

DORMCON MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 2012

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	?	yes
Burton-Conner	Janille Maragh (Affi)	
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. Introductions

2. Guest: Admissions with information on CPW

- Lauren – If you have questions let me know. For CPW, some things are staying the same and some things are changing (see flyer posted on website). CPW is a little later this year. The Harvard visitas program starts on Saturday during CPW, so if you're a host with a student that needs to leave, admissions will tell you. There is overlap with the Cambridge science festival, so we want to give students advance notice. We have a new website: community.cpw.org, so don't go to the old website. Deadlines are on the flyer. The mandatory meeting for hosts is in Kresge, you have to contact the new students beforehand. Telethon dates are also on there.
- Lauren – I wanted to talk about new things, especially when events can end and end safely. Last year, 803 events were submitted and about 23 ran past 3 AM, past when campus shuttles end. There's an initiative about safety especially for minors. We ask for guest safety and that events conclude by 3AM. This is a difference. The institute feels strongly about safety. It only impacts 23 events.
- Lauren – There's a new events policy, which we've been working on for a long time.
- Kirsten – We started to notice an increase in the number of events. Over the past 2 years, there's been an 18% increase in the number of events and a 36% increase in resident events. Students have been more stressed planning, we're more stressed, and it's more expensive. Prefrosh are showing up to events with no one there. We're going to try this year to scale back the number of events back to 2009 numbers. For dorm residents, we want there to be submitted 200 events total. Using the early arrivals model, you decide how many events dorms submit to us. Last year, 54% of residence events were submitted on the deadline, giving us only a week for turnaround and less time to work with you. We're always available to talk to you. We're happy to meet with you before the deadline to cut down on the last minute back and forth.

- Lauren – There's a change on the website. There used to be box on bottom for special comments which we want to emphasize. Many dorms have mysterious events. We're asking you to tell us explicitly what is happening because parents call and often cause headaches. If you have nontransparent events, tell us so we know. It won't be published. Questions?
- Leonid – Is the limit 200 events for all dorms?
- Lauren – For all dorms.
- Alex – What were numbers in years past?
- Kirsten – Last year had 268 events and 2009 had 198 events.
- Leonid – Was this due to funding?
- Lauren – No, about staffing. If we could extend shuttle service we could, but there are not enough people.
- Leonid – DormCon could fund a shuttle system.
- Lauren – We run shuttles to and from the airport through Peter Pan. You can hire a private service and split costs with other dorms. But only 23 events ran over
- Regina – Could you explain more about the early arrival system?
- Donna – When it was first started, only so many students could come to campus early. Housing states how many it can accommodate and you decide the percentage that goes to each dorm, a DormCon decision. It will be up to DormCon how to allocate events.
- Regina – We will decide which dorms get how many events.
- Lauren – We have statistics on how many events were run in the past, but the most important is the core group events. Talk about CPW events that you really want. CPW is when prefrish choose to come to MIT. Last year there was confusion because REX's fate was unsure, so a crazy amount of events were submitted. CPW is not REX.
- Kirsten – Think critically about events and find out which events represent the dorms.
- Lauren – Event planners are frustrated too when people don't show up to events.
- Jacob - 23 events concluded after 3 AM. The events I know ran over were firehose classes, and capture the flag, which filled up lobby 7. From what I've seen there are several hundred prefrish out after 3 PM. I don't have statistics on other events.
- Lauren – We don't have exit survey questions on how late people stayed out. One of our staff members said that not that many people were up late. There's subtle nudge to end by 3, because prefrish are minors. You can look for a late night commercial shuttle. It's tough to put in a rule for the first time. The cutoff seemed to make sense because of the shuttle.
- Jacob – Do you mean a commercial driver?
- Lauren – It can't be a student.
- Leonid – There are a couple of events that are meant to be all night like sleepovers. I think firehose lasts into the morning. What about that?
- Lauren - I talked to Random's housemaster on this and she was saying what about having a lockdown, where kids stay over. I have no problem, as long as the expectation is that people stay and there's an activity happening, not sleeping in the lounges. I don't want kids wandering around.
- Alex – So it's okay to have events 3-6 AM?
- Ducky – As long as you have to stay there.

