

POTTERY ADVISORY COUNCIL Meeting Notes

12.17.2024

- Facility renovations and the capitol campaign
 - Hot water at 16 Jones St.
 - Hot water is expected to be restored within 3-5 weeks
 - A new water heater will be delivered and installed
 - (LL update after meeting 2-3 weeks).
 - Kiln installation
 - Kiln coordination and preparation is underway and on track.
 - We expect Blaauw kilns to arrive and be installed June 23 – August 30.
 - Updated estimates project the cost \$300K \ higher than expected for kiln room renovation and kiln installation.
 - We have a grant from Senator Kavanaugh in the amount of 300K. This is great news however, this grant can be considered a reimbursement. We must spend \$300k in order to retrieve the funds.
 - The committee did not have questions about finances. An up-to-date summary regarding the Capital Campaign was request as helpful to the community.
 - Please see: <https://ghpfuture.greenwichhouse.org/>
 - It was suggested that the link be added to Pottery Notes on the website; however since Pottery Notes is updated every week, a dedicated page for Advisory Council information and Capital Campaign updates from the Town Halls has been created as a Student Resource on the Current Student's webpage.
 - Jones and Chelsea repairs
- Pottery costs and financial aid
 - The recent tuition increase brought frustration to many community members.
 - Tuition for the Spring term will not increase any more.
 - Financial aid available
 - A generous donation of 25K by Larry Baker will allow financial aid award for the rest of the year. An additional 2-3k has been raised to match.
 - The financial aid application has been updated to include more applicant information to make sure funds reach those who truly have the greatest need.
 - Students would like to see more signage around the building, touting the capital campaign plans, pitching it as exciting, good news.
- Materials, equipment and firing
 - A recent wave of new Studio Techs have been hired and are undergoing training.
 - The new gas lines to QQ have more power and provide faster firing. There is a bit of recalibration for the team as everyone learns the new adjustments to be made.
 - Maintaining clay quality at the end of the term has been difficult due to the sheer volume of clay used every day. Without time to age, the clay requires additional wedging to make it more workable.

- One of our 3 pugmills was under repair—it is now fixed.
- We are pricing new wheels in hopes of having more to cycle in as older wheels undergo tuning and repairs.
- Staff and Customer service
 - New Customer Service Trainings will be required of staff, to help reset the tone and promote cultural awareness and community building
 - Winter term will bring us a new intern which will help the tech team to have increased bandwidth.
- Advisory Council
 - Purpose and responsibility: to help provide community feedback to staff and administration to help build community and share information
 - Terms and composition
 - The next round of members will be a transition between current and new members for continuity. Members may be elected by the community
 - It will be helpful to share meeting notes and recordings and list info back out into the community
 - Council is happy to have link to recording shared to students
 - These updates and resources will be added to the new aforementioned Advisory Council Resource page.
 - The link to the feedback form will be added to the page and more widely posted in the building
 - Agendas will be sent in advance.
 - Town Hall meetings should leave more space for community feedback.
- Comments and questions
 - Personnel departures cannot be discussed in detail regardless of the reason for which an employee leaves
 - Personnel change is difficult but we are moving forward. The Pottery Director job posting will be shared in December before the new year begins. All are encouraged to share widely
 - The House will continue to allocate new resources to support Pottery and provide timely response.
 - Student feedback should be collected each term (it is). Can be shared with Advisory Council.