MIT DORMITORY COUNCIL MEETING
Sept. 13 2006, 6:30pm -- East Campus

Special Guest: Robin Smedick (Undergraduate Housing)

ON THE AGENDA:

Get Food (6:15)

Welcome & Welfare (6:30)
Present: Baker, Burton-Conner, EC, MacGregor, McCormick, Next, Random, Senior House

Absent: Bexley, New, Simmons

UPDATES (6:35)
- Housing
  - no update

- Dining
  - meeting with Rich Berlin tomorrow to talk about Dunkin Donuts
  - trying to get it to 24 hours
  - LaVerde’s - going back to 24 hours?
  - will be doing that temporarily
  - not profitable for them because it’s hard to get staff
  - maybe be doing that for one more year

- JudComm
  - new director Veronica Mendoza - Office of Student Mediation and Community Standards

- Risk Management
  - Friday IFC having a talk for alumni about risk management in general
- Chris will be attending and giving a 10 minute talk on risk management for dorms

- Student Groups
  - UA elections happen in a week or so
  - Senate start in 2-3 weeks

- Cultural House Program Update
  - Committee formed about 18 months ago to identify purpose etc.
    - supposed to have a core academic purpose which seemed to have been lost
    - David, Harvey, Martini, and Ian have attended meetings - waiting for a report
    - once we get the report we will have the opportunity to comment on it

- ASA Hazing Policy Reminder
  - required to agree to the Massachusetts No Hazing policy

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
1. REX & Orientation Debriefing (6:45)
   - what went well
     - all the freshmen stayed in their temporary dorms
     - mentioned DormCon website was different from Hitchhiker's Guide, these should be combined
     - Facebook groups for events
     - REX brochures were helpful, but freshman didn't know about them
     - feedback on parties: nice because there was a wide variety of choices
     - no one felt pressured to stay or to leave
   - what needs to be improved
     - a lot of freshmen took food and quickly left
     - no one knew about Daily Confusion - maybe integrate that more into official REX printing
       - no one even knew what it was
       - worked better when it was printed in daily issues of the Tech
       - bad when there was too much nonsense on the front of the Tech
       - Orientation leaders give them out?
         - a lot of times there was low attendance within orientation groups so that wouldn't solve a lot of problems
-one never even met their orientation leader (didn’t know who it was or where to go)
-early returns should be allowed to come back around a week earlier from a planning perspective
-especially the orientation leaders and the REX chairs
-a little bit more time for people to shift from UPOPs to orientation to REX
-Robin could probably get the ~20 Rush chairs to come back an extra week early
-why does each dorm only have a certain amount of early returns - the more should be better
  -difficult to coordinate the switch from summer housing (800-900) to early returns
-encourage people that have summer UROPs that usually end around Aug 15th to help out with REX
  -Robin says they could email the summer residents that DormCon is looking for volunteers to help the early returns with REX
-Sarah summary:
  -REX went really well because a lot of people moved around
  -Things that didn’t go well
    -some people completely disappeared especially REX chairs around 2 weeks before REX started which caused problems
    -encourage them to be there for the whole summer

-REX survey & housing lottery results
-Robin gave out results for summer lottery, readjustment lottery and surveys
  -thanks freshmen for giving us feedback
-Robin sent the more detailed comments to David so if you are interested in those contact him <nedzel>
-Summer Lottery
  -1011 freshmen in class of 2010 in housing
    -750 freshmen were put in automated housing lottery
    -250 were put in manually (cultural houses and RBA)
  -gives information about how many freshman spots there were and what percent were filled with their first choice
    -70% to their first choice, 23% to their second choice, 7% to their third choice
  -most popular buildings in the summer lottery - Baker and Random, but depends on perspective
-Adjustment Lottery
  -1002 freshmen total
    -791 freshmen were allowed to enter the lottery (freshmen in Next and McCormick could not)
152 entered the readjustment lottery (15% of total entered) and ~80% of those were moved

- results were very similar to last year

- distribution of freshmen in each building was 30-40% for each dorm (35% is ideal)

- lots of good feedback about the Guide and REX in general etc.

