

**Report to the Senate of Queen's University
Senate Residence Committee
For the period May 2007 – August 2008**

Introduction

This report of the Senate Residence Committee is a summary of the activities of the committee for the period May 2007 to August 2008.

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 the Executive Director (Housing Services) in all matters of policy relating to the Residence system; and,
- support and encourage the existence of student government.

During the 2007-2008 academic year, the SRC met seven times, under the leadership of Dr. Vicki Remenda, Chair.

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 S. Goffin-Boyd;
- Student Life Committee chaired by E. Leal Conrad;
- Council Committee in which the chair position was not filled for the 2007-2008 session;
- 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 2007-2008, Residence occupancy was at or near budgeted targets. The Admissions sub-Committee discussed various process issues and options for graduate students once the Graduate Residence was to be closed in 2009. In March, after enrolment targets increased significantly, planning was required during the summer months in order to provide accommodation to these additional students.

Residence Budget Advisory Committee

The Budget Committee met a total of four times to:

- develop the 2008/2009 budget;
- set the 2009/2010 fees;
- review revised estimates for the redevelopment project;
- receive presentations from each functional area in order to better understand foundational budget issues;
- review a proposal to increase the ResNet fee to purchase more bandwidth
- discuss process issues;

- discuss the removal of the Event Services (formerly Conference Services) costs and revenues from the Residence budget
- discuss the need for increased transparency and,
- review the expected fee changes, with varying fee level possibilities.

Approval was given by the Board (and subsequently, the Board of Trustees) for a 3.5% increase for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Meal Plans and New Food Venue

The Meal Plan Advisory Committee recommended to the S.R.C. that Leonard cafeteria should be closed at breakfast due to low participation and the money saved be utilized to improve meal plan flexibility. Renovations were undertaken at Ban Righ to create a noodle concept and planning took place for a new outlet (known as "Gord's") 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 make the system more effective in its managing of outstanding educational sanctions. The group updated wording on a few alcohol related community standards. The progression of sanctions assigned to a student when they are found responsible for level one offences more than once were updated to include an educational sanction and the option of a bond was removed.

Student Life Committee

The Student Life Committee is charged with developing policy and procedures that fosters the growth and development of resident students and the residence community. The committee forwarded to the S.R.C. a list of principles to help guide Residence Orientation along with suggestions for the upcoming year. Due to scheduling challenges the committee was only able to briefly explore safety and security and academic initiatives as they relate to Residences.

Council Committee

The Main Campus Residence Council (MCRC) created a Board of Directors' Charter. MCRC also advised the S.R.C. of updates to its policy book and changes to their VP portfolios. In the spring of 2007 the Jean Royce Hall Council brought forward updates to their constitution.

Residence Redevelopment Project

Due to a higher than expected cost for the McNeill House project, Residences reviewed opportunities for alternate staging of the project with a complete financial plan ready for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Other Items of Interest

During the course of the academic year the Senate Residence Committee discussed a variety of other topics and was advised of other Residence matters. The S.R.C. discussed the draft student code of conduct. Three ad hoc committees were struck - one to consider the exchange program in residence; one to examine the issues of capacity in residence; and the last to determine the guiding principles when moving forward with residence redevelopment.

Sustainability was a key focus of the S.R.C. and Residences. In conjunction with Student Affairs and other partners the first annual Residence Energy Challenge was held. Several Residence environmental initiatives were highlighted including `Green Cleaning`, improvements to the recycling

program and Food Services` efforts including using local produce, purchasing energy-efficient equipment and piloting a composting program were also discussed.

Dr. J. Laker provided a presentation on the new organizational structure of Residences. The new structure incorporates three wings vs. two under the old structure – Residence & Hospitality Services, Residence Life, and Intergroup Programs & Community Development (the new wing) – all of which will report directly to the Associate VP & Dean of Student Affairs.

Conclusion

The Chair thanks all those who contributed to the work of the committee, sub-committees, and ad hoc committees over the past year.

V. Remenda

Chair (2007-2008)

Senate Residence Committee

Membership

D. Wright, Housing Services

M. Lafreniere, Elected Faculty Representative

A. Farzam-Kia, SGPS Representative

W. Poon, JRHC Representative

D. Janiec, VP (Operations & Finance) Representative

H. Sirman, Elected Staff Representative

K. Chak, AMS President

M. Koichopolos, MCRC President

M. Boomhour, Admissions Committee

B. Griffiths, Budget Advisory & Meal Plan Advisory Committees

S. Goffin-Boyd, Discipline Working Group

E. Leal-Conrad, Student Life Committee

C. Landon, Secretary