- Lauren – I could say that you have to walk people back, but what about if they're staying in Fenway House. Parents ask why their kids didn't have an escort home. People end up walking alone.
- Question: Is the 3 AM rule for everyone?
- Answer: Yes.
- Question: Is the 200 limit for dorms only?
- Answer: Yes, not for other living groups.
- Virginia – We're getting an increase in overall percentage.
- Jonte - With regards to policy changes, what are prefrosh told?
- Lauren – That hasn't rolled out because they're not here. We're talking to you first. When you sign up for CPW, you get an agreement to act responsibly or your admission can be revoked. Somewhere in the CPW packet there's something on safety and how to act responsibly. Prefrosh don't know that events used to go past 3AM, they're a brand new crop. Staying up late is pretty awesome for them.
- Lauren – You have to abide by rules: take the shuttle or stay over.
- Question: I saw the policy on the CPW website on movies.
- Kirsten – That policy came up last year. Now that we know, it has to be out there.
- Licensing fee of 600-1000 dollars per movie
- Brian – That's a bit high. We could probably get one for \$250.
- Question: Per movie? I counted 31 movies in CPW last year.
- Kirsten – We emailed all dorms that were showing movies to tell about the policy. There's only so much we can do about it. We're still discussing what to do.
- Deena – What about general movie advertisements?
- Kirsten – For specific questions, contact the legal counsel office
- Lauren – Admissions turns into student activities during CPW, which we're not as used to.

3. General DormCon Announcement

- Ellen – This is an announcement on how DormCon works. We meet every other week, rotating through dorms alphabetically. On the website, you can see the meetings. Feel free to invite other people. Hosting dorm provide food and instructions if the meeting is somewhere obscure.
- Leonid – When you do anything for DormCon, we'll reimburse you.
- Ellen – The purpose of the organization is to do things like CPW and discuss policy on things that affect dorm residents. Email deenaw@mit.edu for agenda items. Let us know any topics. In general we try to have meetings that last an hour.
- Leonid – Donna and I were meeting on the dorm tax. Right now it's opaque and adhoc. It's not clear what the process is. Everyone pays \$85 a head to DormCon. We worked out a procedure that specifies deadlines for dorms changing taxes. I'm going to send out an email to dorms-prez. I'd love to meet with all treasurers, especially because of CPW event funding. I will email for their emails and make a budget.

4. Elect i3 Coordinator

- Ellen – Three people are here. Everyone that's here submitted an application to dorms-prez.

- Virginia – I'm a senior and I want to do i3 with a partner, I have technical experience editing film, working with administrators and dorm presidents. I worked with Adam Keys to clearly define rules. For new people, last year some i3 videos experienced censorship. I want to run with someone to handle administration. Hopefully no one edits video without permission.
- Question: How do we choose the i3 chair?
- Ellen – Each dorm prez gets to vote after meeting the applicants.
- Chris – I'm a sophomore from EC. I want to apply because I want to do it. I enjoy editing audio and video. I've had no previous position like this, but I like meeting people. I would try to make a good chair.
- Yukino – I live in senior house and I'm a freshman. I didn't get to go to CPW so I had to rely on the i3 video and booklet, neither of which was helpful. I want to be i3 coordinator to improve i3. I also wanted to get experience working with DormCon and administration.
- Regina – What are your technical skills at editing video?
- Yukino – I don't have that much experience. I had experience in editing the newspaper so I could do the layout of the booklet. I would trust i3 coordinators of each dorm to edit their videos. I would not be able to edit but I could try to learn.
- Chris – I'm fairly good with Final Cut Pro. I've had to make videos for classes, I'm also a music producer so I can edit video.
- Virginia – I took classes in high school.
- Question: How much time do you have?
- Virginia – I could have graduated last semester, so I have a light schedule. I would have time to be a full i3 coordinator so time is not an issue.
- Chris – I'm taking 5 classes and nothing else.
- Yukino – I have 4 classes and nothing else. I also have a credit limit.
- Question: Last year I came to a DormCon meeting as a substitute. Last year the i3 position was paid?
- Virginia – They would share the pay.
- Question: Future outlook?
- Chris – Whatever.
- Virginia – I still think it's important for i3 to have a DormCon liaison.
- Regina – Say there are some dorms that choose an inexperienced i3 chair. How would you advise?
- Chris – I'd talk to people who had done it in the past and see if they or I could pick up on tips to see what would happen.
- Yukino – I would talk to old i3 chairs, talk to other i3 experienced chairs, look at past i3 videos and brainstorm with them on the best way to create the video. I would also study video editing if needed.
- Virginia – The heart of i3 is content, not editing. If the dorm is lacking content, then that's a bigger issue. I would reach out as i3 chair to the student, reach out to the i3 previous chair, and help out.

