

Town and Gown Committee **Held July 16, 2019**

A meeting of the Town & Gown Committee is held this day commencing at 3:30 o'clock p.m. in Room 202, 350 City Hall Square West, there being present the following members:

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

Regrets received from:

Alan Richardson

Guests in attendance:

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

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Greg Atkinson, Planner III, Economic Development
Inspector Jason Bellaire, Windsor Police Services
Andrea DeJong, Deputy Fire Chief
Will Foot, Council Assistant
Joshua Haddad, Transportation Engineer I
John Lee, Chief Fire Prevention Officer
Bill Tetler, Manager of By-law Enforcement
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 3:30 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule A attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

2. Declaration of Conflict

3. Minutes

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by J. Boyd,
That the minutes of the Town and Gown Committee of its meeting held May 23,
2019 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

4. Business Items

4.1 Orientation Packages – University of Windsor & St. Clair College Students

Ryan Flannagan, Associate Vice President, Student Experience, University of Windsor appears before the Committee and provides comments regarding orientation for the University of Windsor students as follows:

- Currently, 16,000 students are enrolled, 4,000 are international students (70% of the students are from the Windsor Essex region)
- There are 4,000 graduate students, 80% are international students
- Developed a comprehensive campus website –
- <http://www.uwindsor.ca/success/off-campus-housing/>
- The website covers such topics as what to consider when looking for a rental, how to be a good roommate, how to read your lease, safety information and what to expect as a first time renter.
- A cleanup from California to Bridge Street will be undertaken to help build relationships with people living within those neighbourhoods.
- LGBTQ+ Pride crosswalks will be constructed in front of the Engineering Building across Wyandotte Street. A contractor will be contacted to acquire the colours that are required.
- There is a dedicated person that assists the Asian international students as most are engineering students.

R. Flanagan distributes a document that indicates the Top 10 Page Views on the website <http://www.uwindsor.ca/success/off-campus-housing/> as it relates to Student Experience (January 2019 to May 2019) and Off-Campus Housing (January 2019 to May 2019), **attached** as Appendix “A”.

Michael Silvaggi, Associate Vice President, Student Services and Registrar, St. Clair College appears before the Committee and provides comments regarding orientation the for St. Clair College students as follows:

- Orientation for the University of Windsor and St. Clair College is done separately by each institution.
- There are 4,500 international students at St. Clair College mostly from India.
- A representative from the Sikh Temple and a representative from LaSalle Police come to St. Clair College to speak to the students and to provide information.
- A new residence for the international students is to be constructed in the future.
- There are no issues with students finding housing.
- There is an agent that provides some orientation to international students to help lessen the culture shock when they arrive in Canada.

A. DeJong advises the Fire Department has provided safety presentations with some of the agencies regarding kitchen fires within the student residences/housing. She adds there is a significant amount of translated materials that the students do not take. The translated materials in 17 languages is also available on their website at <https://www.windsorfire.com/public-education/translated-materials/>.

J. Lee indicates in some cultures having a fire within their home is a crime, so the students do not disclose this information to avoid any negative ramifications.

R. Flannagan notes information relating to fire safety and community standards will be added to the University's bi-weekly e-mail blast to the students.

J. Bellaire, WPS adds several police officers speak different languages and offers to assist at the University of Windsor and St. Clair College events.

Councillor Costante indicates he receives many calls regarding dirty yards, alleys and parking. The primary issue is the calls relating to substandard housing, i.e. 10 students in a residence.

Councillor Francis adds there are many landlords who are being highly paid to house the international students. There is a responsibility to ensure the students are not exploited, to adhere to the by-laws with proper safety methods.

J. Boyd suggests the University of Windsor and St. Clair College share information, i.e. best practices.

In response to a question asked by Councillor Francis regarding the number of tenants that can live in a home, B. Tetler responds when there are four people, it becomes a lodging home and should be licensed as a Class 1 Lodging Home. He adds zoning will not be permitted in a residential neighbourhood for the most part turning a single family home with three bedrooms to a six or seven bedroom dwelling that is illegal. He states if six people are living in a home with 1 lease that becomes the loophole.

A. DeJong explains Windsor Fire has entry rights into a home, however, when one looks at student housing, there are no legislative supports and there has been significant case law that states they cannot enforce the Fire Code on student housing. She further

adds that there is no such thing as “student housing” as it does not meet the confines of a lodging home.

J. Bellaire indicates some international students feel very privileged to be able to attend university/college and to acquire a degree that culturally was never on the radar back home. So, the motivation for the student to stay in Canada is very strong and they will not report a problem due to fear and possible repercussion.

M. Silvaggi states the typical international student’s goal (speaking to the Indian population), is to acquire a post graduate work permit. This would allow them to ultimately land that permanent job that will provide residency.

Councillor Francis remarks in review of this discussion, the framework and gaps are quite visible. There must be a multi-pronged approach with capital, programming and community assistance, i.e. Fire and Police.

R. Flannagan requests that data relating to calls directed to City Councillors that pertain to student issues be provided to the University of Windsor/St. Clair College.

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by J. Boyd,

That the presentations provided by Ryan Flannagan, Associate Vice President, Student Experience, University of Windsor and Michael Silvaggi, Associate Vice President, Student Services and Registrar regarding orientation information for students

BE RECEIVED

Carried.

5. New Business

None.

6. Date of Next Meeting

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

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 4:45 o'clock p.m.

CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR