

DORMCON MINUTES - DECEMBER 9, 2010

Attendance:

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Andy Wu	
Burton-Conner	Daniel Sauza	X
East Campus	Robin Deits	
MacGregor	Meagan Roth	X
McCormick	Hannah Rice	
New House	Maxwell Mann	X
Next House	Ellen McIsaac	
Random Hall	Rebecca Cox	
Senior Haus	Emilio Jasso	
Simmons Hall	Christina Johnson	
Phoenix Group	Caroline Roque	

Topics Discussed:

1. i3 Project Coordinator

- Fausto Morales- Phoenix Group, 2012
 - Experience with i3: Fausto made the phoenix group i3 video his freshmen year
 - Experience with videos: Fausto was a video producer for a summer camp for last 2 summers, where he made short videos for each day of camp as well as one longer video at the end of camp
 - Artistic Experience: Fausto has done some professional work and some free work, including making a promo for the non profit company “sweet sleep”
 - Fausto also has lots of experience with graphic design (he showed us some pictures that he created)
 - Experience with leadership of creative teams: He was the production leader for the same summer camp as mentioned in ii, and was in charge of many large scale shows there
 - He said that he was recommended by i3 coordinator for past 2 years
- Kim Baldauf- Random Hall, 2011
 - Kim was one of the i3 video makers for Random last year.
 - She has done video editing as a hobby since middle school.
 - For 2 summers, Kim worked as a videographer for the Edgerton center, recording events and editing the footage for different projects.

- Kim has served as the vice president, treasurer, and president of the anime club.
- She has also worked on graphics, and designed the random hall rush t-shirt for the last 2 years.
- Kim has taken a ridiculous amount of video classes at MIT.
- Jeremy Steeger- East Campus, 2013
 - Last year Jeremy was a member of EC CameraComm (which makes the i3 video)
 - In high school, Jeremy made mini documentaries, and also organized a community service group
 - He has had a lot of fun with the i3 project in the past, and would love to be involved.
- Jenny Wang- East Campus, 2014
 - As a freshmen, Jenny was obsessed with i3 videos before coming to MIT, and watched as many as she could find.
 - She hasn't had much work experience with video work before, but she has done graphics design since middle school, and web design since 4th grade.
 - In high school, Jenny was the technical director for newspaper that had a video system on their website.
- Question from Robin: What do you think was wrong with the i3 process last year? How would you plan to fix it?
 - Fausto- I didn't take part in it last year, so I wouldn't know how to improve it, but my freshmen year I made the i3 video for the Phoenix group, and I felt like the process was pretty straightforward.
 - Jeremy- Last year there was a lot of stress that came up because of miscommunication about deadlines. I would try to set clear deadlines and reach out to i3 chairs beforehand to make sure that everything stays on track.
 - Kim- The one thing that stands out to me is how it seemed like as an i3 chair, I got the deadlines on such short notice. We received the due date 3 weeks in advance, and when you have to get footage and edit, that isn't enough time. I would try to plan deadlines as far in advance as possible.
 - Jenny- It bothered me as a freshmen that a lot of videos from different dorms were on different websites, and the videos from all years were not available. I would like to work on consolidating all of the videos on to one website.
 - Fausto- Should I be elected i3 coordinator, I would ask for fortnightly reports from the different i3 chairs to preemptively avoid problems and to help people get past roadblocks early so that we don't have the same kind of deadline-related issues.
- Emilio- What do you think about censorship in the i3 process?
 - Fausto- I'll give you an example. The Phoenix group lives with grad students, and we wanted to portray the funniness of that in our video. There was a scene where a "grad student" was hitting on an undergrad in the laundry room, but that part of the video was removed by the housemasters, because they were

afraid of parents' reaction. Although I disagreed with the housemaster on this decision, I agree that there should be some oversight by the housemasters to so that we don't unintentionally poorly represent the dorm or the school through the i3 process.

