

## Graduate House Residence Advisory Committee

Monday May 9, 3:00pm – 4:00pm

Zoom

### 1. Introductions

- a. Kamadchi Karunanandan, Assistant Dean, Residence Life & Communication (Committee Chair)
- b. David Kim, Dean, Residence & Director of Student Life
- c. Elizabeth Urbanowski, Manager of Finance, Administration, & Operations
- d. Ryan Hopkin, Facilities Coordinator
- e. Adoni Jeyandran, Service Coordinator (Minutes)
- f. Angel Badewole, Head Residence Advisor
- g. Shae-Linn Davies, Graduate House Resident
- h. Victoria Chiu, Graduate House Resident
- i. Bowen Chan, Graduate House Resident
- j. Joseph Kawalec, Graduate House Resident
- k. Mame Saifah, Graduate House Resident
- l. Coulter Montague, Graduate House Resident
- m. Janice Pang, Graduate House Resident
- n. Iman Al Kaisy, Graduate House Resident
- o. Anya Nandkeolyar, Graduate House Resident

### Absent

- Kevin Dancy, Director, Residence Operations
- Vidit Deswal, Graduate House Resident
- Emerald Ekong, Graduate House Resident
- Bryan Chang, Graduate House Resident

### 1. Ice breaker

### 2. RAC Terms of Reference

- Sent as an email on Saturday to all committee members
- The terms describe guidelines for committee members
- Highlights purpose, membership, meetings, communication, and much more!
- One of RACs purposes is to create a two-way directional conversation with residents and professional staff

### 2. Residence Life Updates- Kamadchi

- a. Mask requirement at Graduate House
  - Recent trends and increasing in not working masks in the building with many at a place of fatigue

- Reminder will continue from staff to minimize possible exposure
  - Exception for mask policy – consuming food and/or beverage
  - Check in with the group; What trends do you see when using the spaces?
  - Resident: 50/50 as more people are not wearing masks, no one every uses them in the common space. Possible solution is a member of staff to pop in during busy times to remind residents
  - Kamadchi: We are not in an environment where people don't know masks are required rather, we understand the fatigue in wearing masks. We are trying to design creative ways in managing this but there is a challenge
  - Resident: Sometimes people are not wearing the masks in the laundry room people and the common room (i.e., one or two people gather)
  - Dave: This issue is being seen in other areas since the restrictions are lifted outside the institution. This is not only grad house only phenomena. We are seeking input and ideas to gently remind folks. A reminder might be a good idea this spring
  - Kamadchi: I love that the community is being social. We should be finding a balance between wearing PPE and protecting community members
  - Resident: Hand sanitizers are often empty by the elevators, specifically 9<sup>th</sup> floor
  - Elizabeth: Thank you, we will note this down
  - Kamadchi: Any idea on how to encourage or ask residents to wear masks. Currently we do emails, communications, and RAs do rounds every night. I remind residents in the building as well. Any suggestion on how to improve this?
  - Resident: in the C floor open space, people can go outside if they don't want to wear the masks
- b. Work-study student – Marketing & Communications Assistant
- Currently going through the hiring process for this role. My goal is for the individual to help with social media strategy and how to communicate information to current and incoming residents. Overall to enhance the resident experience
- c. Courtyard Common Room– NEW patio chairs and board games
- BBQ will be available for residents
    - An email will be sent out with the instructions for booking the BBQ machine and renting out utensils shortly
    - Please note that no food is provided with the BBQ machine
- d. Re-charge, prepare for next couple months and fall 2022
- e. Advice on enhancing the move-in experience for incoming Fall residents
- Depending on budget and bandwidth
  - Contactless move-in experience
  - Welcome event or BBQ (i.e., this year we did a breakfast week)
  - Mentimeter; anonymous submission of ideas
  - 'How can we enhance the move-in experience for new residents?' -Mentimeter
    - Social media programming
    - Orientation activities
    - Local food guide
    - Assigned grad house buddy
    - Grocery store locations
    - UofT school group tour

- Free coupons
- Broad games night
- Bring back welcome BBQ
- Tour of GH with RAs
- Welcome dinner
- Local food guide
- f. Programming suggestions- Mentimeter
  - 'Please share your programming suggestions for Summer 2022
    - Canada's wonderland
    - Talent show
    - Capture the flag
    - BBQ
    - Toronto zoo
    - Scavenger hint
    - Hikes
    - Casa Loma, escape rooms
    - Bookstores
    - Canada day activity
    - Spa trip
    - Rock climbing
    - Food festivities

### 3. Residence Services

- a. Reminder to return heaters when you are done so other residents can borrow them

