

Town & Gown Committee
held October 1, 2020

A meeting of the Town and Gown Committee is held this day commencing at 10:00 o'clock a.m. via Zoom video conference, there being present the following members:

Councillor Fabio Costante, Chair
Councillor Fred Francis
Jane Boyd
John Fairley
Alan Richardson

Guests in attendance:

Ryan Flannagan, Associate Vice President, Student Experience, University of Windsor
Michael Silvaggi, Associate Vice President, Student Services & Registrar, St. Clair College

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Anne Marie Albidone, Manager Environmental Services
Chris Aspila, Planner III
Inspector Dave Deluca, Windsor Police Services
John Lee, Chief Fire Prevention Officer
Barbara Rusan, Manager Policy & Regulatory Services, Building Department
Will Foot, Council Assistant
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 10:00 o'clock a.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule A attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

2. Declaration of Conflict

None disclosed.

3. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by J. Boyd,
That the minutes of the Town and Gown Committee of its meeting held July 16,
2020 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

4. Business Items

4.1 University of Windsor and St. Clair College

M. Silvaggi provides the following comments as it relates to the international students at St. Clair College:

- Immigration Canada has limited the ability of international students to travel to Canada. In May 2020, restrictions were implemented which would only allow students to travel that had a March 18, 2020 study permit.
- The students that were starting in May 2020 began their studies on-line.
- At this time, are anticipating that international students will not be able to travel here unless St. Clair College has approved their arrival plan, which includes a quarantine plan and a study permit that has been approved.
- Have worked with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, local Public Health Units in Windsor and Chatham as well as partners in Toronto.
- Once the plan is approved by the Ministry, it will allow the students to come in, however, will need to ensure that the students quarantine. Arrangements have been made with a local hotel to allow for the two week quarantine of the students.

R. Flanagan provides the following as it relates to the international students at the University of Windsor:

- Concurs that the University of Windsor and St. Clair College are in a similar situation as the same restrictions, directives from the Federal Government and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities have imposed on them.
- Because of the March 18, 2020 study permit restriction, only 140 students have come into the country. It is anticipated that the Government of Canada will change the March 18, 2020 study permit date to September 30, 2020 and at that point approximately 700 students will arrive.
- The majority of students in quarantine are off campus.
- Developed a very robust communications effort to ensure that their students are aware what the requirements are when coming into the country.
- The one caveat is that the Federal Government has placed a 50 per cent residency directive on international students. This means that any student who wants to

study in Canada, or do courses on-line, or if they want to be able to apply for a work permit after the completion of their academic work, they have to have 50 per cent residency in Canada while they are completing their course. So for 50 per cent of the time that they are taking courses in their program, they need to be in Canada.

- They are anticipating that over the next few weeks or months, the students will want to come to Canada as they need that residency requirement.

A. Richardson asks for an update relating to off-campus student issues, i.e student housing.

M. Silvaggi responds that the construction of the new residence for international students is underway which will house over 500 students on a semester basis (dependent on the COVID situation) in September 2021. He adds that no concerns related to housing has been received from the students.

R. Flanagan adds that due to the limited influx of students, there are many vacancies around the University of Windsor. He notes there have been no issues with students finding a place to live around the university.

In response to a question asked by J. Fairley regarding the residences at St. Clair College and how they changed due to COVID, M. Silvaggi responds the capacity was cut in half for students living on campus, i.e. the existing residence houses 416 students and was cut to 200 students living on campus. Due to this change in programming, many students from different regions in Ontario are studying at home.

R. Flanagan adds they have a very small number of residents in their buildings and strong messaging was put out to the students regarding large gatherings and a reminder to be in compliance with the directives provided by the Ontario government.

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by J. Fairley,
That the verbal updates provided by M. Silvaggi, St. Clair College and R. Flanagan, University of Windsor regarding COVID-19 and student housing **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried.

4.2 Student Awareness and Housing Rights as Tenants

The Chair states that student awareness and housing rights as tenants somewhat stems from the committee's last pre-COVID meeting. At that meeting, a discussion took place regarding educating students during orientation week and on a regular basis. He asks if there has been any progress on that front with respect to regular updates to students and education on their rights as tenants in Ontario.

