AHEC Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020, 8:00pm @Zoom

Attendees:
Adam
Katie
Allison
Amanda
Andrew
Haosheng
Kruthika
Mohit

Minutes: Jacqueline

[Update] Mask distribution
- Got more responses from residents
- Amanda to send another email to front desk to distribute masks

[Update] Contact tracing
- May need more volunteers, still waiting on some materials
  - Amanda to ask if we need more Ashdown volunteers
  - (if needed) Haosheng to send another reminder to ask all residents

[Update] Outside meetings
- Building Residential Communities (BRC) meeting – new training for grad students
  - How to wear masks & training on health attestations
  - Issue: also gave information on how to move back to campus, irrelevant for students already here
  - Looking for feedback on training module
- Activities – nothing
- Sustainability – nothing
- GSC – nothing; next meeting at beginning of August
- HCA – nothing yet

[Update] Number of residents back
- Same as it’s been, couple more folks trickling in
  - Around 65 for now

[Update] Guest policy
- Announcement will be made in next week or so
- Recognizes isolation will be a problem; working on resources to address loneliness
  (more mental health help)
Will keep rule on no day guests for the foreseeable future
  ○ No consensus at all concerning guests (across HoH and residents)
  ○ Would be useful to get information on thoughts about guest policy
Adam to host another town hall after policy is formally announced next week
Need clarification on fee cancellation
  ○ MIT previously said they would waive housing fees from Sep – Oct, but will charge rent starting Sep 1 for continuing lease (or when resident moves in, whichever is earlier)
    ■ Adam to check on this
  ○ How will housing consider lottery after space opens due to cancellations?
    ■ Those people may have already found housing by the time decisions are made & may no longer be interested
    ■ Usually there’s a huge waitlist to go through
    ■ How will partially empty rooms be handled?
    ■ Adam to check if housing will fill rooms of those who’ve cancelled & if people can move within building to de-densify

[Update] Resident survey on COVID-19 concerns
  ● Clarity on concern in “How concerned are you about having limited ability to interact with other residents in-person?”
    ○ Unclear on whether interaction is too little or too great
    ○ Amanda to edit survey question about social isolation
Guest policy thoughts would be appreciated
Target of survey? How will Housing use this to inform policies?
  ○ Give a better sense of how everyone is feeling
  ○ Beware of giving false hope
    ■ Let residents know this is meant to give feedback to panels
    ■ Make it clear input will be used towards advocacy, action is out of AHEC’s control
Helpful sections that are actionable for AHEC: events & masks
  ○ Still having issues with people not wearing masks around Ashdown
Amanda to edit email and stress that input could be used for advocacy for certain policies/frame as we want to hear from them

[Update] Officer orientation scheduling and presentation
  ● 45 responses so far, can have max 34 people at once
    ○ Looking like 3-5 PM on Sunday, July 26th
    ○ Availability changes between hours
      ■ People will be popping in and out
      ■ Amanda to send out presentation after meeting
    ○ Haosheng to send a Zoom invite to everyone’s calendars
Still editing presentation from Madeleine
  ○ Replace intros & pics for AHEC positions
    ■ Heads of House to send intros & updated pics too
- Fill out officer structure hierarchy
- (Kru to) confirm deadlines for event planning funding
- Add to ongoing projects
  - Efforts to build remote community (Zoom, what AHEC’s done in terms of surveys, masks, brainstorming on socially distanced events, Mindset lecture note)
  - Policies on events during COVID (what groups can do)
  - Dropbox & reorganizing reorganization

[Update] Website
- No set launch date (migrated all content, waiting on lottery info)
- Lottery logistics
  - Taking into account seniority, priority, sum vs average, group moves vs single
    - Fine to keep old system
  - Stable match – no combination of student/room with low priority & high preference
  - Transparency – just post mechanism in full
- No access to entertainment room for tracking inventory
  - Website could go live without this, would just need asterisks & messages describing situation on this & other areas impacted by COVID
- Website now page-for-page copy of old one – may want to do restructuring
- Hold off on launch for now

[Discussion] Restarting coffee hour
- Email received from resident proposing a way to restart coffee hour – prepackaged food, emails sent to residents to call for pickup
  - How to keep social aspect? Zoom?
  - A good kickstart to having activities
  - Would need to address pickup logistics (packaging, crowding, masks, location)
    - Location – avoid kitchen; maybe hold outside
      - Useful to have long-term tent/canopy outdoors in future (possibly funded by administration, if approached in the right way)?
    - Crowding – release by floor
  - Naomi would be good point of contact for this
    - Learn about institute policies & tent possibility
    - Get coffee hour and brunch committees involved after speaking with Naomi
    - Discuss this during officer orientation
- Andrew and Allison to contact chairs of coffee hour and brunch about this
- Andrew to forward chain to Naomi & ask what is feasible to implement

[Update] Suggestion box
- Nothing

[Discussion] Mask availability for former residents
● Former residents don’t have access to Ashdown
  ○ No issue voiced on giving masks, but issue on logistics of delivery
  ○ Kru to mail masks (on-campus MIT mail is free)
  ○ Amanda to forward resident email & ask for address

[Update] Events officer handing off memento
● Event was a Reset Mindset lecture; speaker cancelled due to COVID
● Amanda to pick up and store in AHEC closet
  ○ Will have to try to have event again (virtually) and invite same speaker, then mail gift to them

[Update] Note about action items email
● Let Amanda know if items in list have already been completed

Presided by: Amanda

Meeting adjourned