

**DormCon Meeting Minutes
28 February 2013**

Attendance

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Andrea Marty	Proxy: Sarah Fay
Burton-Conner	Akhil Raju	
East Campus	Kelly Snyder	
MacGregor	Walter Menendez	
Maseeh Hall	Clay Goggil	
McCormick	Henna Jethani	Proxy: Katherine Silvestre
New House	Anna Ho	
Next House	Linda Seymour	
Random Hall	Jacobi Vaughn	
Senior Haus	Sara Falcone	
Simmons Hall	Cosmos Darwin	Proxy: Skyler Seto
President	Edward Mugica	
Vice President	Janille Maragh	
Secretary	Anna Ho	
Treasurer	Phoebe Whitwell	

1. Guests: Dean Humphreys and Dan Robert (director of housing operations) are here to talk about dorm security
 - Dan is here because he's the director of housing operations, and supervises the house managers: with any changes that we are making in the security systems, he would be integral to the implementation
 - Background
 - A committee formed shortly after there was a reported armed robbery in Baker House, and from that a faculty committee was formed that Dean Humphreys was able to sit on as well. They come up with a series of 32 recommendations
 - Last spring and into the summer, buildings were evaluated – Humphreys went around talking to each of the houses about their specific issues and concerns (ex. Senior Haus didn't want cameras, since they're clothing-optional, ex. Random Hall was concerned because they have a very good desk system, ex. other halls who feel that their security is inadequate)
 - Dan O'Neill (security company) brought in his staff to meet with housemasters, did physical inspection of buildings
 1. Figure out what worked, what didn't, what was outdated
 2. How the buildings were staffed or not staffed
 - Created a huge chart where they rated things on a scale of 0-3 for analysis purposes, to see where the weakest buildings were, and broke it down by specific areas
 - Came up with a comprehensive charts of each of the buildings
 1. If people are interested, Dan can print copies and get us a copy. Housemasters have all seen this.
 - Put together series of general recommendations to improve the security of the halls – most of which was “not earth-shattering”

- Made adjustments to the report, presented to the housemasters last Wednesday
 - [This DormCon meeting] was the next logical progression in the process of evaluating and implementing security changes in the houses
 - Next step: meet with each individual community
- Looking ahead
 - A lot of the technology that exists right now is either outdated or non-functional. Ex. "Random, the emergency button that you have actually doesn't work", ex. found that card/access reader information is not actually secure – "not in line with what the institution should be"
 - When you see cameras, you should know who's looking, are they recorded, do they only activate when they're alarmed. Students should know what happens to that data: who can see it and under what conditions.
 - Recommendations: move to using professional security, but keeping student desk workers. Security personnel job will be greeting people, verifying that they should be there, making sure that they sign in. Student workers should be there because they're members of the community, they know people in the community. Deal with things like getting keys, mail.
 1. Should not do that in East Campus – too many access points
 2. Random – very secure student desk worker system
 - Across the board: minimum operating standard, that will be shared with the housemasters and the student leadership. Houses can add up from it, but cannot take away from it.
 - Each house has some unique features: guest list is a feature that needs to be worked out further with communities, not going into that tonight.
 - Training, both for students and professional staff.
 1. Consistent messages: important to communicate MIT policies and procedures, as well as culture of the houses and the institute
 - This has to be done in phases: any building below 1.7 are the first up
 - Our goal is to get every building as close as 3 as possible.
 - Humphreys would be happy to come back to DormCon, and bring Dan O'Neill, to talk about the document
- There will be no major reconfigurations of any of the desks
- Q&A
 - Sweet Tea: can you talk about the new desk software; can students write their own as long as it has the same capabilities
 1. Humphreys: discussion did start last year about whether we should have one standardized software system. We've been focusing on security, though – the idea is not one that we'd picked up to give serious consideration to at this point.
 2. If we want to get involved in that, who do we contact?

