

Introduction

This report of the Senate Residence Committee is a summary of the activities of the committee for the period September 2008 to April 2009.

Purpose of the Committee

As a standing committee of the Senate, the mandate of the Senate Residence Committee (SRC) is to:

- recommend to the Senate policies that ensure residences life is complementary to the attainment of academic excellence in the University;
- advise Senior Residence Administration in all matters of policy relating to the Residence system; and,
- support and encourage the existence of student government.

During the 2008-2009 academic year, the SRC met eight times.

Sub-Committees and Ad Hoc Committees

The Senate Residence Committee has a variety of sub-committee and ad hoc committees. These include:

- Executive & Agenda Committee chaired by V. Remenda;
- Admissions Committee chaired by B. Griffiths;
- Residence Budget Advisory Committee chaired by B. Griffiths;
- Meal Plan Advisory Committee chaired by B. Griffiths;
- Discipline Working Group chaired by H. Fazekas;
- Student Life Committee chaired by D. Nauman;
- Council Committee chaired by V. Remenda;
- Ad Hoc Committee to Consider the Exchange Program in Residence chaired by V. Remenda;
- Ad Hoc Committee on Residence Redevelopment chaired by B. Griffiths; and
- Ad Hoc Committee to Examine the Issues of Capacity in Residences chaired by B. Griffiths

Residence Admissions

In 2008-2009, Residence occupancy was well above budgeted targets requiring the use of the majority of on-floor common rooms as bedrooms. The Admissions sub-Committee discussed various process issues and recommended targets for 2009 - 2010. The "gold standard" for the ideal number of students was increased to offset fee increases and allow for a greater number of students to participate in the residence experience. The committee also recommended a new policy on dealing with unregistered students in residence.

Residence Budget Advisory Committee

The Budget Committee met on nine occasions to:

- develop the 2009/2010 budget;
- set the 2010/2011 fees;
- review the expected fee changes, with varying fee level possibilities; and
- discuss possibilities for increased funding to central budgets due to the university's financial situation.

As a result, Residences will contribute an additional \$700K beginning in 2010-2011.

Passing of the 2009-2010 budget was deferred to September 2009 when further information would be available concerning the deficit in Event Services.

Approval was given by the Board (and subsequently, the Board of Trustees) for a 4.0% overall increase for the 2010-2011 academic year while a number of other fees were adjusted strategically.

Meal Plan Review Committee

The Meal Plan Advisory Committee recommended to the S.R.C. that the number of cash equivalencies (the ability for students to substitute a dining hall meal for a meal in retail outlets) be increased from 100 to 200. A new outlet (known as "Gord's") opened in September with a focus on healthy options.

Discipline Working Group

The committee met on a monthly basis to review policies, procedures, rules and regulations, in order to fine tune the residence discipline process. The working group recommended changes to the management of outstanding educational sanctions and the process of ratifying cases. Appendix A provides a summary of actions and judicial statistics for the 2008-2009 academic year. (See Senate Agenda, Appendix I1, Page 39)

Student Life Committee

The Student Life Committee in conjunction with the Coordinator of Health Education and Health Promotion Programs reviewed the educational and harm reduction approach to alcohol education in residence. The discussion included the use of educational sanctions such as on-line self-assessment and workshops for students who were found responsible for violations of the alcohol policy.

Council Committee

The Council Committee was unable to meet during the 2008-2009 academic year.

Ad Hoc Committee Residence Redevelopment

This committee reviewed and recommended guiding principles for residence redevelopment.

Ad Hoc Committee to Examine Issues of Capacity in Residences

Due to an anticipated increase to the number of first year students expected in September, this committee reviewed options for housing and the possible impact on the residence community. The report was submitted at the first Senate Residence Committee in September 2008.

Ad Hoc Committee to Consider Exchange Students

Due to imbalances between the number of exchange students in the fall and winter terms, residences sustains an increase to the number of vacancies in the winter term. This committee, chaired by V. Remenda, explored opportunities and possible solutions with various exchange coordinators.

V. Remenda

Chair (2008-2009)

Senate Residence Committee

Membership

V. Remenda, Chair/Principal's Representative

M. Lafreniere, Appointed Faculty Representative

J. Welsh, SGPS Representative

M. Rao, JRHC Representative

C. Liu, VP (Operations & Finance) Representative

H. Sirman, Appointed Staff Representative

T. Radcliffe, AMS President

M. Paramathasan, MCRC President

M. Boomhour, Admissions Committee

B. Griffiths, Budget Advisory & Meal Plan Advisory Committees

H. Fazekas, Discipline Working Group

D. Nauman, Student Life Committee

C. Landon, Secretary