- Jeremy- Last year with EC i3 video, censorship was a big deal. I realize that this is a sensitive issue, which was resolved by having a fake explosion in the video. I would like to have as much content as possible in the i3 videos to best represent our dorm and our culture, but we should also be reasonable about it.
- Kim- People living in dorms occasionally lose sight of how the outside world perceives things, especially parents of incoming freshmen. I think that we shouldn't censor too much, and that we should consider issues on a case by case basis instead of having a huge list of things that can't be shown.
- Jenny- I think that dorms should be given a lot of freedom about what to express in their i3 videos. It would be good to have a list of guidelines beforehand of things that shouldn't be included so that it removes some of the hassle of getting footage, especially with events that only happen once a year. As an incoming freshman, some of the things in i3 videos did shock me, but I'm becoming more used to these types of shocking things as I spend more time here. I would like to make a counsel of freshmen to review possibly problematic scenes in i3 videos.

[The candidates left the room]

- The I3 coordinator description was read out loud from DormCon website.
- James: So it seems like the i3 job has nothing to do with videos, and is all about communication. It is therefore most important to pick someone that will communicate really well with administrators and the i3 creators from each dorm.
- Andy: Exactly. 25% of the job is artistic, to develop whole package. The other 75% is, like James said, organization.

[Private Discussion]

- VOTE: Fausto Morales is elected to be i3 project coordinator.

2. Bad Ideas

- James: Bad Ideas happens during the 3rd week of IAP, and is designed to encourage students to pursue ideas that would otherwise be dismissed as "bad ideas" (past examples include real life mario kart, 10⁴ cookies, and pony rides). We get proposals from the student body (which were currently scrambling to get more of, even though we already have too many) and fund some of the projects, and there are also scheduled events (such as eating contests). We are currently trying to get more proposals from outside of East Campus, and will be running events in different dorms to encourage cross-campus participation. So far, the proposed projects total \$35,000. We're also trying to encourage people to apply for funding for their projects from other organizations, but we still need money. We're asking for \$2500 from DormCon that would go towards funding projects.

- Ellen: I'm more comfortable funding projects than events.
 - James: We have funding from another source that is supposed to go towards events instead of projects, so DormCon money would almost definitely go exclusively towards projects.
 - Christina: How much money have you received so far
 - James: UA-\$1200. \$700 from SIPB. \$500 from EC, \$800 from EC's SocComm
 - Brian: Could you please show us the project descriptions that you have received? [James looks on computer for a while]
 - Robin: We had a meeting at BC on Tuesday, and lots of people showed up. We got ideas such as smell bombs (ex. bacon graffiti, smells that trigger memories), and an Imax theatre.
 - James: A lot of these projects will not actually happen because our process involves going through safety to get approved, and lots of these types of things won't get approved.
 - Robin: Please pass the email that I sent all of you on to your dorms so we can get more bad ideas proposals from different dorms!
 - Elizabeth: How do you decide which projects go through and which don't?
 - James: We like things that are in the spirit of bad ideas, and we try to pick those projects. We also will definitely be more likely to approve more cost effective projects, like enormous amounts of cookies, rather than projects that will require lots of funding.
 - Robin: All of the people involved in Bad Ideas this year have previously been rush chairs or very involved in EC rush, and this competition is a similar thing. They all know what types of things safety is likely to approve and what they won't (ex. safety likes big structures, but doesn't like electricity or chemistry)
 - Elizabeth: Do you know now what projects you will have or how many?
 - James: No, because were still receiving proposals. We're probably going to continue to accept them until about the 1st of January.
- [Private Discussion, James leaves the room]*
- VOTE: Vote to give Bad Ideas \$2500 from DormCon- 7 yes, 1 no.
 - Conclusion: the Bad Ideas competition will receive \$2500 from DormCon on the condition that they continue to reach out to other dorms to receive proposals.

3. Housing/Dining (Dean Henry Humphreys [HH] was there to answer questions)
(A sheet with info from past summers was passed out)

- Ellen: What is the projection for work being done next summer?
 - HH- MacGregor will be renovated to improve the air conditioning system, Next House will have some cosmetic work (ex. flooring) done in the bathrooms, and renovations will have to be done because of dining, most significantly at Simmons.
- Robin: Could you please explain the "total saving realized" numbers on this sheet?
 - HH: These numbers come from savings on utilities and reallocation of staff from when certain dorms are closed.

