old College Office*

### **Present**

Prof Catherine Barnard – *Senior Tutor (Chair)*

Prof Kevin Gray – *Dean of College*

Dr Rod Pullen – *Junior Bursar*

Mr Rory Landman – *Senior Bursar*

Dr Michael Tehranchi – *TCSU Senior Treasurer*

Prof Stephen Elliott – *Steward*

Dr George Corbett – *Fellow*

Matthew Griffiths – *BA Society President*

Thomas Hughes-McLure – *TCSU President*

Leo Sands – *TCSU Secretary*

Cornelius Roemer – *TCSU Vice-President*

### **Apologies**

Revd Paul Dominiak – *Chaplain*

Prof Rebecca Fitzgerald – *Advisor to Women Students*

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

- a. There were no matters arising.

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

- a. There were no matters arising.

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

- a. Memorial Service Sir John Bradfield
  - i. It was noted that the memorial will be held in the College Chapel on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015. The college is anticipating more than 300 attendees, and as such this will be a fairly disruptive day for non-attending members of the college. There will be a marquee in Neville's Court for the post-memorial refreshments, and there is also a possibility that the South Paddock will be used for parking.
- b. Update on New Court
  - i. The programme is behind schedule, and it is now anticipated that only the South range of the Court, and accommodation in the East range, will be available for the room ballot in the upcoming academic year.
  - ii. It will be ensured that during the ballot process students will be made aware of the possibility of noise disruption in New Court throughout at least part of the academic year 2015-16.
  - iii. When asked by the TCSU President, the Junior Bursar confirmed that the question of room pricing is still being considered for the new rooms. A new scoring system has been proposed, in which a base score depends on the size of the room, and extra points are given for those which are en-suite, points are deducted for those overlooking noisy areas such as Garrett Hostel Lane, and the Bakehouse Yard. One or two

- points will be deducted where the gyp rooms might be quite small.
- iv. The Junior Bursar asked if TCSU felt points should be awarded or deducted for different floors (ground; first; second; third). TCSU representatives thought not.
  - v. A decision on the base price of New Court rooms is yet to be taken.
- c. College Gym
- i. It was noted that *Core Cambridge* went into voluntary liquidation in December. A six month contract has been agreed with the individual who as an employee of *Core Cambridge* had previously managed the gym, who is now trading in his own right under the name of Cam Sports Performance, after six months the contract will be reviewed.

#### **4. Matters arising from the Dean**

- a. Matters concerning severe intoxication of students
  - i. The Dean noted his concern over the increased incidents of very severe intoxication in and around the college. Reports include incidents of one person having to be wheel-chaired back to Burrell's Field. Porters have had to pick up inert bodies and place them in the recovery position in their rooms and monitor the progress of the individuals concerned. This is distressing and dangerous for college staff.
  - ii. It was noted that St John's College now impose a £100 'carer' charge where porters may have to intervene.
  - iii. The Dean suggested the introduction of a charge of £50-£100 for dangerous levels of intoxication depending on the severity of the incident. He noted that members of the college who invited guests from the outside are responsible for their conduct.
  - iv. The TCSU President objected that this charge may pose a health and safety risk as it would discourage students from going to porters seeking assistance with an intoxicated friend for fear of a large fine.
  - v. The TCSU Vice President questioned what constituted the threshold for the charge to be imposed.
  - vi. The BA President questioned whether a charge was the best way forward as it would affect some students far more than others. In response to this, the Dean confirmed that the student's Tutor is always consulted to make sure that they are able to pay the charge, and added that fines are donated to local charities.
  - vii. The BA President suggested the possibility of community service instead of a fine, but the Dean responded that college staff do not take kindly to this.
  - viii. When asked how many times such a fine would have been issued over the past term, the Dean suggested no more than four times.

- ix. It was agreed that the TCSU would consider this with the executive committee, and try to offer alternative ways to discourage severe intoxication of its members.

**5. Matters arising from the Senior Tutor**

- a. TCSU Constitutional Amendment
  - i. It was noted that this was passed by the college council.

**6. Matters arising from the Steward**

- a. Halal Meat
  - i. The question over introducing Halal meals hinges on whether it would be possible to satisfy everyone's needs in an economically feasible way. The catering manager confirmed that it may be possible to do this, but only in a limited way.
- b. College Bar
  - i. When the question of changes in the catering has been answered, the Steward will start looking at the bar.

**7. Matters arising from TCSU**

- a. Room charges for vacation storage
  - i. The TCSU questioned whether the vacation fees for room storage were being deducted, as had been agreed in the previous Liaison Committee Meeting. The Junior Bursar responded that this is yet to be reviewed formally.
- b. Elections/referendum
  - i. The TCSU President confirmed that the referendum on the constitutional amendment passed, and that the new TCSU committee will be taking office on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015.
- c. Electricity
  - i. The TCSU has received some complaints about a rise in electricity charges. The Junior Bursar confirmed that the college has not increased the cost of electricity in three years. However, the Junior Bursar believes that it might be part of a pattern with the Wolfson Building being disproportionately cheaper than other accommodation. It was unclear why this should be the case and he will investigate further.
- d. Burrell's Common Room
  - i. There have been requests to the TCSU to put a table football table there, but it was acknowledged that this isn't a room under TCSU control. The Junior Bursar confirmed that this is not clear, and will look into it.
- e. Green League
  - i. A TCSU member enquired whether the college would be taking part in a scheme run by the Cambridge University Environmental Consulting Society, noting that a majority of colleges participate.
  - ii. The Junior Bursar responded that there was a conscious decision taken by the college a few years ago, agreed with the then TCSU committee, not to participate. The database from which the data is provided does not include Trinity's data

because it comes from a consortium of colleges of which Trinity is not a member.

- iii. The Junior Bursar would be happy to speak to any concerned members about this.

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

### **a. The College Bar**

- i. The BA President noted that key criticisms highlighted were the atmosphere and the seating in a recent joint survey by the TCSU and BA Society.
- ii. Various proposals include repainting the bar to a warmer colour, such as terracotta, the lights to be dimmed, lowering the ceiling by hanging ceiling tiles, purchasing football tables which are free to use.
- iii. The BA President believes that this could be carried out by the Works Department.
- iv. One recommendation suggested by the Catering Manager was to install booths on the south side of the bar, because this is much cosier. The possibility of including high tables, which take up less room was also tabled. The BA President suggested talking to the Works Department to generate a quotation for this.
- v. George Corbett raised the point that at Caius College the graduate space was integrated more easily into the bar, with students bringing drinks back and forth easily, and that this could be included in changes to the bar.

## **9. AOB**

### **a. CUSU Council**

- i. The TCSU Vice-President noted that CUSU Council passed a motion which proposed the lengthening of terms and the introduction of a mid-term 'reading week'.
- ii. It was noted by the committee that this same motion was rejected more than a decade ago by the University Council.
- iii. The issue was raised that the University may reject it based on the threat it posed to research time for academics.

### **b. A vote of thanks was recorded for the outgoing TCSU Committee.**