

## DORMCON MINUTES - APRIL 3, 2011

### Attendance:

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Brian Luque	
Burton-Conner	Pei-Ann Lin (proxy for Alex Penn)	
East Campus	James Douberley	
MacGregor	Mariya Samoylova	
McCormick	Krithika Shanmugasundaram	
New House	TyShaun Wynter	
Next House	Alec Lai	
Random Hall	Rebecca Cox	
Senior Haus	Paula Countouris	
Simmons Hall	Zach Hynes	
Phoenix Group	Virginia Nicholson	
President	Christina Johnson	
Vice President	Meagan Roth	
Secretary	Alicia Singham Goodwin	
Treasurer	Leonid Grinberg	

*This was a special meeting called to take a vote on the proposed merger of DormCon and the UA as proposed in UA 14.2*

### Topics Discussed:

#### 1. Secret Ballot or Not?

- Christina: I've contacted past DormCon presidents, and they see no problem with this. However, Alicia reached out to the JudComm chair and he said we should not have a vote by secret ballot as it goes against the spirit of our Constitution. Therefore, we will put it to a majority vote.
- *There was a unanimous vote to **not** have the vote be done by secret ballot*

#### 2. Splitting Votes or Not?

- Christina: Just to make it clear, I don't advocate splitting your votes if you don't have a good reason to. But if you've talked to a lot of your residents, and you have a really good feel for what proportion supports this plan, you will be allowed to split your votes.

#### 3. Discussion

- Christina: This discussion will be only between the dorm presidents. Each president will have 1 minute to discuss your dorm's opinion, then there will be time for a rebuttal to respond to other presidents' statements, and then we will vote.
- Mariya: Having spoken with a lot of people in my dorm and at our HouseComm, the general opinion is that while it is may be to hasty to vote today, they don't trust that any changes will happen quickly enough if we don't do this now. We should vote "yes" now, and then amend the proposed constitution later as we see fit.

- Alec: I got together with my senators, and spent all of yesterday and today knocking on doors and asking for peoples opinions and advice. Because of that I'll be voting exactly proportional to what I observed in my dorm.
- Zach: I and Simmons are of the opinion that it is not the right moment to vote for this now. In my opinion, on Thursday we didn't complete the process of evaluating how these changes affects DormCon and DormCon's interests.
- Paula: I've been reaching out to alumni that have been past presidents and influential members of Senior Haus, and one of their larger concerns is funding for Senior Haus, so if the funding from DormCon is going to the right groups under this new plan, they are in favor of the merge.
- Krithika: According to meetings I've had with my exec and the past president, I think we're pretty much in favor of the proposal, and later we can work on changes as needed.
- James: I went around the other night and talked to as many people as I could. Its hard because I got a lot of people saying "I'm not really sure what to think about this, but we elected you so that you would be able to make these decisions". Aside from the few people who have specifically asked me to vote "no" on their behalf, we're going to be in favor of it.
- TyShaun: Of the people that I spoke to in my dorm, everyone was either in favor or indifferent. I think that the biggest thing is that as long as this new council doesn't end up with having two or three dorm representatives, and each dorm gets one representative, we're for the new structure.
- Rebecca: Random feels pretty much the same as most of the other dorms. Many of our residents said to me what they said to James, which was "We elected you, so you decide".
- Virginia: I spoke to as many people as I could, and my senator is also completely on board with this, so we're going to vote "yes".
- Brian: Along the same lines as everyone else, I also sat down with my senators the other day and we were pretty much in favor of this plan as long as each dorm has a representative.
- Pei (vp of BC): Alex has talked to a lot of people in person and we've been discussing this over bc-talk. There are pretty much 3 groups of people at BC, some think its a really good plan for clearing the lines for discussion, some who are indifferent, and the majority who think that this plan is too hasty. Therefore, we're going to split our votes accordingly.
- Christina: Now we'll have a brief discussion before the vote.
- Zach: I've been talking to my housemasters, they think that we should really focus on talking to administrators more. I don't know why we're going forward with this without having consulted the administrators enough.
- Virginia: If we're supposed to be voting how our constituents want us to, how is this discussion helpful or valid?
- James: I also talked to my housemasters and a bunch of other faculty about this structural change. Our housemasters are very strongly in favor of it, and they think we should go ahead right now and get it done now before we waste any more time. They used the phrase "divide and conquer" as a strategy used by the administration on the students, and they are of the opinion that we shouldn't allow this to continue and that the way to protect ourselves is to go through with this change.
- Paula: How long has DormCon existed? *Answer: DormCon has existed since 1954*
- Krithika: Have the IFC and Panhel voiced their opinions?
- Meagan: Yes, and it seems like Gordon, the IFC president prefers the other proposal (with fewer dorm representatives)
- Vrajesh: To clarify, the IFC and Panhel are not against having all of the dorm presidents on the council, they just also want there to be enough Panhel and IFC representatives so that they are not outnumbered.

- James: Clarification: are we voting bindingly or merely on the spirit of the proposal?
- Rachel: The committee might change some things in the constitution after your vote but not the representative structure.
- Pei: If we vote “yes” today, what is the timeline for making changes and amendments to the proposed constitution? *Answer: Within 2 weeks.*
- Vrajesh: Clarification: In order to vote neutral on this issue, as a dorm president I would need to vote 75% “yes” and 25% “no”. Voting 50/50 would effectively be a vote “no”.
- Paula: In the proposed constitution, things like the budget and impeachment are population votes. Does that mean that we would vote for things like CPW funding by population? *Answer (Tim): There would be a population vote to give some amount of money to the Dormitory Funding Committee at the beginning of the year, but then they would decide on individual funding requests like things for CPW.*

**Vote:**

Dorm	Total Votes	Votes “Yes”	Votes “No”
Baker	322	322	0
Burton-Conner	362	109	253
East Campus	377	375	2
MacGregor	338	337	1
McCormick	246	246	0
New House	304	304	0
Next House	351	33	318
Random Hall	93	93	0
Senior Haus	144	144	0
Simmons Hall	332	0	332
Phoenix Group	50	50	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2919</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>906</b>

*DormCon voted not to accept the proposed structural changes to the UA and DormCon at this meeting, as a 3/4 vote was needed to amend the DormCon constitution, and this proposal only received 2013 out of 2189 votes needed (69%).*