### 4. Facility Updates

- a. Overview of summer projects
  - Phase III roof replacement
    - Each year we are tackling one section of the roof. This is phase III of a 4-Phased roof replacement.
    - Replace west side of the roof
    - Est timeline: May – October
    - Impacts:
      - Construction noise
      - Dust
      - Scaffolding, overhead protection, staging sites (possible access restriction to Courtyard)
  - Annual suite refreshments
    - Capital plan: 11 suites annually on a 10-year cycle
    - Issues:
      - Skyrocketing construction cost
      - Supply chain
      - Strike action; carpenters and possibly plumbing
    - Impacts
      - Relocations
      - Possible noise

- CCR Renewal
  - Desired \$1M redesign was not possible due to:
    - Budget constraints
    - Capacity constraints
    - NHR unknowns
  - Quick win strategy to make space useable immediately
  - Completed work:
    - Renew paint, carpet
  - Remaining work:
    - Windowing covering, artwork and possible furniture purchase
  - Impacts:
    - No further impacts
  - Suggestions: we love to hear suggestions, please reach out to Ryan and Elizabeth via email
- Courtyard renewal
  - New Muskoka chairs, chaise lounge, and umbrellas
  - New BBQs
  - Deep Clean
  - Landscaping (May 2022)
  - New bench? (summer 2022)
- Electrical shutdown
  - First electrical shutdown to perform electrical maintenance
  - Schedule for June 25<sup>th</sup> from 7am -7pm
  - Emergency power will include elevators, life safety systems, and corridor and exit lights
  - Mini-fridge on emergency power for medicines that require refrigeration
  - Impacts:
    - All receptacles will not function
    - Lighting
    - Appliances (fridge/freezer, cooking)
    - Internet access
    - Air Conditioning
- Display your pride
  - University #displayyourpride on June 17<sup>th</sup>; GH participation
- Building envelope assessment
  - Assessment scope
    - Concrete
    - Window wall systems
    - Exterior insulation and finish system (EIFS)
    - Roof is excluded
  - Summary of Concern
    - Construction history
    - Improper drainage systems in EIFS
    - Multiple disruptive leaks

- High moisture readings
  - Concrete cracks of concern
  - Poor functions window system (sound and temperature)
- Duct Cleaning
  - Clean all dust, debris, in each suite
  - Ensures system is well maintained, helps reduce allergens in the building
  - Impacts:
    - Enter each suite and some bedrooms
    - Some noise
    - Some duct
- b. First Annual Building Walk Through
  - We are seeking resident representative to walk through the building's common spaces with members of our ResLife and Building Ops team
  - We are seeking to identify:
    - Things that are functions well or not well
    - Why residents may or may not use certain common spaces
    - Ideas for space improvements
- c. Piloting a cleaning service for residents
  - Residents have expressed a desire for cleaning services
  - Cleaning pilot with potential of building wide service
  - Positives:
    - Allow students to focus on their studies
    - Reduce turnover cleaning time (no build-up)
    - Maintain our capital asset
    - Reduce suitemate conflicts
  - Feedback on pilot scope and costs and frequency (i.e., weekly or bi-weekly offering of cleaning services)
- d. How your Thermostat works
  - Communications gone out today:
    - Transitioned to neutral today
    - Thermostat will not operate, but fan will circulate air
    - Chiller Plant repair
    - Updates forthcoming
  - Tips for Staying cool:
    - Close your blinds
    - Open your windows
    - Avoid using your oven and stovetop
    - Unplug devices
    - Enjoy the courtyard
    - Pick up a fan at the service desk; allocated on the first come, first serve basis
- Neutral periods and transition to cooling
- Implications of the annual electrical shutdown on Saturday June 25 7am-7pm

## F&A

- Resident: I have a question about common space and the courtyard. Can we add heat lamps in cooler weather?
  - Elizabeth: Heat lamps were considered but the university wants to reduce carbon footprint. So the use of heat lamps were strongly discouraged. We are looking for other options with less of carbon footprint.
  - Resident: The cleaning services is a good idea as the program commitments leave them to busy. How will the service work?
  - Elizabeth: A smaller portion of suites can be done per month if all suitemates agree to cost the service. Potentially down the road we can add that fee as part of residence fees for the whole building. The cleaning will be primarily bathroom and kitchen and not bedrooms
  - Resident: Suitemates and I were discussing there is a limit to how students can keep their suites very clean
  - Elizabeth: The caretaking vendor will create a proposal for us before it begins
  - Dave: In suite style spaces expectations and standards of cleanliness differ. Some other residence this fee is built into the residence fees. This helps alleviate other issues. I am keen and happy to see this service come into place
  - Elizabeth: In occupied suites where new residents are coming in, we are having issue identifying issues before we move in (i.e., no surface area available, no fridge space, hook in the coat rack)
5. Residence Council Updates
  6. Other Business
    - Kamadchi: Next meeting we will start with round table to ask questions. Also, the building tour and next RAC meetings will be sent via email soon

Next Meeting –TBD