

Graduate House Residence Advisory Committee

Thursday February 10th, 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. Kevin Dancy, Director, Residence Operations
- d. Elizabeth Urbanowski, Manager of Finance, Administration, & Operations
- e. Ryan Hopkin, Facilities Coordinator
- f. Adoni Jeyandran, Service Coordinator (Minutes)
- g. Angel Badewole, Head Residence Advisor
- h. Vidit Deswal, Graduate House Council Representative
- i. Boran Kumral, Graduate House Resident
- j. Guanglei Zhou, Graduate House Resident
- k. Keturah Gray, Graduate House Resident
- l. Shae-Linn Davies, Graduate House Resident
- m. Victoria Chiu, Graduate House Resident
- n. Bowen Chan, Graduate House Resident
- o. Joseph Kawalec, Graduate House Resident
- p. Fute Wong, Graduate House Resident
- q. Mufazzal E Haque Mahmud, Graduate House Resident
- r. Charlie Buck, Graduate House Resident

Absent:

- Kevin Dancy, Director, Residence Operations
- Bowen Chan, Graduate House Resident
- Fute Wong, Graduate House Resident

2. Purpose of Committee

3. Dave: Lunar New Year at Graduate House

- a. The University's Vice-President & Provost and the Vice-President, People Strategy, Equity & Culture have released a joint statement on this matter, which may be found [here](#)
- b. The Graduate House team is working with the Anti-Racism and Cultural Diversity Office to engage in learning opportunities and professional development

4. Kamadchi: Residence Life Updates

- a. COVID-19
 - i. Guest policy

- Currently, no guests in the building which includes UofT students and other community members
 - The permitted guests are current grad house residents
 - We will keep you updated if the policy changes
 - ii. Common spaces reopening
 - Announced earlier this week opening via email
 - iii. Distribution of Rapid Antigen Tests in December 2021/January 2022
 - iv. Waste water testing – If test is positive, we contact all guests/contractors/students/staff/etc. to let them know to get tested as a precautionary measure
 - The testing will continue at Grad House and the aim of the program is to keep the UofT community safe. For more information, please refer to the following link; <https://ehs.utoronto.ca/covid-19-wastewater-program-at-large-u-of-t-residences/>
 - b. RA Hiring for 2022-2023 academic year
 - i. Hiring 7 residence advisors and 1 head residence advisor
5. Adoni: Residence Services
 - a. SDA Programming
 - i. SDAs will continue on a monthly basis to offer programming as a way to interact with residents
6. Kamadchi: Communications
 - a. New Graduate House website coming soon
 - i. Purpose of the new website is 1) rebranding 2) to get in line with other UofT ancillary services websites
 - b. Instagram re-launch
 - i. How can this platform be valuable for GH residents? What would you like to see with this platform?
 - Kamadchi: The Instagram username is graduate.house
 - Resident: More active on Instagram, therefore, highly likely to attend and part of events. I am a part of the Facebook group, but not active on Facebook
 - Kamadchi: What kinds of updates would you like to see on the Instagram page?
 - Resident: You can use the Instagram page to update residents on GH events (i.e., a mixture of RA and Service Desk events). Also, notify residents of maintenance and constructions around the building via Instagram stories which is active for 24 hours
 - Resident: The Instagram page can be used to show pictures of residents during events. Also, posting pictures of what current residents are doing in a more casual sense can be helpful for future residents to see their life at grad house

- Resident: The Instagram page can share store promotions for GH residents in the neighborhood
- Kamadchi; We have an event to promote the Instagram page. If you like, follow, and share you can enter a draw to win a \$10.00 Starbucks gift card
- Resident: Who runs the Instagram account?
- Kamadchi: We wanted to have a concrete plan so Angel, Victoria and I run the page. RA Victoria's pillar is GH community, so this fits with her pillar

7. Elizabeth: Facility Updates

a. Welcome Ryan, our new Facilities Coordinator

i. Ryan's role includes:

- Responding to more complex maintenance issues and requests
- Analyzing our internal processes, recommending improvements, and implementing these enhancements in our service delivery
- Leading strategic projects, including security enhancements, procuring new blinds, desk chairs, and lamps
- Digitizing contractor sign-in
- Improving inventory control and space management

ii. Ryan: Expressed excitement to be part of the team

- About me: I come from a hospitality background (facilities and operations), lived in Canada for a number of years, looking forward to interacting with GH community members

b. New laundry machines installed early December

i. How is the transition to the new laundry machines?

- Elizabeth: No news is good news? How is the app? Feedback?
- Resident: integration with online component was good and generally no issues with the new machines
- Resident: all good, work on time, availability online
- Resident: I use the website to look into machine availability and such. One suggestion is to have machines pour the detergent on the front
- Elizabeth: For the front detergent loading, there is an awful odor in the machine since the moisture stains. Before we used to do a weekly cleaning procedure. We chose to have the top loading machines for this reason
- Resident: We should add diversity to the machines such as different types of detergent loads (i.e., not enough front loads)
- Elizabeth: We choose these machines due to the limited space. Also, we offer accessibility machines for those who may need it. We anticipate the new building will include a bigger laundry room accessible for GH residents
- Angel (chat): Can put liquid directly on your clothes

- Elizabeth: I can ask our vendors what are the different tricks for the laundry machines
 - Angel (chat): The detergent bottle should say if you can put liquid on the clothes directly
 - c. Transition back to non-essential work
 - i. Accepting all maintenance requests
 - d. Finalizing summer construction projects
 - i. Something to look forward to and in future meeting we will discuss the upcoming projects
- 8. Elizabeth: Finance
 - a. SARG (Service Ancillary Review Group) update
 - i. The residence fees go through a variety of bodies and communities. There is an process of approval and the final step is to go through the university affairs board and governing council
- 9. Kamadchi: Residence Council Updates
 - a. Purchased a new table tennis
 - i. Resident: We are ordering a ping pong table. Also, over Christmas we served students food
 - Currently, we are repairing the pool table. I was informed the black ball is missing and we are trying to purchase a new one
 - We are also open to suggestions and resident is part of the committee. We are always available for contact as well
- 10. Other Business
 - a. Microsoft Teams link for questions
 - b. Resident
 - i. Over the weekend, I was leaving through the front door and someone asked me for money, offered to sell me some items and followed me for a couple blocks.
 - ii. A GH resident with a bike was rude to the SDA when they asked him to wear a mask. Maybe we can send out an email reminder to residents to wear masks
 - c. Kamadchi
 - i. If these situations arises please escalated to the RA and involve campus safety. In terms of escalation, the RA or SDA are staff that can help with unwelcomed guests
 - ii. For masks in the building, does anyone have suggestions or other creative ways to share the policy? What would your peers like to see? Any ideas?
 - d. Resident
 - i. Experienced a similar incident like other Resident with an unwelcomed guest. It's best to call campus police

Next Meeting –Thursday March 10th at 3:00pm