Residence Affairs Committee

Minutes

January 27th, 2020 10:30-11:30
St. Lawrence Room, Chestnut Residence

Present: Aditi Malhotra, Andrea Nelson, Dave Kim, Eddie Low, Eliza Davies-Greenwald, Lin Xu, Mariana Villada Rivera, Marty Penner, Mustafa Nalwala, Timothy Duanmu, Vinay Bansal, Yukta Khandagale

Residence Life Survey

- See attached presentation: Chestnut Residence Annual Survey 2019-20
- Newsletter Outline: “Here’s what you said, here’s what we did”
  - Include Eliza’s contact information for students with more suggestions on improvements to reach out
- Follow-up with Klara re: any pertinent updates to share with dons
- Students Spaces Review Committee launched, members: Andrea Nelson, Eliza Davies-Greenwald & Klara Kovarova
- Andrea working with a group of students to review student spaces. Ideally this group of students will be running a series of student focus groups following up on information shared in survey.

Finance

- On track with budget for this year
- Garage project continuing – no known date to re-open
  - Feedback from students has been that this project has not affected them much so far
  - P2 level may wrap up by end of March
- Looking into working with new contractors for elevators
- Working on replacing PTAC units, the current units are outdated and have a high maintenance cost
- Elevators Concerns:
  - Batteries need to be replaced on elevators as they are currently not reading cards with consistency (2 and 4)
  - One of the elevators is jittery (3)
  - Number 3 – entire left side don’t work (whole semester)
- Elevator inspections to be scheduled for the first week of February (10-15 minutes testing/elevator, so service interruptions are to be expected)
  - Timothy will share date with Aisalyn/Eliza to share with students

Food Services

- Food Services has made a number of changes in response to the feedback received from students. These changes include:
  - Added vegan items onto the breakfast starting on Monday
  - Added grains to salad bars
Increasing variety of cold cuts (i.e. Cajun Chicken)
Addressing cross-contaminations concerns with training
• Additional Suggestions:
  o Put a plastic divider between meat and vegetables for the pasta station to assist with cross-contamination
  o Labels for pizza and desserts and sauces
• Positive feedback regarding last Wednesday’s chicken

Housekeeping
• Manager has reviewed survey results with staff
• Identified that one of the larger concerns was regarding vacuuming
  o New vacuums have been recently purchased which will hopefully help
• On a trial basis, started cleaning drapes are being cleaned (same day process) (has not previously been done during the academic year)

Residence Council
• Chinese New Year Event a few days ago in Urban was a success
• Next Thursday is BollyX (workout with Bollywood music)

Urban Crew
• One new member
• Air Hockey Table vandalized (cord cut). Looking into fixing/replacing.

Student Representatives
• Recommendation regarding placing small tables in microwave space (has already been submitted to Student Spaces Review Committee for review)
• Concern regarding sinks in student rooms that have no filter/plug
  o Student can place a work order to have this address
• Regarding the two cases of coronavirus in Toronto:
  o Recommendation: Sterilize tableware at high heat of 56 degrees or more than 30 minute
    ▪ Currently washed at 100+ degrees, so this is already being done
  o Recommendation: Ensure hand dispensers are stocked and cleaned
    ▪ Will look into if there are any other areas that require additional hand dispensers
  o For more information:
    ▪ Message From the University: https://www.utoronto.ca/message-from-the-university-regarding-the-coronavirus
    ▪ Campus Status: https://www.utoronto.ca/campus-status
• Ventilation – Cannabis Smell in Washrooms
  o Unfortunately, hard to pin down where it is coming from
  o Focus on community messaging, floor meeting messaging – explain although they may not think it affects other people, there are other students on their floor being negatively affected
  o Should be clear that students should not be smoking in the building at all
  o Bath & Bodyworks – wall flowers can work (if not allergic to any scents)
• Mirror next to squatting cage has been broken
  o Andrea to work with Larry re: replacement mirror
  o Suggestion to revisit the location of the squatting cage to avoid future breakages
• Laundry Room
  o Currently 13 machines out of order
  o Coin-A-Matic has been contacted numerous times:
    ▪ 4 machines will be replaced entirely
    ▪ 4 machines will have parts replaced
    ▪ 5 machines still need a technician to look at them (hopefully in the next few days)
  o Speak with Kohen regarding a cartoon for the newsletter about not leaving your laundry unattended for more than the time it takes to wash
    ▪ Other cartoon ideas:
      • Don’t use the same tongs for the spinach as for the shrimp \
      • Don’t smoke in your bathrooms
• Signage Suggestions
  o Updates signage with colours that pop so it doesn’t simply blend into the wall (laundry room and gym)

Next meeting:
Monday March 9th 10:30-11:30
Armoury Suite, Chestnut Residence