Residence Affairs Committee

Minutes

Wednesday October 30th 3:30-4:30
Armoury Suite, Chestnut Residence

Present: Aditi Malhotra, Arsenio (Jr.) Mostrales, Eddie Low, Eliza Davies-Greenwald, Ken Ogata, Klara Kovarova, Lin Xu, Maria Javier, Mariana Villada Rivera, Marty Penner, Mustafa Nalwala, Vinay Bansal, Yukta Khandagale

Terms of Reference Review

- The purpose of the Residence Affairs Committee (RAC) is to review issues that are brought to the committee.
- The Residence Affairs Committee shall meet twice per term.
- Members of the community who are looking to bring matters forward to RAC for consideration may do so in the following ways:
  - Floor Representatives - residents may approach their floor rep to bring forward ideas and concerns to RAC via the Chestnut Residence Council.
  - Chestnut Residence Council – residents may approach any member of the CRC Executive and share their ideas or concerns to be brought forward to RAC.
  - Electronic Communication – residents may share their ideas or concerns directly to RAC via email (chestnutlife@utoronto.ca).
  - Attending a meeting – residents may also wish to attend a RAC meeting in person.
    Please see meeting schedule on Residence website.
- Any concerns regarding RAC should be brought to the attention of the Assistant Dean, Residence Administration.

Residence Life Updates

- 22 Dons
  - 10 are returning Dons and 12 are new hires.
  - 1 Don is PhD student, 10 Dons are Graduate Students and 11 Dons are Undergraduate Students.
  - Large range of studies and expertise.
  - Conducted training for the last two weeks of August.

Faculty in Residence

- Professor Chirag Variawa, Engineering Professor.
- Goals of the placement include:
  - Break down some of the barriers that might otherwise exist between faculty and students, especially given large class sizes for some courses.
  - Support all students (not limited to engineering students).
  - Coordinates programs, such as Industry Night and Dinner with Your Prof.
Bike Auction
- Large turnout of students at the Auction (25+)
- Sold 10 bikes and raised $575 for student programming at Chestnut Residence

Gym Equipment
- Scheduled for Delivery mid-November:
  - One Upright Stationary Bicycle
  - Two Treadmills
  - Two Olympic Bars
  - One Flat Bench

Piano Tuning
- Tuned and attempted to repair all four pianos
  - Baby Grand in Room Three is unfortunately not fixable – as such it will be rehomed
  - Moving forward there will be three pianos (two uprights and one baby grand) and 2-3 scheduled tuning/maintenance/piano/year.

Bulletin Boards
- Ten new bulletin boards were installed in August 2019.
- Project to replace damaged/old bulletin boards will continue with ten additional bulletin boards to be purchased and installed in 2020-21.

Building Operations
- Parking Garage Project has been extended (previously end date: December 2019) (current end date: March 2020).
- WiFi Update Project is complete:
  - No one at the table had any negative experiences with the WiFi since the update.
- Some of the residence rooms were missing furniture (armoire, chair, etc.) at Move-In:
  - All rooms have since been fully furnished.

Food Services
- Recent Hire: Tarini Bidaisee, Dietician (tarini.bidaisee@utoronto.ca)
- If there are any concerns with Food Services, please let the cashier know right away. A Sous-Chef is available between the hours of 6:30am-11:00pm
- Menus: [https://ueat.utoronto.ca/utsg-campus-food-locations-regular-hours/](https://ueat.utoronto.ca/utsg-campus-food-locations-regular-hours/)
  - Note: Recipes at Cashier (not available online yet)
- Events Calendar: [https://ueat.utoronto.ca/utsg-campus-event-calendar_october/](https://ueat.utoronto.ca/utsg-campus-event-calendar_october/)
- Allergen form: [https://ueat.utoronto.ca/allergen-dietary-form/](https://ueat.utoronto.ca/allergen-dietary-form/)
- Have replaced all plates this year
- **Feedback from Students:**
  - Tongs better than the spoons in the salad station
  - Better than last year re: cross-contamination
  - Cutlery is a lot cleaner this year
  - Still noticing dirty plates mixed into clean plates (can't put away plates that are wet)
Urban Crew Updates

- Marty Penner is the Urban Crew Manager
  - Maintains the space and oversees 19 volunteers who help animate Urban
  - New Hiring Process
    - Last Year: Online Applications Only
    - This Year: Early launch of Online Applications followed by In-Person Interview (will do this process again next year)
  - Schedule for Urban Crew Volunteers:
    - Monday-Thursday: 5pm-11pm
    - Friday: 5pm-Midnight
    - Saturday/Sunday: Noon-Midnight
- Encouraging Volunteers to take on additional programming responsibilities, as interested, ex. PingPong Tournament organized by Frank.

Residence Council

- Recently put up board with images and names of Council Members.
- Recently Hosted:
  - Haunted House
  - Ping-Pong Tournament
- Events are advertised on Facebook Page/ Instagram and Chestnut Facebook/ Posters on each Floor/ Lobby

Housekeeping

- No updates at this time.

Other Topics/Issues as Identified

Elevators

- Elevator Four is shaky
  - Building Ops has already notified elevator technicians and it has been taken off-service.
- Wait time for elevators
  - Concern re: number of elevators put in service for non-student use.
  - Increase in wait times.
- Housekeeping Concern of Students putting stickers on elevators.
- Better Communication is Needed
  - Post information about best practices related to elevators (number of people in elevator)
  - Provide updates regarding when elevators are out of service and expected back in service times

Quiet Space

- 28th Floor is supposed to be a quiet area, but it is often really loud as students come in groups and explain things to each other. Students need a more protected quiet space.
- 28th floor can have more signage – respect that it is a quiet space.
Fire Drill

- Procedure for re-entering for fire alarms. It is consistently challenging with everyone trying to use elevators at once.
  - Suggestion: Encourage people to go into Urban/Dining Hall until the line is shorter.
- Dons are already assisting with line management.

Facilities Concern

- Do not flush items down toilets, such as chicken bones or toothbrushes
- Curtain need to be inside of the tub to avoid leaks
- Could place signage by toilets/in washrooms
- Social Media/Facebook posts about facilities issues
  - Chestnut Fun Facts/Helpful Tips idea (elevator, washroom, etc.) - frequency & repetition

Next Meeting

Wednesday November 27th 3:30-4:30
Bay Suite, Chestnut Residence