DormCon voting

- Ducky – Dorms vote.

- Alicia – Dorms vote in 2 ways. For big things like the budget, each president represents the number of people currently living in the dorm. Otherwise each president gets one vote, and candidates go away during voting.

It was decided to vote for Virginia and Yukino as co-i3 chairs.

4. Elect VP for REX

- Alicia – I'm a sophomore from EC. I was the VP for REX last year, which was a surprise. I had fun, learned a lot, and REX went as smoothly as it could have gone, considering the bumps. I won't be here over the summer, I'll be in Jerusalem, but I'll be here in August, and I'll have email. I would love to be VP again. Now that I've been through it once, it would eliminate the learning time. I served on the REX review committee, the First Year Experience committee, and met important players.
- Leonid – I was not the VP of REX, but I helped Alicia. This makes it easier to plan the budget. I know people from housing. I won't be here over the summer.
- Ellen – DormCon can elect 1 VP and multiple REX chairs.
- Alicia – Even though we're the only two people, if two of us are elected and someone younger decides he/she is interested, I think it's wise to elect them as REX chair. It's good to have people around for the future.
- Ellen – We can hold additional elections.
- Regina – Do REX chairs have non-specified duties?
- Ellen – Yes, the duties are assigned by the VP.
- Virginia – Can we have events in the student center?
- Alicia – We're getting to be friends with Liz Young. Yes, things will be more reasonable.
- Virginia – There couldn't be events in the student center last year.
- Leonid – Talk to CAC.
- Question: Time commitments?
- Alicia – I'm a HASS major, I have an average MIT schedule, with nothing unbelievably difficult. Over the summer I'll be free in August
- Leonid – I'm no longer a HASS major. I'm no longer a UA senator, so the big part of the job ended. I'm the DormCon treasurer

Alicia was voted VP for REX.

Leonid was voted REX chair.

5. Discuss who each dorm is sending to the UA council

- Amanda – I just need a name from every dorm. We haven't picked a meeting time yet.
- Katy – When is the meeting?
- Amanda – We're meeting next week, with the meeting frequency to be determined.
- Regina – What about the final form of the new constitution?
- Amanda – We can set up the final form but it won't be ratified.
- Masseh – Regina
- McCormick – not sure, haven't decided (prez)
- Baker – not here

- Burton Connor - ?
- McGregor – Ryan Normadin
- New House – Ben Shivo
- Random – Alex Westbrook
- Senior – Katy Gero
- EC – Robert Johnson
- Simmons – Eli

6. Possibility of DormCon/UA retreat

- Ellen – Since lots of stuff is changing, I propose a retreat to figure out how stuff works. Feedback?
- Regina – A day retreat? How long will it be?
- Ellen – Whatever most people want, probably 1 day.
- Ben – Expected dates?
- Ellen – I’ll see when most people are free.
- Alex – Good idea.
- Ducky – How much will it cost and who will pay?
- Ellen – We can split between UA and DormCon. Cost depends. At Endicott Eouse, it’s \$75 per head for multiple meals, but we can figure out the price range.
- Regina – Is there a way just to have a longer meeting? I’m interested in finding out new roles, but I don’t want to spend the whole day.
- Ellen – I wanted to gauge interest. DormCon exec will talk about it.
- Regina – I want a few-hours-long retreat.
- Ellen – Everyone is in favor?
- Patrick – I dunno if a huge retreat is necessary.
- Alex – I don’t think the whole day retreat is good, but I think talking is good idea.
- Ducky – Who goes?
- Ellen – Dorm presidents, dorm executives, and UA. We wouldn’t include random people.
- Katy – I second the shorter idea.
- Ellen – It seems like we favor an on campus meeting with lots of food.

7. Conclusion

- Virginia – I propose a fieldtrip to see Adam Keys. We will bother him across the river. He was the Director of Housing Assignments, did i3 stuff, and likes baseball. He works for BU now.
- Virginia – I’ll send an email out.
- Ellen – We’ll meet next week in Masseh hall.