

Housing Advisory Committee

November 15th, 2022 | 2:00pm | Teams

Attendance:

Present: Jen Coulter (Director of Student Housing and Residence Life), Dan Brisebois (Assistant Director, Residence Life and Education), Rob Marsh (Assistant Director, Residence Operations & Services), Tanna Edwards (Administrative Coordinator Student Housing), Nicole Sullivan (Off-Campus Housing Coordinator, Student Housing- Guest), Ryan van Wolde (Co-President, GC Residence Council), Gabriella Irwin (Co-President, CC Residence Council), Apoorva Kulkarni (CC Cabinet), Rori Ash (Co-President, GC Residence Council), Aimee-Marie Anctil (VP Campaigns, TCSA; Don in LEC Annex), Camryn Moerchen (LEC Cabinet).

Minutes:

I. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement (Jen Coulter)

- Jen welcomed the Committee members and thanked them for taking the time to participate.
- She also read Trent's land acknowledgment as Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) is a public meeting.

II. Introductions (Jen Coulter)

- Jen invited all present during a round-table to introduce themselves and state what constituency they were representing at the table today.
- Those present (and their constituency) are noted above under attendees.

III. HAC (Housing Advisory Committee) Orientation (Jen Coulter)

- Jen shared an overview of the Housing Advisory Committee which itself is a sub-committee of CASSC (Colleges and Student Services Committee).
- While often the focus feels like it is primarily the undergraduate experience, also invited and important is the voice of the TGSA (Trent Graduate Student Association), so that input and feedback is provided around that student experience as well.
- Jen also noted that Student Housing is continuously trying to improve programs and services to better support students, so feedback is welcomed.
- The Terms of Reference and the types of discussions that will be brought forward and/or updated during these meetings were outlined such as renovations/renewals, off-campus housing issues, services provided at the Service Centres, residence fees, and the housing budget.

- The intent around these discussions is for students to provide feedback and for Housing staff to be able to provide residence spaces and programming that supports students in the best way.
- She also noted that very specific issues (i.e., the time it is taking to answer a question, or take care of a leak, and/or specific HR issues) should not be brought up at this larger forum, but that the Housing professional staff members in attendance would stay online to address any specific issues, if needed, once the meeting has adjourned.
- Please wait for others to leave the call before bringing specific issues out off-line.

IV. Student Consultation, Residence Fee Options (Rob Marsh)

- Rob noted that he intends to convene an opportunity for feedback from students on how we can potentially deal with rises in inflation which are affecting things like utilities and renovations can be addressed – the things students are seeing at the pump and at the grocery store affect the housing budget in much the same way.
- He is looking for volunteers for an online conversation of 30-40 minutes in the next couple of weeks (Camryn, Ryan, Rori and Gabrielle volunteered) to share some challenges and gain their input.
- Additional volunteers are welcome from those student representatives who were unable to attend this meeting today.
- Please reach out to Tanna Edwards or Rob Marsh to indicate interest by end of day Nov 25, or chat with us in the Housing Advisory Team chat (to which all HAC members should have access – please contact Tanna if you do not).

V. Housing Capital Dev Strategy Update (Jen Coulter)

- Jen shared an update on the Housing Strategy, noting that the University is looking to partner with a developer to add an additional approximately 900 beds between now and Sept 2027.
- This would encompass both the addition of a new college and the demolition and rebuild of Otonabee College residence (OCR).
- Groundbreaking is currently anticipated to be in Spring, 2025.
- The university is currently in the RFP (request for proposal) process.
- The Housing Strategy was developed and presented to HAC back in 2019 and includes initiatives to add beds (discussed above), renovate all existing University owned residences, enhance our programs and services, and improve support for off-campus students.

VI. Off Campus Housing Update (Nicole Sullivan/Rob)

- The off-campus housing program has now had 1 full time position for just over 1 year.
- They have assisted over 700 students and counting with looking for housing, communicating with landlords, rental scams and our new temporary Emergency Housing Fund.
- The program has had a positive response from Peterborough and Durham students as well as landlords.
- We have had the opportunity to assist and develop many events for our students including the Great Neighbourhood Walk and coming this winter Rent Smart Training and our first Student Housing Day on January 26th in Peterborough and January 31st in Durham.
- Nicole shared that an Off-Campus Housing Sub-Committee (of HAC) was being formed so off-campus students and those who represent them would have voice to challenges that those students face and help to provide ideas and suggestions as to ways that they could be better supported through the Housing Office.
- Terms of Reference for the Off-Campus Housing Sub-Committee were shared in the meeting invitation and are available on the Housing Advisory Committee Team.
- Nicole presented the following motion: "I move to approve the Off-Campus Student Housing Advisory Committee, which is a sub-committee of the Housing Advisory Committee Terms of Reference as presented. This committee will have a representative from each of the student groups and unions that will assist in providing a voice for our off-campus students and the development of future programming and support. Would someone be willing to second my motion?"
 - Moved by Nicole
 - Seconded by Ryan
 - Motion passed
- In addition, all meeting participants were encouraged by Housing professional staff members to share widely that Nicole and her team is available to assist with issues students are having off-campus.
- While they may not be able to resolve all, they will support, answer questions, provide resources where applicable.
- This office can be reached by email: offcampushousing@trentu.ca

VII. EDIA Recommendations Update (Dan Brisebois)

- Dan shared that the EDIA (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism) Recommendations were provided to HAC during the 2020-2021 academic year from the HAC sub-committee tasked with exploring these issues.
- A copy of these EDIA recommendations can be found on the Housing website.
- Dan noted that beginning in January 2023 that committee will again begin work on how to best implement more of those recommendations.

- He will be reaching out to HAC members for those interested in participating in this work.
- To date, Jen noted that most of the work has been done around the training recommendations.
- Dons receive training on how best to relate in-field with others to recognize issues and Housing professional staff will have each received 10 hours of EDI training during the Fall, 2022 semester.

Next HAC Meetings Scheduled:

- Friday, December 2, 2022, 11:00am
- Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 2:00pm
- Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 10:30am
- Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 2:00pm