- a. Colleen Honohan who works with the front desk systems, working with IS&T on improving Next House's wireless systems
- Alina: I think it would be helpful for us to see the document that the security consultant put together
 - 1. Humphreys will get copies delivered to the house presidents.
- Sophie: what would an across-dorm system look like?
 - 1. Key control (how keys are given out), sign-in/out procedures, fire alarm procedures.
 - 2. We do not want to create an atmosphere where people feel like they're walking into a prison – we just want to create a deterrent to people who want to do harm to the institute
- Plaz: "Door man" rather than "campus security guard"?
 - 1. We're going to be looking for someone who is a service point to students, not some guy in combat boots
 - 2. Students should feel like this is someone who's part of the community to assure their well-being
- Akhil: is the security guard at desk part of the minimum operating level?
 - 1. No. The minimum level is just procedures
 - 2. Graduate communities, for example, not going with professional security company, because they have so many controlled access points...just need better training in those buildings
 - 3. Undergrad buildings: built a *long* time ago. Ex. Random Hall and Maseeh existed before MIT. None of the buildings were really designed for security concerns.
- Jacob: how do you balance people on a guest list with the security of the dorm?
 - 1. This will be done on an individual community basis.
- Lydia: more details on this other security person at desk, please
 - 1. Will be done on a community basis
 - 2. Simplest way to put it: the student worker is there for the services of the community. The security personnel is there to make sure people sign in, tap in their IDs, that they're supposed to be there. If there was an issue with the guest list, and there was a student worker available to help clarify, that would be great.
- People who come in to use a dining hall?
 - 1. Will follow a minimum operating standard, but will also be tweaked house by house.
- Alina: this additional security person – why wouldn't we run into the same issues as with the IAP outside contractors, and could we provide training to desk workers instead of providing training to outside person
 - 1. Again, we have to talk with individual buildings. But the difference between what happened at IAP and what we're talking about is – they were working for MIT today and tomorrow they could be at Walmart. We need people who are properly trained in how to stop people who are entering a

- building and don't live there, how to de-escalate a situation instead of escalate it. At the same time, they need training on the community and on the institute.
2. "I heard Burton Conner loud and clear last year: they caused more havoc than good" – clearly needs to be personalization by the community
- Sweet Tea: speaking of night-watch, occasionally night-watch gets shuffled around, not always to residents' happiness. Could we work on shuffling night-watch less?
 1. We like to move people around to give them expertise in other buildings. From time to time, we get request from other communities that require a shift (ex. an all-female dormitory that wants a female night-watch person)
 - Sweet Tea: desk workers vs. security people. Could we have a student security service in the model of the student EMTs?
 1. We have trouble getting desk workers to begin with. To get the number of students to have a security force – first of all, we would have to have requirements for being there for a certain length of time, we don't know that an MIT students' schedule allows for that kind of thing. I don't know we could pay to make it really worthwhile for somebody to want to take up that many chunks of time.
 2. Just part of the ebb and the flow of having 22 people on night watch. We don't like to monkey around too much with it, but sometimes there is a benefit to moving people around.
 - Plaz: still concerned about the level of knowledge that the people from outside the community would have, just because they're not part of the community day-to-day. I met an MIT police officer who didn't know what CPW was, for example.
 1. When we talk about getting to know MIT, they need to know things like CPW and REX. They're going to have to know: "what's steer roast?"
 2. We need staff making judgments about a community based on their understanding of it. If you're here, you respect what's going on. It's like the Unit 12 people: they know what's going on, they know what's normal behavior for MIT, versus what's an unusual event occurring that they need to address right away
 3. Would make sense to find students to help with this training
 - Edward: we do have to move on...
 1. We will be having these conversations in individual communities as well, so bring your questions there
 - Horkley: security review process. Did they also consult with desk captains of individuals dorms, and if so, would that be useful feedback to get?
 1. Don't know – will ask Dan tomorrow.

