

AHEC Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2020, 8:00pm @Zoom

Attendees:

Adam

Allison

Amanda

Haosheng

Kruthika

Minutes: Jacqueline

[Update] Mask distribution

- Have given out ~150 masks so far
- More people expected back in mid-August
 - Might need to order more masks around then
 - Current version runs small, might be uncomfortable for those with larger faces
- Amanda to resend out mask request email in mid-August

[Update] Contact tracing

- Some beacons put up, 8 more to go – expect to have them up by end of the week
 - Amanda to finish placing beacons
- Email about contact tracing hasn't been sent out yet
 - Amanda to ask Julie/Sarah when this will be sent out & whether residents responded to form

[Update] Outside meetings

- New guard policy: additional security guards to enforce COVID-19-related policies; continuous service in addition to night watch with reporting privileges for mask-wearing enforcement, no nametags, carry ID checks at all times, strict disciplinary measures (referrals to Committee on Discipline)
 - Student-based reporting through hotlines
 - Grad students raised concerns about bias training for guards
- Heads of House (HoH): rolling in extra staff to avoid turning GRAs into mask police
 - Make sure people in Ashdown feel heard, but AHEC doesn't need to do administrative stuff (that's for Housing and HoH) like disseminating university policies
 - HoH are bridge between Ashdown & administration
- GSC: nothing
- Sustainability: nothing
- HCA: nothing
- Orientation: nothing

[Update] Updates from Adam

- Internal lottery waiting on hearing final move-in numbers
 - Those who want to return in January are not guaranteed housing but will get priority over external people
- Info on testing is up now
- Adam to get answers this week on other issues

[Discussion] Half-year officer leases

- Adam responded to resident with this concern, formal housing policy will incorporate priority in January for residents who cancelled for Fall 2020 semester

[Discussion] Questions on new policies

- N/A

[Update] Resident survey on COVID-19 concerns

- 17 responses so far, slowly trickling in
 - Residents brought up eating in floor kitchens, cleaning & disinfection, laundry
 - All of the responses already wear masks
 - Events like virtual speed friending and virtual movies were popular
 - Guest policy: most asked for other Ashdown residents, then interdorm guests
 - No difference in whether guests were allowed in common spaces vs only individual rooms
 - Interdorm guests will be discussed with Housing as a possibility
 - Some concerns about rent, most respondents said they'd live in anywhere
 - Concerns about clause in housing license on not needing to ensure heating & other facilities
 - Concerns about house tax increasing although activities have changed
 - Adam to ask about whether this will still happen
- Amanda to resend survey

[Update] Officer orientation

- Officers engaged in breakout sessions & interested in brainstorming events
 - Consensus on having something within Ashdown for orientation, even if Orientation committee doesn't have specific events planned by that time
- Attendance for individual committees
 - Communities: everyone but 1
 - Operations: missing 2-3 people
 - Coffee Hour: 5 out of 12
 - Coffee Hour should combine more with Brunch since they're facing similar challenges and overlapping tasks
 - Events: only John and 2 other officers, worried about not having enough chairs; got email from another officer saying their term is ending and they won't be participating now

- Will need help – usually, Events has officers lead 1 event and help out with 2 more, so potential to open up brainstorming and planning to other committees to carry out their ideas
- Of Events officers who didn't show up
 - 1 had a time conflict with advisor, plans to travel to Greece soon
 - 1 will be leaving MIT this fall
 - 2 turned down chair position, may be leaving Ashdown
 - 1 will try to participate from Australia
- Amanda to ask John to follow up individually with Events officers who haven't responded
 - 5 officers will be meeting on Thursday to discuss
 - Those who choose to quit won't accrue service towards continuing status

[Update] Website

- Launched 2 weeks ago
- Amanda to work on her pages
- Haosheng to check on Mohit's progress with script
- AHEC to discuss restructuring website organization
 - Goal: aspirational website, finished before orientation
 - Make notes about COVID changes in one place
 - Haosheng to send out when2meet for AHEC-5

[Update] Weekly Tech Report emails

- Inventory officers need to make trip to front desk, update inventory, & assess equipment condition
 - Easier to do if more people are present; Denise recommends putting this off until Housing relaxes policies
- Will update officer emails later

[Update] Suggestion box

- Request to remind front desk staff to wear mask
 - Amanda to send email to Denise
- Request for AHEC to advocate for interdorm guests to be allowed visitation rights

[Update] July 3AM

- AHEC & HoH to send intros and letters to Allison, Arun, or Jacqueline

[Update] Composting project

- Adam to check with Dennis again (silence as of yet may mean no)
- Allison to wait on Housing before connecting Sustainability officer to Sloan student

[Discussion] Email from Sustainability officer

- Officer wasn't at officer orientation; would prefer not to move back to Ashdown for coming academic year because of COVID situation

- Haosheng waiting on clarification on whether he'd be willing to continue serving as officer

[Discussion] Need to consolidate officers who will be physically here vs remote

- Officers should have better idea by mid-August (department deadlines)
- Be aware of who is remote, who isn't, who's quitting, and timezones

[Update] Orientation and other event planning

- Events came up with pandemic-proof event ideas
- Typically, central events are Thirsty Ear BBQ, Dessert Night, Speed Friending, Dance Party, Orientation Brunch, orientation dinners with HoH
 - Speed Friending can be easily adapted
 - Could organize virtual HoH dinner & AHEC intro
- Possibility of using courtyard to hand things out to people, with social distancing
 - Brainstorm with SPEC (Sid-Pac) since they're considering similar challenges
 - Naomi might be able to facilitate – will already be holding event planning forum across all grad dorms
- Amanda to
 - Reach out to SPEC about Orientation ideas
 - Ask Naomi about occupancy limits
 - Present menu of events we've thought about
- Adam to email someone about Ashdown video
- AHEC to continue brainstorming within committees; Amanda & John will reach out about events that officers can help with

[Update] Changes to Ashdown Communications

- Left Facebook option to Publicity
- Waiting for more content and clarity before creating detailed plan for communications

[Discussion] Student Solutions Group and Graduate Community Continuity Group

- Received request to pass notices on these groups on to residents
- Will forward on to residents

[Update] Other action items

- N/A

[Discussion] Three-bedroom suites

- David says will communicate shortly about returning to three-bedroom suites
 - Pricing & order by which rooms are filled will be on a case-by-case basis
- Given demand, Ashdown expected to reach 85% occupancy this year, 15% due to occupancy of rooms without kitchens
 - Housing's operating under assumption that all rooms will be filled

Presided by: Amanda

Meeting adjourned