AHEC Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 8:00pm @Zoom

Attendees:

Adam

Allison

Amanda

Andrew

Haosheng

Katie

Kruthika

Michael Durso

John Bell

Liza Tremsina

Minutes: Jacqueline

[Update] House tax refund

* Refunded, Housing confirmed

[Update] Mental health programming

* No updates

[Update] Inconclusive test result notifications

* Wanted system to send a notification when you get inconclusive testing, and seems to be working now as people have reported getting emails

[Update] Laundry machine issues

* Michael’s been working on fixing out-of-order laundry machines and found it’s mostly a hard reset required (by manually unplugging them) after the door lock fails to engage; could have maintenance get power strips so people could reset the machines themselves one by one
  + Still 1 or 2 machines with an indiscernible error
* Michael to contact facilities/Denise about switch for hard reset
* Washlava hasn’t responded to emails about this

[Update] New laundry signage

* Can working on updated poster, has part 1 up but not part 2
* Haosheng to check in with Can

[Update] Outside meetings

* GSC: voted on budget and updated it from last year to not include student life fee, temporarily lower than previous years because of it; still taking nominations for open positions on GSC exec board
* Sustainability: nothing yet, meeting in 2 days
* HCA: nothing
* Activities: nothing

[Update] Suggestion box

* Nothing new

[Discussion] Spring Arts Festival

* Events (Liza & John) suggest holding art event in mid-May for overall grad student population including Ashdown community to allow people to appreciate the intersection between arts and science, especially student perspective:
  + Contest where participants combine interests in arts and research, maybe through representing their research concepts in artistic ways like data visualizations or song lyrics or dance forms
* Recommend opening up for submissions in a month and reimburse drinks
  + GSC funding increased reimbursement to $15/person including delivery
* Want to book YouTubers as panelists and for speaking events, would cost money
  + GSC doesn’t reimburse speaker fees or alcohol
  + Ashdown doesn’t reimburse alcohol, has never paid speaker fees
* Could have Illustrator, Photoshop, or crafts tutorial as in other Ashdown festivals
  + GSC and Ashdown can pay instructor fees
* June might be better than end-of-May since people will be busy with finals; if just holding competition, could hold it in April
* Consider reaching out to Julie Rorrer, colormephd.org
  + Draws coloring pages that show science, hand-draws figures for papers
* Should have no other concurrent events when speaker is speaking to be respectful
  + Could hold event over multiple days to spread out activities: one day for speaker, on day for competition
  + Could host competition entries on website or in Gather.town
* Short-term priorities
  + Put together budget including prizes for competition (no gift cards), snacks & drinks for reimbursement, and speakers if possible
  + Reach out to possible speaker
  + Find out who can offer tutorial, maybe at MIT Libraries
  + Need Ashdown account numbers for GSC funding application; reach out to Kru

[Update] Officer hiring

* Haosheng currently arranging sessions with people who applied mid-March, 1 new application in today to get in touch with, will interview this weekend
* Sent out recruitment email from other grad dorms

[Update] Opening the music room

* Denise is on vacation, when she gets back need info on what time people can go in to clean the room before Amanda can send off application
* Official music & theater arts dept policy is less strict than the one AHEC drafted and provides details on cleaning and 30 min period between reservations; they’re also looking into PPE for wind instruments (special masks/stoppers for instruments)
* Amanda to update AHEC policy and check with Denise
* Open forum – resident in Tang Hall on guest list in Ashdown, wondering if they can use piano room in Ashdown
  + Guests aren’t allowed to use common rooms, and music room currently isn’t open to anyone
  + Haosheng to email them

[Update] Logo design competition

* No update, current logo is more popular than two proposed logos, trying to get prizes to two submissions but keep logos in mind
  + Andrew to draft email, ask them what Ashdown swag they’d like
  + Amanda will give list of available swag

[Update] Cookbook

* Put together by Zach, asked if someone could send it out
  + Andrew to send it out

[Update] Ashdown-wide clothing donation event

* Going well, very full by last Friday and still being used today

[Discussion] Virtual tour of Ashdown/Ashdown rooms for visit weekend

* Haven’t heard back from Naomi

[Update] Confirm Pi Day celebration details

* All set, Amogh sent out email with info
  + Stress in email that you can just get a pie and not do a contest, but must attend
  + Maybe omit question about attending and ask people to come
* Ashdown record is 1200 digits of pi by someone standing in Hulsizer room; could’ve done 1400, but script checking digits maxed out at 1200 (Guinness record is 70,000)

[Update] Lottery and seniority points

* Mohit sent a page that’s not accessible
  + Amanda to check back about page
* 1 point each for last summer and fall, 1 point for chairs for summer and fall
* Lottery run last Sunday or Monday, only 3 applied and all got their first choice
  + Suggest doing one more internal lottery in early May/late April so Allison can coach next AHEC through it

[Discussion] Bike room locked from inside

* Resident mentioned bike room seems locked from the inside so that you can’t re-enter hallway from bike room, unclear if anyone else has experienced this
* Amanda emailed Denise

[Discussion] Common spaces

* Housing asked about opening up common spaces but haven’t heard residents asking for access to general lounges, just gym and music room
* Don’t see an urgency to open regular common spaces now if vaccines will be available for people 16 and older in the next two months
* Adam to ask David for clarification, may be more undergrad-focused than grad-focused

[Discussion] Pandemic housing survey

* HCA sent survey to figure out why people don’t want to live in grad housing anymore, asked AHEC to send it out to Ashdown
  + Amanda will send it out
* Also wanted Amanda to share results of survey she sent out last year

[Update] Storage/location of masks given by Housing

* Residents concerned about location of free Ashdown masks that used to be by printer
  + No updates from resident
* Housing supposed to buy masks but unsure if they ever arrived

[Update] Food events for spring semester

* Wondering if we want to do anything with Coffee Hour and Brunch this semester
  + Allison to speak with Coffee Hour and get more info

[Discussion] Recruiting nominees for AHEC

* No nominations currently, but could start a Google form or doc list to nominate people, run additional events to get people interested in running, put up posters, and email committees
* No one at the nomination dinners asked specific questions about AHEC
* May have to postpone Speech Night if there are no nominations
* AHEC to design a poster, email committees, ask individual officers/residents, and send out when2meet for 13-17
* Add option to officer hiring form for AHEC and send out another email with just nomination details on Friday & include $15 reimbursement for Speech Night

[Update] Ballots/candy for AHEC elections

* Kru has candy, Publicity is printing ballots
  + Haosheng to get in touch with Publicity once have list to print

Presided by: Amanda

Meeting adjourned