

DORMCON MEETING MINUTES – February 14, 2013

| Dorm | Representative | Absent |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Baker | Andrea ? | |
| Burton-Conner | Akhil Raju | proxy: Francis Lenahan |
| East Campus | Kelly Snyder | |
| MacGregor | Walter Menendez | |
| Maseeh Hall | Clay Goggil | proxy: Beth Sturman |
| McCormick | Henna Jethani | |
| New House | Anna Ho | |
| Next House | Linda Seymour | |
| Random Hall | Jacobi Vaughn | |
| Senior Haus | Sara Falcone | |
| Simmons Hall | Cosmos Darwin | |
| President | Edward Mugica | |
| Vice President | Janille Maragh | |
| Secretary | Phoebe Whitwell | |
| Treasurer | | |

1. Elections: i3 Chair

- Adrianna Rodriguez, freshman, Senior House. I was told that you needed someone, one of my friends is the SH i3 chair. The job seems to have a lot of emailing people but also a creative side, which I like. I like taking and editing videos and make home videos. I want to do this to get involved with dorm/student life.
- Evie: senior, Burton-Connor, course 2, BC i3 chair last year
- Cory Hernandez, Catherine (Rin) Yunis
- There are pretty significant changes coming to the structure of the i3, so we need someone who will put a lot of work in
 - Adrianna: I'm on A/B/C/NR, taking 57 units; also on rocket team, tutoring middle schoolers, and club archery. I didn't do much last semester and want to find my place here. I'm willing to move things around to make it work and to be productive on the weekend; would be willing to drop another commitment
 - Evie: took 2.009 last semester and has already applied to grad school; is also really into videos and into video editing
 - Cory: officer of a great many student groups, including a very time consuming position on the ASA; however, he manages well and knows a lot about the groups he's in.
 - Rin: I like videos. The position seemed cool. I want to do it with Adrianna. I have 5 classes, and am potentially doing water polo and helping out with the Shakespeare Ensemble show.

Adrianna and Evie were elected to i3 chair.

2. Guest: Christy Anthony and Don Camilio, Good Samaritan Policy

- The policy states that if you call for an ambulance for someone in alcohol distress, you don't get in trouble.
- Don: I am the director of the office of Community Development and Substance Abuse. We had a Good Samaritan policy before the revision last summer but got a lot of feedback from students who were confused about policy. 30 people (staff, students, etc) met to discuss revisions, then a smaller committee of 4 staff + 5 students redrafted the policy and put together a campaign (combo of catchiness and information)

- Major revisions: took out useless details, broader language to be all encompassing and flexible in interpretation, changed from “policy” to “practice”
- Christy: If a friend exhibits one or more signs of alcohol poisoning, you can call for medical help and it will be covered by the policy. Questions?
- Affi: Is it limited to just alcohol? A: The policy does not explicitly cover other substances, but in practice we try to treat them as much like “health and safety” issues as we can. People get an “informal”, low-level disciplinary notation in their file (no one else finds out).
- Don: When we finished the document, we wanted to revisit the inclusion of other drugs. We would like to include other drugs at the same places as alcohol is included in the policy, but there are limitations. If it’s a marijuana incident, you do a short online program and have a conversation with me. I don’t have an abstinence based policy, instead we can talk about ways to reduce harm. All meetings with me are confidential unless you talk about intended harm, intended murder, or knowledge of sexual assault.
- Christy: I sometimes talk to students who want to have conversations about their friends or just want to do the program without having a disciplinary citation.
- Edward: What are the standard responses to a first-time issue with alcohol? A: I ask, who called for help? If it’s a friend/MIT student, there’s no a case. If it’s a CP, GRT, RLAD who made the call, it’s not covered; however, I meet with them to discuss the incident, and the typical outcome is a meeting with Don and an “informal” notation. I try to get people through the program efficiently, and then I email their housemasters after completion.
- Robj: So only Don sees it if a student calls for help, and there’s no notation? (A: Correct.) So if I’m in a dorm and worried about my friend, and I call my RLAD instead of the police, then Christy sees it and there’s a notation? A: The person who calls for help can write a statement saying that they were the one who got help and all record/notations go away. Our priority is health and safety.
- Alina: What effect can the note in the student’s file have on their future? A: I’m not allowed to disclose those notations even with the student’s permission unless there’s a subsequent incident, when I’ll share it with the COD chair. This is rare, but we need to follow up in that case. It doesn’t go out to jobs/grad schools. If you ask the office what we will tell a job in the case of a background check, the office will tell you so you can tell the job first.
- Edward: Is there anything we should take back to our dorms and tell people? A: If there’s any question of whether someone needs help, call for help. Also, learn the signs and symptoms. We want to make this process as transparent as we can make it. Give us your input and contact us with more questions.
- Contact Info: Dom Camelio, dcamelio@, 617-253-4193; Christy Anthony, Director of Office of Student Citizenship, ceanth@, 617-253-0193

