

August 10, 2019

EARLY LEARNINGS BY AN "IDEA GUY"

So... I have been in Oxford for a week... what have I learned?

1. This House is a great place! So much history and so much potential! The Old House is a treasure, and the current improvements to the kitchen and the dining room will only enhance the value. With over \$200K spent on improvements, we have the chance to make this a very special place for Undergraduates and Alumni alike.
2. These kids are great! I've only interacted with about 10 so far, but every one of them has expressed their appreciation for the current condition and improvements to the house... and gives me the opportunity to say, "Let's keep it that way!" It's not a question of whether they have the capability to make things better... they want to do that! The challenge is how to put "better" in their way so it becomes not just logical and desirable, but internalized.
3. NOTHING is easy! Whether it's the frustration of my room not being finished, the battles with the health department, the likelihood that the kitchen will not be functional before school starts, or any of the daily challenges of moving the process forward, this is tough work. My admiration for Stefan grows on a daily basis... calm, confident, and willing to make decisions. He's a great role model for me going forward.

And that is part of the challenge... how do I reign in my expectations and allow the House (Undergrads) to find their own way? I have told Logan and several of the Undergrads that the more they talk and the less I talk the better... but I'm a talker, dammit!

And I'm also an "idea guy"! So Saturday Morning I sent an email to the "core" contacts with 2 "new" ideas:

First, any interest in a Garden Party at the House? The beds could use some work (and maybe flowers, although it's late on the season), there's a ton of sweeping / weed whacking, and those window wells on the South side need a solution to help prevent them from looking like an abandoned trailer.

Secondly, what's anyone think of a Golf Outing? Play a 2 man scramble, one Alum and one Undergrad per squad with a blind draw for partners. Sunday morning of Homecoming weekend?

We could do both the same day but that might be pushing it. Let me know what you think...

So should I take it personally that by Sunday night I only got one response? Or should I be delighted that the response came in just 14 minutes?

Sat, Aug 10, 9:39 AM (1 day ago)

I'm in for golf. What is the date?

Jim Barre

Of course, my response to Boog was typically Ross snarky...

Whoa Big Fella! Just an idea so far! Thanks for Volunteering to be Chairman! ;-)

That's the issue...I can't do it by myself... Stefan for all his effort and commitment can't do it by himself... and the Undergrads, for all their good intentions, need the influence of every well-intentioned Alum we can get to make sure they buy the value and ROI of being a Brother. Are you in?