- Robin: Are the specific utilities savings numbers public?
- HH- I'm not sure yet, I can check. The problem with the older buildings is that they weren't individually metered so we don't have good data, but we are working on it.
- Emilio- After last summer, the Senior Haus desk workers submitted a proposal to be able to live in Towers over the summer. Why was this declined?
 - Christina: Since New House will be closed for necessary renovations, Senior Haus will be the only air conditioned dorm, and therefore must be kept open for conferences.
 - Emilio: How many conference people typically stay at New House?
 - Vrajesh [looks on the internet] : It looks like last summer, the peak was about 200 guests, with an average around 150 at any given time.
 - Emilio: Since we don't house people from conferences in Towers, wouldn't there be space there if just desk workers wanted to stay?
 - HH: This is the 1st year that we are being so serious about conferences, and part of my job is to ramp up conferences over the summer. We need to use the space in Senior Haus for conference guests. Also, closing buildings for the summer gives those buildings a rest so that they don't deteriorate as quickly.
 - James: Do we have numbers on the projected number of conference guests for this summer?
 - HH-Not yet
 - Emilio: There will be inevitable overflow from Senior Haus if the number of conference guests staying in air conditioned rooms is similar to those from last year, because Senior Haus has capacity just under 150 people.
 - Robin: I agree with Emilio- how does it make sense to displace desk workers from Towers and then displace conference goers from Senior Haus instead of just letting those desk workers stay and then displacing conference goers when there is overflow?
 - HH- Running conferences is sort of like running a hotel: we don't give conferences more space than we have.
 - Christina: In terms of summer utilization, dorms will be either open for students, open for conferences, or closed. If we mix any of these, more costs come into play.
 - Emilio: But in the past there were dorms that had both students and conference guests.
 - HH- We now have a new system with new practices, so we shouldn't be looking towards history for guidance. We realize that there is lots of inconvenience for those desk workers, especially with strong culture associated with the dorms.
 - Emilio: We're more worried about the safety of the desk workers, and their ease of communication with housemasters who also live in the dorm.
 - Robin: 2 years ago, EC successfully housed conference guests and students.
 - HH- The logistics of mixing these two groups causes problems.
 - Emilio: How?

- HH-Historically, students don't want to be around the conference guests, and the conference guests don't want to be with students.
- Emilio: But we're saying that our residents wouldn't mind living with the guests.
- HH- The problem with this is that the two groups lead different lifestyles. For example, you wouldn't want a group of high school students mixed with a group of college students. The restrictions that we would have to put on residents would be unfair.
- Robin: Have we had problems with that kind of stuff at MIT?
- HH- Again, we can't argue from history. I have an expertise in running conferences, and I've been given the goal to increase conferences at MIT over the summers.
- Robin: Us, being scientists and engineers, we want to know what research went into these decisions, what your hypothesis was, and we want to know the basis for the argument this is a good decision.
- HH- We don't have a lot of data, because conferences to this degree at MIT are fairly new. From my experience, conference groups don't want to be housed with college students because of the noise levels, and the different sleep schedules. They have high expectations for room quality, lounge spaces, etc.
- Emilio: The issue with Senior Haus though is that these types of interactions wouldn't be different for the conference guests, because Towers is a suite that is separated from the rest of the dorm, and the only people living there would be the desk workers, that they would see regularly anyways.
- HH- I recognize that there are other people that know MIT better than I do, so after January, I'll try to have conversations with the other people that I work with to try to learn more about the situation.
- Andy: Is the concern a loss of money to conferences because of image? Like that conferences would be less likely to want to be housed at MIT because they wouldn't want to be housed in the same dorms as students?
- HH-Yes
- James: A big part of the safety concern is that desk workers work until 2 a.m. and the lighting isn't the best in that area.
- HH-That is a very valid concern, and I would make sure that my people provide transportation or something else to ensure the security of the desk workers at night should this be an issue.
- Brian: I assume that most of the Senior Haus desk workers live in EC over the summer, so were there actually complaints about safety last year?
- Emilio: The east side of campus does tend to be more dangerous, so there is a legitimate concern for their safety.

4. Housing Rates

- Christina: I met with HH and others last week, and they explained to me the new proposed increase in housing rates. The increase will be about 3-4%. Last year, it

was 4%. In last 3-4 years it was about 7%. There isn't much wiggle room with this number, but the MIT Corporation will be voting on this in the spring, and they just wanted us to be aware of it.

5. HH: I am happy to come back to provide more information on this topic, and I am open to talk about anything really with you guys. I do understand the "data"-driven culture of MIT, and we will certainly work harder to collect and keep data in the future.