

DORMCON MEETING MINUTES – 26 April 2012

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Michael Plasmeier	
Burton-Conner	Janille Maragh	
East Campus	Robert Johnson	
MacGregor	Edward Mugica	
Masseh Hall	Regina Cho	
McCormick	Sheila Lee	
New House	Benjamin Shaibu	
Next House	Austin Brinson	
Random Hall	Alexandra Westbrook	
Senior Haus	Katy Gero	
Simmons Hall	Eli Ross	
President	Ellen McIsaac	
Vice President	Virginia Nicholson	
Secretary	Deena Wang	
Treasurer	Leonid Grinberg	

1. ISN key lock update.

- Austin – As the dormcon rep to ISN, we talked about replacing key locks with card access. The reason for the current system is that crufft are too lazy to get cards. If any groups say they want card access, they will do it. Will dormcon support card readers?
- Some members of clubs are not MIT members.
- Ducky - Dorms in general don't care about this.
- Is the problem that that the batteries run out?
- Austin –IS&T wants to get rid of them because people keep asking whether they can be changed

It was decided that Dormcon should have no opinion on card readers.

2. Elections

Ellen – The positions are open to anyone who's planning on living in a dorm and is not a Panhel or IFC officer, an undergrad student. Only dorm presidents can vote. We can nominate to run people here.

President

Candidates: Regina Cho, Edward Mugica, Ducky Ben

Platforms

- Regina – At the beginning of the year, dormcon had an existential crisis, but now I see the value of dormcon for making large purchases and talking to presidents in other dorms. I want to support Dormcon. I have experience as Masseh president and I would continue Dormcon's awesomeness.

- Edward – I think what Dormcon does is good. We have a good setup. I would maintain that level in a MIT community. I think the current functions important and I would make sure they continue on.
- Ducky – I find dormcon amusing. I think its mission is good and I want to support it. I want to do something actually useful. I attended Dormcon retreat.

Questions

- Alicia – Give us an idea of how hosed you are and Dormcon's numbering in your priorities.
- Regina – I will only take 4 classes. I've gotten more efficient at handling Masseh duties and have revamped stuff. I learned a valuable lesson on distributed responsibility. Being the Masseh president is not a huge time sink. I think I can handle it.
- Edward- I will take lots of classes next semester as a junior. My priorities are classes, Dormcon, then being McGregor president. I don't think I would have a problem.
- Ducky – I will take Integrated Chemical Engineering and 3 HASSs. My time commitments are a UROP, being on the executive board of 5 clubs. I'm the secretary for the ASA. My priority rankings are classes, Assassin's Guild, ASA, dormcon, and everything else.
- Question: Regina, since you've been here for less than a year, how does your experience compare?
- Regina – I think it's intensity of the experience that counts more than time. I've experienced as much as possible and have gotten the most out of the time I've had here.
- Patrick – Say a huge new issue comes up, like the administration changing something suddenly, what's your reaction?
- Regina – I would understand where they're coming from. I need to understand the other side's view. I would ask why.
- Edward – I would open communication and directly contact the administrator. I would get dormcon together to make sure we're presenting a united opinion.
- Ducky – I would send administration an email for meeting. I would also convene dormcon to get opinions.
- Carrine – Is there anything about dormcon that's unsatisfactory. What do you want to add?
- Edward- I would work towards repairing relations with IFC and Panhel. There's been a less than perfect job of getting in contact with them. We need an effective JudComm system to punish bad actors. We can't come to agreements with IFC. That's the only failing I can think of.
- Regina – I support Edward's changes. I'd want more active committees. It wasn't clear what the committees did. I also want to see gentler treatment of new dorm presidents. I felt a bit coerced into staying in Dormcon.
- Ducky – I would focus on the IFC and improve intergovernmental group communication.
- Edward – How much time have you spent on dormcon meetings? I only started this semester. I'm not sure if I know all the ins and outs.
- Ducky - I have been to dormcon meetings for a year as risk manager.
- Regina – I have been in Dormcon for half a year. I would learn much about Dormcon that I don't know already.
- Ellen – We'll have a transition meeting and other resources.

Edward was voted the DormCon president.

Executive Vice President

Candidates: Regina, Janille Maragh (Affi)