R. Flannagan responds that in 2019 the university held a social media campaign to kick off the new website that provides education about being a good neighbour and their tenant's rights. They talked about the potential of doing a walkabout in the community, dropping off flyers, and to do more engaging activities to help students understand what their rights and obligations are in terms of being a good neighbour in the community. They appreciate the concerns of the community with landlords going in and buying homes and turning them into rentals for students. In terms of the behavior of their students and the issues with parties, it has been on the decline for several years.

M. Silvaggi advises that from an education perspective, orientation is their first and foremost means of getting to the students upon their arrival. As the majority of their students come from India, they are actually showing orientation sessions live in India. They have partners who fly to India and outline the Canadian experience done on a face to face basis so they are getting that communication out to students. They have significant collaboration with many religious organizations and external organizations to help facilitate educational exercises. St. Clair College was on the verge of starting a campaign with their student representatives which touted getting their students into the community to help with clean-up. This campaign was put on hold due to COVID.

J. Fairley adds that the campaign was called "Community Saints Concept" where there are areas in the community they would step up and help if the landlords were not doing certain things. He notes the foodbanks have been very important to the international students.

A. Richardson states he has been working with R. Flannagan in some of these initiatives and he commends the University of Windsor website. He asks about the on-going education efforts relating to weekly or monthly e-mail blasts and inquires if a list of topics can be provided to the Committee. He also asks if surveys are being done on an ongoing or periodic basis that address students' rights, i.e. if students know they are allowed by the Residential Tenancy Act to decline paying their rental fees in advance. Do the students know that there is a City of Windsor By-law for vital services which mandates the landlord to provide heat, hot water and electricity, and if there is a problem to call 311. If an inspector comes to the premises, the landlord cannot prevent that inspector from entering the residence. He notes a survey would go to some of these questions.

R. Flannagan responds that a list of topics noted in their weekly newsletter will be provided. In terms of a survey, he guesses that the results of a survey would indicate the knowledge of their students pertaining to their rights as tenants is quite low.

A. Richardson indicates that it has been quiet for parties, however, that does not mean that there are no parties, in fact there have been several recently. It is his understanding that the university does not have any interest in going after house parties and questions if their position has changed.

R. Flannagan responds in terms of parties, it is the University's position that off-campus parties are not things that they get involved in, i.e. Campus Police going to an

off-campus party and knocking on that door. In the event that there are multiple parties at a residence, and the efforts of Bylaw Enforcement and Police are not having the desired effect, the university is open to working with their partners and neighbours to have that conversation with the residents in that home.

Moved by J. Fairley, seconded by Councillor Francis,
That the updates provided by M. Silvaggi, St. Clair College and R. Flannagan, University of Windsor regarding “Student Awareness and Housing Rights as tenants” **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried.

4.3 Town & Gown Symposium – Building Bridges 2019

J. Fairley commends A. Richardson for his well written report on the Town and Gown Symposium held from June 3-6, 2019.

Moved by J. Fairley, seconded by J. Boyd,
That the report provided by A. Richardson regarding the Town & Gown Symposium – Building Bridges 2019 held from June 3-6, 2019 **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried.

A. Richardson refers to the recommended actions for the Town and Gown Committee noted in Enclosure 2 and he asks how those recommendations become action items.

The Chair responds that procedurally direction would be provided by the Committee and if approved, would proceed to the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee and City Council.

Moved by A. Richardson, seconded by J. Boyd,
That the recommendations in Enclosure 2 appended to the Town & Gown Symposium – Building Bridges 2019 report by A. Richardson **BE CONSIDERED** at a future meeting of the Committee.

Carried.

4.4 Town & Gown 2019 Annual Report

The Chair states that the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee directed that the Committee look into a different process of submitting annual reports, i.e. for the Committee to review prior to being sent to the respective standing committee.

A. Richardson expresses concern that the Committee was not afforded the opportunity to review the annual report and to provide input. He suggests that at each

meeting, the accomplishments of the committee be noted which will be part of the annual report that highlights the successes met by the committee.

Moved by J. Fairley, seconded by Councillor Francis,
That future Town and Gown Committee Annual Reports **BE PROVIDED** to the Committee for review prior to submitting to the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee and City Council.
Carried.

4.5 Town & Gown Association of Ontario – 2021 Membership

Moved by A. Richardson, seconded by J. Fairley,
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$250. for the renewal of the Town & Gown Association of Ontario 2021 membership.
Carried.

J. Boyd announces her retirement and the members thank and congratulate her for her many years of service on the Town and Gown Committee.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the call of the Chair.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 11:00 o'clock a.m.

CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR