

DORMCON MEETING MINUTES – September 29, 2011

Attendance:

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Brian Luque	
Burton–Conner	Alexander Penn	
East Campus	James Douberly	Not here
MacGregor	Mariya Samoylova	
Masseh Hall	Beth Sturman (proxy)	
McCormick	Krithika Shanmugasundaram	Not here
New House	TyShaun Wynter	
Next House	Alec Lai	
Random Hall	Rebecca Cox	
Senior Haus	Paula Countouris	
Simmons Hall	Zachary Hynes	
President	Ellen McIsaac	
Vice President	Virginia Nicholson	Not here
Secretary	Deena Wang	
Treasurer	Leonid Grinberg	

Topics Discussed:

1. Welcome Adam Keyes, Manager of Housing Assignments and i3 group findings

- Paula – There were some problems with i3 last year so a group of students met over the summer to discuss it. We wrote up something and talked to Adam who then talked to his people. <handout passed out, copy in Other Documents section of DormCon website>
- We had 3 suggested areas of improvement: communication, changing the dormcon constitution to better represent the job, and changing i3 guidelines by adding a booklet and making it more descriptive. The main focus is for everyone to understand they're involved in the discussion.
- The main thing we want from DormCon is to change the DormCon coordinator description, but we need a majority vote to do so. It would be almost exactly the same; the main change would be to work with i3 chairs and communicate our needs to Adam.
- Adam – This can't work on the typical student timeline of due tomorrow, do today. We need to stay on a timeline. Housing builds wiggle room into deadlines and students use that to its limit. Remember that while you produce a product, the product is not for you. It's not fair to the class of 2015 to release nothing. We need to release something, even if it's not perfect.
- Question: How much of an issue has it been before?
- Adam – We've never had problem with the deadline before, but if we enact changes, we need to put in a deadline to make sure the changes work.
- Maria – What about a preliminary deadline?
- Adam – We will wait for your turnover cycle.
- Rebecca – We just elected our i3 chairs.

- Paula – That’s something we should talk about. We talked about having each i3 chair meet for a short time with Adam.
- Adam – When house selects chair, we could predetermine the i3 chair meeting and preset the timeslot in case of scheduling problems.
- Zach Hines – The meeting is in February?
- Adam – It’s preferable for me, I but don’t know how it fits in the current cycle.
- Brian – We talked about it previous years but people said they don’t want to talk about deadlines too early because they forget.
- Adam – We could give the packets to the house president to give to the i3 chairs, or we could do it like rooming chairs and give the packet to the i3 chair once we know who it is.
- Adam – If we want to get group regulations started, keep in mind that filming happens before the i3 coordinator is chosen.
- Leonid – Can we have a rough outline of the deadlines?
- Adam – The DVDs ships by May 15 so we need to give the videos to the DVD printer by April 15th. They need a month’s lead time because of the art. That means each video needs to be done 5 days earlier than April 15th. Over spring break is when the i3 coordinator usually edits.
- Leonid – Does anyone elect an i3 chair in spring? Just Senior?
- Paula – We appoint our chair.
- Adam – Is it important if we have chairs and coordinators by December? Last year it was the 2nd week of December?
- Paula – Notion to vote? Or next meeting?
- Adam – Only thing need you need to vote on is the coordinator role.
- Ellen – We can’t vote now, so next time.
- Paula – For meeting Bexley, it’s better to do it face to face than through email.
- Leonid – It would be easier to have the i3 chair elected at the last meeting of this semester.

2. Discussing making all of the dorms' presidential elections be at the same time of year

- Alicia – What most dorms do is vote in beginning of December and transition in the spring term. What matters is that people are elected before IAP. For those of you who don’t have that system in place, are you comfortable with changing it?
- Rebecca – Random elects at the same time, but takes office immediately.
- Paula – Senior is good with changing its constitution.
- Maseh elections are in March, but it will be changed.
- Baker will move elections to fall, Maseh will change altogether, and McCormick will change too.
- Leonid – We moved president, secretary, and treasurer elections to the same time.

President Election times per dorm

Dorm	Time for elections	Transition period	When new president takes office
Baker	Second Tuesday of spring term	Informal	Following Sunday

Burton–Conner	Late Nov/Early Dec	IAP	1 st day spring semester
East Campus	1 st Tuesday of December		Spring term
MacGregor	1 st Tuesday of December		
Masseh Hall	Last week in February (will be changed)		
McCormick	Late Nov	December	Beginning of IAP
New House	Immediately before fall semester finals	Week after election	After week after election
Next House	Late Nov/Early Dec	Slowly over winter break online; transition retreat first Saturday of February at Endicott	End of retreat
Random Hall	11 th or 12 th week of fall term	None	Immediately
Senior Haus	Week after IAP	None	Immediately after elections
Simmons Hall	?	?	?

3. Picking a representative for the CAC advisory board

- Sweet Tea – I’m running for chair because the CAC is cool. I like the CAC and I’ve contacted with them and think it would be good to work with them.
- Leonid – Promise to talk to them about Liz Young and reserving CAC space for REX.
- Sweet Tea – I’m committed to REX being awesome.