- will discuss at administrative level and SLOPE about students who were very upset about being in Next

  - Upset because their RBA advising options were limited and they felt like they were imprisoned
  
  - even though they might want to stay they still want to have the choice of leaving

  - most people meet their advisors until after REX so why should Next and McCormick have to meet them before REX is over

  - Petra says she received a lot of questions about classes which she thought that she was helpful for them

  - Frank: have a poll after about a semester asking whether they are happy with how things turned out

  - Next got lowest opinion about advising options and Jessie thinks that it's very unfair that the freshmen can't participate in the opportunity to move

  - Parents were unhappy that if a woman wanted to live in an all women dorm she would have to be in RBA

  - Is there a way to either during CPW or during the summer to advertise the specifics of RBA better?

    - this has been very confusing for parents and freshmen - just because they have a traditional advisor they are in RBA just not in a seminar

2. Smoking Policy (7:00)

- All the smokers must agree in writing to the policy in order to be allowed to smoke in their rooms (this includes both roommates of a double)

- good thing is that we can do it electronically

- will be working with either the presidents or the RACs to get a list of all the rooms that have 'smokers'

- both of the students must be smokers in order for this to be allowed

- smoking should be in the rooms only even though there are "smoking floors"

- if there are suites just the person who is actually in the room has to sign because they are not supposed to be smoking in the common room anyway

- Robin would not report this information to the presidents or publish the names of the people who are listed as smokers

- How is this going to be enforced?

  - if we aren't in compliance then MIT could become non-smoking everywhere to comply with Cambridge law.

- Who would be able to solicit more response - presidents or RACs?

  - also contact hall chairs - they would probably know the best

- Contact Robin with questions and spread the word that this is not "cracking down" on smoking but just a proactive response to Cambridge's laws

- MIT policy is that smoking can only happen in the individual rooms - not in bathrooms, common spaces in suites, halls etc.
-this is the way the policy has been
-Have housemasters remind the people of the smoking policy

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
1. Financial Report & Budget (7:10)
   -Last year DormCon spent $1700 more than we got
   -Estimated income is about $15,000
     -$6500 will go into a reserve account from REX
     -$1000 in exec
       -maybe make that a little more so we don't have to vote on smaller items
   -Meeting food budget remains the same
   -Last year we decided that we weren't going to raise the DormCon tax so we have less money than other years to fund for events
   -Propose: we free up $6000 of surplus funds to spend on events for the fall and the spring
     -Last year we struggled a little with which events we should be funding
   -We have been building up a surplus but we shouldn't deplete it very quickly
   -Should we change the allocation between Fall and Spring because there were definitely more events in the Spring
     -rollover the leftover money from the Fall into the Spring allocation


-BUDGET PASSES-

2. Fall Formal Funding ($ 4,000) (7:20)
   -big event - good to get out -nice hotel
   -event is held by four dorms - Simmons, McCormick, New, and MacGregor
     -these dorms get a discount on tickets and specially reserved tickets
     -Presidents can still offer contributions
   -but it is open to the rest of the campus
   -Budget:
     -food and venue: $15,000
     -entertainment: $700
     -transportation: $2000
     -favors: $700
- publicity: $400
- Tickets Sales ~$4,000
- Sponsoring dorms: $8 per person $12 per couple
- Non-sponsoring dorms: $10 per person $15 per couple
- Occupancy at the Hyatt is about 450 people which is more and only need one bus instead of 3 because it is so close

Baker Y Burton-Conner Y EC Y MacGregor Y McCormick Y Next Y Random Y Senior House Y

-FALL FORMAL FUNDING PASSES-

FINAL THOUGHTS
- East Side party last year for about $800 to Random Rush Chairs
  - asking to refund this because the budget cycle from last year has passed already
  - receipts are original and dated from last year
  - asking to restore '04-'05 budget for this $800

Baker Y Burton-Conner Y EC Y MacGregor Y McCormick Y Next Y Random Y Senior House Y

- REIMBERSEMENT PASSES-

Next Meeting at Senior House
Presidents fill out the wiki for times that they can make it to set up next meeting time