

Liaison Committee Meeting Agenda

Wednesday 25th November 2015, Old College Office, 2pm

Apologies from: Harriet Gordon, Andrew Boyer, Krishna Sharma

1. Matters arising from last meeting's minutes

- a. The problem with the lights in en-suite bathrooms in New Court has been resolved.

2. Matters arising from College Council

a) Summary

- i. College's contribution to the University language programme is capped up to £190 for students. The language lab was making a loss, so the cost of the courses had to be increased.
- ii. College has secured services of Professor Adolphson, an AMES Professor.
- iii. College is looking at its obligations with regard to the government's prevention strategies in relation to terrorism. The College's 'Prevent strategy' will be drawn up by 31st January. College reassessed safety concerns following Paris attacks. No new threats were found.
- iv. The introduction of a sanitary machine has been confirmed.
- v. The National Students Survey from the University centre was unclear in the number of replies it generated and how reflective the responses were of student views. Although the survey is helpful, the future indicators of student satisfaction will be about how many people full in the survey. Trinity does its own survey as well.
- vi. The photograph taken of women students in front of Elizabeth was a success.

3. Matters arising from TCSU

a) Sanitary products dispenser

This has been confirmed, and Senior Tutor has been informed about the proposed location for Burrell's Field.

b) Vacation Storage

- i. The discussion paper has been re-circulated, but the Junior Bursar and Cornelius have not yet been able to meet. It is too late to implement the policy changes for the Christmas Vacation, but there is a view to complete by Easter.
- ii. There has been a misunderstanding of what happens in St John's College with regard to this issue; students are entitled to reside in their room for nine months, not use it for free storage in the vacation period.
- iii. There is a possibility of a hybrid scheme where one can have a certain room where one can be for nine months, but this could only happen for next year. There is a concern that, if you are to have the option of staying for students, there is an issue of lending cards to people outside the College. However, TCSU does not want to change how people are staying in the rooms, but the price.

- iv. With regard to rooms that will never be used for conferences: conferences aren't the biggest demand on rooms; rather, they are used for admissions interviews and access events.
- v. There is a potential concern with tutorial provision; when students are in college it is the case that tutors should be available for them, and the Dean is assumed to be available.
- vi. There is a possible welfare implication, where students don't feel 'at home' in College because you have to pack everything up every term; it could be a positive gesture for students to keep their rooms and inhabit it for an affordable price.

The Junior Bursar and TCSU President will meet to discuss further.

c) Future of the WPR

The WPR is underused by students, and the TCSU has made some suggestions for improving this; we could re-advertise what the space should be used for, and we could possibly turn the space into a common room or lounge. TCSU has asked for a deep clean of the WPR over Christmas.

d) Bar

The TCSU is looking to spend reserves on new chairs and better tables. Discussions for renaming the bar remain underway (Lord Byron's Bear, the Bear Pit). TCSU will also appeal to the Amalgamated Clubs Committee to fund the painting of the walls.

e) Purchase of extra trolleys

TCSU proposes that there be two more available for Exeat Day. We will look into where they can best be stored so they are not a disturbance, but are also kept safe.

f) Extra bike storage

Students have expressed a desire for increased storage in Burrell's Field. One option is to ensure that the bikes that are locked there are really used, because it seems that some bikes are left there for long periods of time. There is a bike cull taking place at present.

4. Matters arising from the BA society

a) Associated BA status for Part II (fourth year) MML students

It has been suggested that the BA + Masters students are members of the BA society, but MML students are not officially studying for a MA so are not included. The MML Students could be included in the BA Society.

b) Guidelines for reporting problems with Graduate accommodation

- i. Problems result from miscommunication, where issues are not reported and people expect things to happen or a solution is not recommended. The BA Society will put in place a policy about whom you can talk to officially and at which stage to contact specific people. The House Representatives system could be re-energised.

- ii. As the Accommodation Office has no role in this matter, it is Bidwell's who need to be consulted.

c) Alcohol consumption in BA rooms

BA rooms are licensed areas which means alcohol cannot be consumed without permission of the Head of Catering, but there is a question about how it works in practice. BA rooms cannot be booked, but the BA kitchen is bookable as is the BA TV room. The BA Society will email the Dean with suggestions.

- i. At BA events alcohol is not officially served, but it is difficult to stop people from drinking in there with their own drinks.
- ii. This issue also applies to the JCR – there seems to have been a tendency amongst certain students to use these rooms because they are not bookable, to have unlicensed parties involving alcohol with extreme drinking games. If the College does not provide the alcohol, there is a danger that there is more than what is sensible. If there is a party event request with alcohol, it is a condition to have soft drinks available. There will be a College email to the student body about this matter.
- iii. The Dean does not want to regulate every behaviour, but is concerned about irresponsible drinking, and the pressure students to participate in irresponsible drinking behaviour. The Dean believes this problem may be solved in the public areas by making sure the College supplies any available alcohol, like the arrangement that people can drink in the JCR if the drinks are supplied by College.

d) LGBT+ inclusive language of College communications

The dress codes for formal hall (men wear this suit, women wear a dress) may be problematic. Two years ago, the academic dress code was changed to remove references to gender, to 'option 1' and 'option 2'. The College will do this to its dress codes, to include non-binary people.

e) Housing of 4th year PhD students in College

Sarah will email Catherine about the accepted forms, which require permission from the Privy Council and changes to the license to occupy.

5. Matters arising from the Junior Bursar

a) Streetlights

The County Council has a survey, and the Colleges have been urged to gather information too.

6. Matters arising from the Senior Tutor

a) Attitude to women in College

This is a matter that requires much deep thought. The Senior Tutor would like to re-invigorate the equal opportunities committee, and to pro-actively compile statistics at all levels of equal opportunity, in terms of gender, BME, and disadvantaged backgrounds.

b) Fitness to study

This is needed at university level; we only want people who are mentally and physically able to be here.

The original document was 19 pages long, but has been condensed. If anyone has comments, please e-mail the Senior Tutor.

7. Matters arising from the Dean

8. Matters arising from the Steward

9. AOB

Women's Officer came to Liaison Committee Meeting about rape crisis training, to ask if students are able to attend the training for tutors and some porters. As the training will take place on the 7th January, it is unlikely that this will happen.