

DORMCON MEETING MINUTES – 10 May 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	Alina	
Simmons Hall	Eli Ross	
President	Ellen McIsaac	
Vice President	Virginia Nicholson	y
Secretary	Deena Wang	
Treasurer	Leonid Grinberg	

1. Funding for Fred Fest

- Leonid – Chris is our representative. They’re asking for \$2000.
- Chris – Fredfest needs money. It’s a concert we have in the EC courtyard in the fall. We have local Boston bands. It’s a large, campus-wide event. The \$2000 will go to the police detail, stage, lighting, and sound engineer.
- Ducky – Are you buying or renting the stage?
- Chris – Renting.
- Ducky – Will there be alcohol?
- Chris – No
- Question: What are you spending beyond DormCon’s funding?
- Leonid - \$5,500
- Sweet Tea – Will there be noise complaints?
- Alina – Probably.
- Question: Will it be advertised campus-wide?
- Chris – Yes.
- Question Why is it named Fredfest?
- Sweet Tea – Because EC wanted to change its name to Fred. A remnant is the name Fred Desk. The rest of the institute didn’t like it.
- Ducky – It’s named like an EC event.
- Leonid – Fredfest is not an event only for EC event. There were lots of people in the courtyard, not just EC people.

It was voted to allocate 2000 dollars for Fredfest.

2. Allocating money for REX

- Leonid – The good news is that everyone is super excited. They've all asked for money. At least we're under \$30,000 dollars but the total requested amount is \$28,328. This is coming out of the fall budget. We can't write the check now because we can't pay for REX and CPW in the same budget. I'm going to send out the amounts requested. Our options are to approve all of it, decided to cap it per dorm, etc.
- What are our incoming taxes?
- Leonid - \$16,000 per semester. What we did last year was set a total cap, but I would recommend against it. Or we could do a round-robin request decrease like CPW.
- Ellen – How much money is unallocated in the DormCon account?
- Leonid – \$ 20,000
- Edward – Three dorms requested double what others requested.
- Leonid – I can send out the amount of events each dorm normally runs.
- Question: Aren't people supposed to say what items they're going to buy using the money?
- Leonid – It's more lax for REX because it's early.
- Masseh – We're spending \$3,000 on top of \$2,200 for REX.
- Simmons – We're requesting \$2,000 because more people showed up for CPW. We're hosting a big outdoors thing. We're spending about the same of our own money.
- Leonid – We can take into account: dorms who put out lots of events, dorms with few events, and can favor either. McCormick didn't get funded last year. Simmons doesn't generally have a lot of events. EC and Random have highly attended REX's.
- Ducky – I advise cutting money.
- Leonid – Are there people here who are willing to cut requests?
- Ellen – I think we should figure out how much we want to spend overall.
- Alex – are there events in the fall we care about? DormCon retreat? Events for the fall?
- Alicia – Dan and I are in charge of an art event.
- Ellen – There are some large DormCon events that didn't exist last year.
- Ellen – Out of our money, we have to fund all the fall stuff.
- Leonid – I'm comfortable with spending \$22,000
- Ellen – My suggestion is giving \$2,000 to each dorm.
- Austin – We spend money to get people to Next House. For us to do dining events, we have to spend money.
- Rob – We spend \$15,000 total, with \$10,000 out of EC's money. I understand that it's good to take the overall \$28,000 down.
- Michael – All our events are big, have 200 students attending.
- Question: How many events does Baker have?
- Michael – 3 to 4. We're asking for less than half of the money needed.
- Alicia – A couple dorms are over 2k. I feel we don't want to blanket cut everyone. For example, Senior House needs freshmen badly.
- Question: Why do you need to pay for Next House dining events?
- Austin – Bon appétit requires us to pay money for upperclass people to go into the dining hall. We made a deal with them to split who feeds freshmen.
- Question: What happened in the past?
- Austin – We didn't have dining.

- Ellen – Everyone wants to have a successful REX, but it's not fair that some dorms receive more funding
- Baker – We're willing to have a \$2,000 cap if everyone does.
- Sweet Tea – What about going into the budget and killing events?
- Leonid – Dorms aren't on top of things enough to know exactly what they're spending money on yet.
- Edward – Do dorms accept going down to \$2,000?
- General agreement
- Rob – We kind of have to if everyone is doing it. We have a huge REX and spend more of our own money.
- Lenoid – We could give some dorms more money so they cut down next year.
- Todd - I think trying to trade off each year would exacerbate problems.
- Leonid – EC can plan differently.
- Ducky – EC can ask for more money now and take a hit to CPW. They should determine their priorities.
- Michael – I don't think we should go into debt.
- Leonid – It's not like no-one will remember this debate, because the new treasurer Dan is here. I propose voting for \$2,000 overall and \$3,000 for EC.
- Alicia – I'm in favor of giving extra to Senior House because they're going to have difficulty with having enough students.
- Katheryn – I live in McCormick. It seems like REX changed this year.
- Alicia – My Rex feelings: As we talked at retreat, there was a review committee. The big thing for REX is rebranding it as an orientation to MIT, not our version of Rush. We're building dorm communities. We're encouraging dorms which don't normally do REX to participate. Regarding the changes to the adjustment lottery, something with the same exact mechanism is still in place but it's opt in. The big thing is to make sure freshman know about it. I don't think that these changes will change the tone of REX. We're also totally having table in student center this year. I'm still thinking of putting the booklet in the freshman packet.
- Ellen – I don't think that we should be thinking about next year at this time.
- Leonid – There's no hard obligation for EC to cut their request, but I'll note it.