Sweet Tea’s position as CAC Chair was white-balloted

- Ellen – People said they were interested in CAC but didn’t come to the meeting. Are we having communication issues? I sent the emails to dorm presidents who were supposed to pass it to residents.
- Zach – I didn’t do such a good job communicating. I could have passed it on better. Email isn’t necessarily the best way because we get a lot of emails. We could reach out to people we know are responsible.
- Brian – How do we get others involved in positions? EC does it well: get involved or die.
- Ellen – If no one interested in other positions, we should punt for next time
- Sweet Tea – Can I nominate Jacob Horowitz?
- Everyone – Not unless he’s here.
- Ellen – We can send people as temporary reps.

It was decided to send Jacob as a temporary representative. Sweet Tea was nominated for contacting Jacob.

- Ellen – We need a West Campus dorm rep for the First Year Experience committee.
 - Paula – You need to make the committee know that students can't make it. I've been hearing about it all over campus, and it's unacceptable.
 - Rebecca – If you make it so that students can't go to meetings, you're silencing students.
 - Brian – Can we filter out crap committees? Some are wastes of time.
 - Alicia – For FYE, the conversations were interesting but I'm not sure if the results were going to come fast enough.
 - Ellen – They're still deciding their scope and talking about orientation. They're planning a curriculum of topics to cover over freshman year. I feel like they will have impact. When students were there, their opinion was taken seriously. It just needs need good times and reps.
4. Questions from Res Life
- Ellen – Alyssa Mays is the new coordinator. She wanted to know the answer to several questions: How would you prefer administration to communicate with you on news and events? How often would you like the administration (Residential Life) to communicate with you? Would you prefer receiving your news and event information via social media? What comes to mind when you think of "Residential Life?"
 - Alicia – The best way of communication would be a weekly or biweekly email.
 - Brian – I'm part of Res Life.

There was a general response that "Residential Life" was nice, easier to work with than the general administration, but sometimes far away and difficult to access. DormCon did not want to be contacted by social media, but announcements could occur in The Tech.

5. UA request to increase our contribution for the Trader Joe's shuttle from \$1100 to \$1213
- Leonid – Last time we voted on giving \$1100 to give to shuttle along with UA and the Baker Foundation. The shuttle goes to Whole Foods and Trader Joe's costs money. We were asked for the same amount of money we contributed last year, which was contingent on a budget from the UA. He was asking if we could contribute about \$100 more. Let's vote on it.

There was a unanimous decision to increase the funding.

6. Preliminary announcement of the UA restructuring committee suggestions
- Ellen– We've been having meetings with Pannel and the UA. The UA sending out a survey, and Allan's open to including DormCon questions.
 - Zach – Restructuring committee's initial proposal has a lot of changes. We want a more structured discussion later. We're beginning the feedback stage. Our major proposed change is that dorm presidents are represented on the UA council, and serve on the dorm affairs and funding committee. It would replace DormCon's two functions with two committees. We're still having discussions and we want initial feedback.

- TyShaun – Why did we split the committees? We don't want to isolate dorms that don't want to pay the tax, so dorms don't have to pay a tax to be on the dorm affairs committee.
- Paula – Do you really think that Bexly will send a representative if they don't have to pay a tax?
- Zach – The details haven't been fleshed out. We're still trying to answer the questions of what the council does and what does DormCon does? Over the past 2 years we've been trying to find out DormCon's mission. If you have thoughts, we should figure that out.
- Alex – When will the proposal be announced?
- TyShaun – We're still in the reaching out phase until mid-October. Before dorm elections start, in to mid to late November, will be the finalized report
- Zach – What is our function? We do nominations for committees, we fund events, the administration sends people to talk to us like Henry Humphry. We're a contact point for the administration for feedback. We need to figure out if the functions of DormCon are represented by other committees.
- TyShaun – We have a letter with specifics which Zach send out.
- Zach – We want a structured talk, and we'll put this out at the next meeting.
- Ellen – How does the structure work?
- Zach – There would be a dorm fund committee where all the presidents served on and a dorm affairs committee. The power delegation would be that the dorm fund committee would have full authority over DormCon funds. We're not sure about the power of the dorm affairs committee. It's not fleshed out yet.
- Paula – Will there be separate meetings? Right now, every other week is a good time commitment.
- Zach – For the increased time commitment, what impact will it have?
- TyShaun – I'm not sure if it will take more time? The meetings could be combined.
- Leonid – Maybe there's not an acute need for regular meetings. For funding, things come up quickly.
- Zach – One of the things we moved towards last year was planning a budget. One model for meetings would be to have them irregularly and infrequently. Should we at DormCon be setting a budget with deadlines? We need to figure out meetings and structure.
- Ellen – How does the feedback structure work? We need a more concrete way than just talking to a few people.
- Zach – We've prepared a plan for all stakeholders, but not for this meeting. For everyone we meet with, we'll send a letter ahead of time, come in with a plan, and solicit feedback in that structure. Our meeting with DormCon will be in 2 weeks.