Questions

- Question: Say some crisis happens, and the dorm president is not here. What do you do?
- Affi – I would text the dormcon president, then tell dorm presidents, and call an emergency meeting. The most important opinion is of dorm presidents.
- Ducky – How hosed are you?
- Affi – I dropped a major, and I'm taking 3.5 classes.
- Ellen – What's the biggest challenge facing dormcon?
- Affi – No one knows what we do and they don't know they can come to us. Something we should focus on is letting people know they can come to us.
- Regina – Dorm presidents know that the things we do aren't visible. A lot of dormcon's work is not publicized, but raising awareness is important. I would think about including IFC and Panhel and how we can reach those groups. We could revamp for that. I would consider how to maintain the focus on all undergrads in dorms. I would have IFC and Panhel representatives.
- Virginia – How is that different from the UA council?
- Alicia – UA talks about general campus things, IFC and Panhel would talk specifically to dorms.
- Ellen – The president's council between Dormcon, IFC, Panhel, and UA presidents sort of disappeared. I would recommend bringing that back and having occasional meetings. If some crisis happens, they would know how to fix it.
- Brian – As member of dormcon exec, how would you represent all dorms in an objective way?
- Affi – If you know other dormcon presidents you have connections. Now I know more about dorms, so having all people together is better
- Regina – I've also gotten to know dorm presidents. I would have more casual conversations about other dorms. I think it's not just through official, but also personal meetings that presidents get to know dorms. Dormcon presidents shouldn't go at issues alone. Other presidents should be alerted. Presidents should have advice.
- Question: How would you help the president?
- Affi – I would help planning the agenda, calling meetings, meeting with deans etc.
- Regina – An important function of the vice president is personal relationships. I would cultivate relationships with the administration and presidents. We need the time and willingness to meet people for relationships.

Affi was voted executive vice president.

Treasurer

- Daniel Parker – My name is Dan. I'm a freshman rising to sophomore next year. I live in Senior House. I went to dormcon retreat and thought it was awesome. I like the way that it works and the slight disorganizations.

- Question: What experience do you have?
- Dan – I was the CPW co-chair and I dealt with applying for funding.
- Question: What about reimbursements?
- Dan – I spent some time with Collin and I got him to buy stuff.
- Dan – I'm also the Senior House secretary

Dan was white-balloted as treasurer.

Secretary

- Phoebe Whitwell – I'm a freshman from East Campus.
- Question: Do you know how to use the Athena terminal?
- Phoebe - No, but I can learn.
- Question: What about Latex?
- Phoebe – I can learn.
- Question: What is your words per minutes?
- Phoebe – 60-something.

Phoebe was white-balloted as secretary.

Housing Chair

- Alina – I'm a sophomore from Senior House. I'm the Senior House Rooming Advisory Chair and I met with housing once, with Richard Kelly and Robin. I want to be the housing chair so I can make sure the readjustment lottery happens.
- Question: How would you with administration?
- Alina – I would meet with them and talk. I would try to gather feedback before meeting them. I would see what people's thoughts are and have evidence to back up claims.
- Question: How do you feel about Adam Keys?
- Alina - ?
- Alicia – He's the cool ex-housing person.

Alina was white-balloted as Housing Chair.

JudComm Chair

- Carrine – I can't do it because I might not be a dorm resident.
- Candidate: Ducky
- Carrine – As current judcomm chair, I was working with nothing. I was developing relationships.
- Ducky – I think I'm already working with many of the same people.
- Would you be balanced?
- Ducky – Yes.
- What about being both Risk Manager and JudComm?
- Ducky – There's a large overlap. As risk manager, I focused on alcohol regulations which is also a JudComm thing. JudComm does other things, but I have experience and have

thought about how dormcon would be enforcement. It came up a lot with the REX-Rush agreement.

Ducky resigned from the race.

Candidate: Sweet Tea

- Ellen – This year, Carrine was starting from scratch. How do you continue the progress?
- Sweet Tea – I was with meeting with her to make more uniform set of guidelines and trying to make the process for new JudComm members more uniform. I would help them become better JudComm members.

Sweet Tea was white-balloted for JudComm.

Risk Management Chair

- Ducky – This is the position I care about. I believe the issue of alcohol on campus and in dorms need to be addressed. The guidelines are fuzzy. I've started talking to CDSA to increase understanding. We need more alcohol education.
- Question: How do you feel about the online training for freshmen?
- Ducky – I don't know what you're talking about. We didn't have to do it. I've talked about looking at the alcohol events run during orientation. I want to make them more student driven, less unilateral, and more actually useful advice.
- Edward – Do you drink?
- Ducky – Yes, in Europe.

Ducky was white-balloted as Risk Management Chair.

Dining Chair

Michael – I'm a junior and the president of Baker. I've been on the Dining Committee for the past year and half, which is the longest. I know the administration: Chris Colombo and Henry. I've been working for making dining have a lower cost and being more flexible. I'm looking to review the least popular hours and converting to a block plan. I want to help represent all of dormcon.

Katherine Silvestre – I'm a sophomore in McCormick and I was dining chair for McCormick. I was on the dining committee and working with Humphry. I want to get a perspective from beyond my dorm. I want to know how it affects everyone. I can't represent the cook-for-yourself people, but I have a feeling for it because McCormick has the most cook for yourself culture. I can understand the need for kitchen renovations. I can't say I have the same connections, but I have had experience on dining committee as well.

Question: How do you feel you can represent cook-for-yourself dorms?

Michael – I worked with Betsy and the UA dining dorms. I advocated for cooking classes and wrote a report on it. I worked a lot with dining issues that help all students.

Both Michael and Katherine were voted Dining Chairs.

The Dining Chair position was added to the constitution.