It was voted to give EC \$3,000 and the rest of the dorms either \$2,000 or their requested amount, whichever was smaller.

3. Rex-Rush agreement

- Edward – I looked over the 2010 REX-Rush agreement and talked to IFC friends. IFC has no problem with the 2010 agreement, but they don't agree that DormCon can enforce it. It says that DormCon can punish people, but ILGs have lost faith in DormCon's ability to punish dorms. If JudComm happens, or we show that we can punish dorms, they will agree.
- Sweet Tea – In our current constitution, we can't levy fines. I believe that we should amend it to permit fines on certain occasions. I promise to work on it over the summer.
- Question: What can DormCon do to punish dorms?

- Edward – We can levy fines, or tell them they can't have REX. I want the okay from DormCon to go to IFC to make a REX-Rush agreement dependent on making the punishment happen.
- Michael – What has happened that's negative without the agreement?
- Edward – Frat members can walk in dorms and advertise. McGregor has that problem. Before, frats didn't talk about fraternities before Rush.
- Ducky – To clarify: DormCon is an advisory/advocacy group. If you give it the power to fine, DormCon will become a government. If we assign ourselves the power to fine Bexley, that could be bad. Or each president from each dorm can put on the table punishments they would find suitable. The previous argument is that dorms can't punish individuals.
- Sweet Tea – JudComm can levy fines on dorm members.
- Todd – What sort of obligations apply to dorms or residents?
- Edward – The obligations apply to dorms in general. We can't hold mandatory events during Rush. I think that the REX-Rush agreement is good, because good relations are important. It's a good thing to move forward with, but we need JudComm for that. I don't see any downside to doing this. It will be the main priority during the summer. It's good to have system in place for doing this.
- Austin – The agreement says no dorm-sponsored events.
- Patrick – I don't think this is appropriate for DormCon. I'm not convinced that DormCon should prevent REX from happening for some dorms. The original agreement was reasonable. We're giving up a lot. We should analyze cost and benefit. The cost is having an unambiguous binding procedure.
- Edward – I think that DormCon should be able to protect dorms from each other. There should be some system in place. Bexley is not considered a dorm in this case.
- If we have a functioning judcomm, then the dorm takes care of it, or the dorm pays the price.
- I can see how this could go poorly, but if it goes right it's good. Even if it falls through this year, it's a step in the right direction. I think if a dorm does something shitty to another dorm, they should pay for it.
- Ellen – There have been issues during REX with alcohol and dorms tearing down other dorms.
- Regina – I'm uncomfortable with fines. I don't see the need to bring a binding power in. What if dorms are upset and leave?
- Patrick – I don't think the IFC is what we should model ourselves on.

4. DormCon supported City Days.

- Jordan – MIT is cancelling City Days. Many students are passionate about it. I'd like to propose a DormCon-supported City Days. DormCon will throw a volunteer thing during REX. It will be a time where all dorms are having a collective volunteering event.
- Question: How much money?
- Jordan - ?
- Alex – When and who is organizing?
- Jordan – I think this is good for being something the dorm is committed to.
- Sweet Tea – Why are you approaching DormCon?

- Jordan – Because all dorm presidents are here.
- Patrick – I think the intent was that City Days was for all students.
- Jordan – Other times are not effective. In the late fall, we had a service day but it was not successful.
- What are the goals?
- Jordan – They're the same goals as City Days: an introduction to service groups and making people feel at home in Boston.
- Ducky – This is a large logistical challenge. I don't think that you have thought about the amount of organization. We need a plan.
- Regina – is there central group for organizing this? Who takes liability for injuries?
- Todd – What exactly are you asking from us?
- Question: Who is in charge?
- Jordan - ?
- Question: What are you trying to accomplish?
- Jordan – I'm heavily involved in service. I thought that DormCon would be another avenue to accomplish this.
- Alex – It's difficult for us to help you because it's the end of the semester. If you brought a plan, it would be better.
- Question: Have you talked to PSC?
- Jordan – yes, they could use old contacts. They're enthusiastic.
- Edward – I think it would be good to find a PSC person from each dorm to be the point person.
- Ducky – How many students does City days move around?
- About 1,000 people.
- The funding comes from PSC.
- City Days doesn't require that much planning since we have contacts.