

## DORMCON MEETING MINUTES – October 25, 2012

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Michael Plasmeier	absent
Burton-Conner	Janille Maragh	
East Campus	Robert Johnson	
MacGregor	Edward Mugica	proxy: Todd Layton
Maseeh 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	Edward Mugica	absent
Vice President	Janille Maragh	
Secretary	Phoebe Whitwell	
Treasurer	Yukino Nagai	

### 1. **Peer Ears, guest: Emad Taliep, Divya Srinivasan**

- members of Active Minds, a mental health support service on campus
- want to implement a peer referral service to be used to coordinate the resources available on campus and overcome lack of communication
- would work with individual house teams to generate optimal placement of Peer Ears in each dorm
- Peer Ears do not replace mental health services
- Sweet Tea: what if a student does not follow the Peer Ears' referral? Does the administration get told?
- Only in extreme cases would a Peer Ear tell a GRT or a housemaster. Peer Ears would use their judgment to draw a line of confidentiality. There is no disciplinary element. Also, mental health professionals are available for the Peer Ears to consult without having an explicit referral.
- Katherine: Does Peer Ears work with "together.mit.edu"?
- We consulted with the people putting together the website, but we feel it doesn't replace the personal interaction. Also, Peer Ears will actively engage with their floor, hold study breaks, etc.
- Alex: Are they signing a confidentiality agreement? If not, how is this different from just talking to a friend?
- They will have more knowledge of the mental health resources available.
- Sweet Tea: If I go to a Peer Ear and they make the wrong call about breaking confidentiality, they could be ostracized. How will you deal with this?
- There will be training about making that call, and in almost all cases the Peer Ear would not report to anyone about what is going on. They can also pay attention to their floor and let housemasters know when the group as a whole is stressed.

- Regina: What if a student comes to a Peer Ear having broken the law? (i.e. drugs). What about legal ramifications, like becoming an accomplice?
- The Peer Ear would act as a friend would. Their training would give them guidance on how to respond to these situations. The legal issues are somewhat unclear, but probably they would apply as though to another friend.
- Affi: What is your goal here? Yukino: Do the dorms get a choice about having Peer Ears?
- It's a pilot program. We're not trying to impose anything, we just want to hear concerns and get input.

## 2. Next House party

- Austin: We had a party a couple of years ago, it was pretty good. We're having another party. We're getting more lights and a dance floor.
- For reference, dance floors can be bought at bigfloors.com.
- We have a total cost of \$2740. We're requesting \$500 from Dormcon. The rest of the money is coming from Next Exec.
- The party is November 10.

*It was voted to not fund the Next House party.*

## 3. Finances

- If we pay back all of the dorms for REX and also pay all of the things Dormcon has agreed to fund, without paying for Fred Fest Dormcon has \$300. With paying for Fred Fest, Dormcon has - \$700.
- Katy: What if dorms only spent the amount of their Dormcon allocation, and not any of their own money?
- Yukino: Unless they spent less than that amount, they get their full allocation. If they never remember to ask for their reimbursements, they will never get it.
- Alina: What about a fundraiser? Yukino: What about raising house taxes?
- Todd: We're still fine because we'll get house taxes next semester.

## 4. Halloween event

- Alina: I sent an email, read it. Pass on the advertisements to your residents. Everyone gets one back of each kind (three bags total).
- Ben: What about security concerns?
- Alina: You should deal with this on an individual basis.

## 5. Chancellor summit

- Alina: Ducky and I went. I took notes. It wasn't that important but they talked about how decisions are made and how they want to involve students but might have difficulties doing so.
- Katy: Of note: someone has just rewritten the Good Samaritan policy. It now only applies to alcohol.

*The next Dormcon meeting will be November 8 at MacGregor.*