3. Elections: VP for REX

- Alina Kononov: Junior from Senior House, was REX chair for SH, has been part of Dormcon for the last half a year. I’ll be here this summer. I have lots of good relevant experience with the administration. I have j-lab but I’m used to that, and I’m on top of things.
- Emily Tencate: Sophomore. I was REX and CPW chair for Burton-Connor last year, and now I live in East Campus. I’m interested in being involved. I’m taking a reasonable level of classes and have small commitments with ESP

Alina and Emily are elected joint VPs for REX.

4. Elections: Judcomm Chair

- Ben Horkley: VP at Burton-Connor, served on BC Judcomm. I’m good at making people not hate each other and am interested in making sure all dorms are making good use of their Judcomm resources. Within Dormcon, I understand that Judcomm makes sure we follow the rules, and I would learn what those are.

- Sweet Tea: There's ideas about a Dormcon Judcomm as a judicial body for problems dorm Judcomms can't solve, but we don't have it and we should revamp the policy to match reality. Ben: I think having a Dormcon Judcomm is a good idea. It follows the model of BC judcomm which I like.
- Regina: What would you do with dorms that don't agree with having a Dormcon Judcomm? Ben: Having the option available is good, but for dorms who want to solve their problems in-house, that's good too as long as the system works.

Ben Horkley was elected as Judcomm Chair.

5. Elections: Treasurer

- Phoebe Whitwell: I'm sort of already doing this job. I've been part of Dormcon since last May.

Phoebe Whitwell was elected as Treasurer.

6. Elections: Secretary

- Anna Ho: I type very fast, and my average email response time is super-fast. I can compile an agenda.
- Walter Menendez: I'm addicted to my phone email. I compile MacGregor's weekly Housecomm agenda.
 - Ducky: Would you be interested in another Dormcon position later on? Anna: I don't know. Walter: Why not keep going?
 - Time commitments? Anna: Nothing that would interfere with the minimal time commitments
 - Regina: Year? Anna: Junior Walter: Sophomore

Anna Ho was elected as Secretary.

7. Announcements regarding budget policies and Dormcon retreat (Edward)

- Budget Policies: A lot of you are new presidents, so we want to talk about budget policies. We spent a lot of money in the last year and have to be a little more careful with it. We can't give blank checks anymore; instead, we should consider ourselves a "venture capitalist firm" and give money to small, new events that can't get it elsewhere but not to repeating events.
- Dormcon retreat: Meetings between presidents is most important thing about Dormcon. Last year we had a Dormcon retreat; we went to Endicott House from Friday evening to Saturday afternoon. I want to do another one; what about the weekend after next (March 1-2)?
- Is it possible to reserve Endicott so soon? Edward will investigate. Hopefully most people can make it. It'll be fun.

8. Sara: Can we move the meetings to 7 pm? (Sports are 5 to 7)

- We'll look into it. There's also the option of proxying.

9. CPW Updates

- The deadline for event registration is Feb. 25th at 5 pm.
- There is a 175 event cap for dorms. You should submit all events that you want to and then admissions will decide from there. Keep in mind there is no limit on what an event is or how long it can last. If we have too many events we'll fight about it at the next meeting, but we'd like to avoid that.

The next Dormcon meeting will take place on February 28, at 6 pm, at Random Hall.