

Date: 24/11/18

Chair: Molly O'Brien (President)

Minutes: Naemi Melvin (Junior Steward)

Feedback from liaison

LGBT flag

Review of TCSU college survey – Senior Tutor and Junior Bursar wanted to edit wording

- Disclaimer needs to be added – gathering views, not guaranteeing anything
- Molly to go through these questions with ST and JB to finalise

Laundry complaints: now that it is free, it is difficult to complain about quality. There is a possibility of a survey to ask if students would be willing to pay for better facilities.

Lights in Burrell's – power being fitted, nature of lights being discussed

KFC: two reasons are given for the KFC

- 1) *To fund catering throughout the year outside of term*: machinery needs to be kept on for the whole year, otherwise more expensive to switch on and off. This also allows loyalty to staff to ensure they are not on minimum/living wage, zero-hour contracts. The KFC ensures that there are not zero-hour contracts
- 2) *Community*, meant to eat together, KFC reduces cost of food to encourage people to spend time together in Hall

All other colleges who don't have KFC actually have added it to rent which means that no one can opt out, so better to keep it. Bursaries from college available for those who really can't pay.

Digitising accommodation forms – pushed back to January

Burrell's field pool table and WiFi weren't discussed due to time constraints.

TCSU welfare room – person has moved out, transition in progress now

College investments

Senior Bursar outlined that Trinity invest in a tracker fund – puts money into the top 1500 businesses in the world and receives money back from them. In this fund there are companies who invest in arms/fossil fuels etc.

- Need view from college for open meeting on Wednesday
- Senior Bursar is looking in to it and has asked for document from open meeting to see what students have agreed/voted for. There is a meeting next week, college is aware of the issue although not clear how quickly this could be changed
- Meeting with the person who manages investments to see if there is a way to partially divest from these specific companies

Other colleges have divested (Queen's, Downing), but they invest through a university central hub whereas Trinity do it independently

- Useful to have a list of these companies for the open meeting although this may be difficult given the nature of tracker funds

TCSU will try to get more information on exactly what the tracker fund is

Paying for international student who can't afford flights/visa for interview

Glen Rangwala said Trinity doesn't do this (admissions, BME fellow)

- She already has a scholarship, but this will only cover costs once she has an offer
- There are currently no skype interviews or any external interviews held in Africa. This is probably not a problem just for students from the African continent

Access and International Officers can work together on this. They will speak to Glen Rangwala to find out reasons why this doesn't happen and get advice from him about how we could go about changing this

Fellows

No one knows Women's, BME or LGBT fellows exists, this could be advertised on the new television screens.

- Respective Officers should email the Fellows for their name, picture, role and permission to put this on the screens

Feedback from welfare meeting

Halal food – initial idea from Sian for students to pre-order meals on a daily or weekly basis. Catherine Barnard will speak to Catering Manager from a welfare perspective.

Dean's Committee

There is a consultation on how to improve the process of the Dean's Meeting for students who receive 3rds in exams. The proposal to take away gowns received well. The formality makes it seem more serious which can push people to make a change, but there is now a meeting with Juliet before the meeting. The process is already different for disciplinary and academic. The progress of people tracked afterwards, ensuring good relations between students and their DOS. However, the proportion of students who actually do better was not told to TCSU.

College have thought about making it a constructive process, the good intentions are there. There will be meetings with DoSs before Lent term starts to discuss students that there are concerns about. This is a longer monitoring process than it seems

It is also pointed out that there is dispensation from the Dean's meeting if they think meeting will be harmful and negative. College are tightened up on this, which is positive because it means they receive this supportive meeting too.

It is questioned if Juliet Bristow (Mental Health Advisor) the right person to be the buffer. For people who do not need to see her it will not matter, and people who would benefit then have the opportunity to see her.

- It needs to be made clear in email/letter from the beginning that this isn't a telling off
- Responsibility as academic institution/commitment to students' education is how Catherine explained it during the welfare meeting

- It is also reminded that failing is very rare – DDH (deemed to deserve honours) – can be implemented before/during/after exams

Need to clarify process with students, and training for Tutors as to how to deal with concerns