2. DormCon retreat update (Edward)

- It's happening. It's next weekend. Leaving Friday at 5pm (in front of McCormick, the little circle thing) and getting back Saturday – leaving Endicott House at 4:30pm.
- One guest per person.
- Please fill out the survey.
- Edward will e-mail out the logistics information
- If you want to come to the retreat and have a partial time conflict, let us know – may do some sort of thing where the bus comes and goes on Saturday morning. Not sure about that yet but are looking into it.

3. DormCon Spring 2013 budget (Phoebe)

- You should have gotten an e-mail or a couple of e-mails about the budget, laying out what we would like to spend money on this semester
- Does anyone have questions about things that are on there?
 - Alina: $8+15 \neq 22$
 1. Good job, Alina.
 - Sweet Tea: concerns that DormCon is saving too much for itself and not spending enough on CPW. We've budgeted \$2,000 for meeting food, when only 2 years ago we budgeted \$600 total for all DormCon stuffs. Also, spending \$4000 on a retreat? Also, not spending nearly enough on CPW as we could be.
 1. CPW thing: we're getting \$5,000 directly from admissions, so this \$5,000 is to match the \$10,000 from last year. Also, last year, had a large surplus on our budget, and were working on running that down. This year, that's not the case. So, this year, \$10,000 is getting spread through the dorms again
 2. Meeting food: based on the \$200 number that was sent out, plus for exec meetings. Not anticipating that we will spend all of this money. But more surplus is better, particularly when we're coming into the fall, and having to think about REX.
 - a. Jacobi: if you tell people to spend \$200, they will spend \$200. We should lower it.
 - In the future, do you expect CPW funding from admissions to decrease?
 1. That'll be a decision for the next DormCon exec team
 2. The deadline for LEF funding is...today at midnight.
Requirements: event open to entire MIT community, including grad students, and advertised as such.
 - How much did admissions actually spend last year?
 1. Between \$3,000 and \$4,000. So, last year, dorms received \$13,000.
 - Concerns about the "etc" events (steer roast, piano drops, etc). They can get funding from LEF, but giving them \$100 each is not much when you're running a big event
 1. That number came from the budget from last spring.
 2. Last year, we got five such requests
 - Back to Sweet Tea's concerns.
 1. Edward: I think it's reasonable to spend that amount of money on a retreat. If people disagree with me, we can talk about it.

But I think it's a useful experience getting away from campus, bringing the presidents together.

- a. Our work as DormCon is what allows things like that to happen, and I think that the advantages gained by having the different presidents sitting in a room talking to each other help prefrosh and freshmen more than having slightly more money for CPW presidents
 - i. A lot of dorms are sitting on top of huge funds that they are choosing not to spend
2. The presidents aren't friends yet. After the retreat, it's a much different dynamic, and really helps with discussion, helps developing a direction for DormCon for the coming year.
 - a. Sweet Tea: this past DormCon, having gone on a retreat, enjoyed hanging out with each other, which upped attendance and efficiency
 - b. Ducky: when I first joined DormCon, everyone hated it. People were talking about dissolving it, because it didn't do anything useful. However, we went on a retreat, and actually learned to interact with each other in a positive manner and that made the group a lot more effective. You do not want the DormCon from two years ago, trust me.
 - c. Sarah: agree that the retreat is super-important, but we could buy our own food and cook it (use a MITOC cabin) instead of have a chef make us a three-course meal at Endicott House

"Motion to change the food budget to \$150, and move the extra money to CPW"
White balloted
Motion passes

(Proxies have to tell president in advance, technically...but JuddComm says it's okay for this meeting since presidents weren't aware in advance. Will follow through with them later.)

Vote to approve the budget
9 yes, 2 no
Budget is approved

4. CPW

- Clarifying event allocation (Edward)
 - People aren't super happy about that...we went over our limit by over 100, so we had to do some serious cutting-down
 - The idea was to focus on two things: 1) not cutting-down events for dorms that had very very few (like, the under-10 range) and 2) keeping things relatively close to last year, for dorms that have historically done a lot of events and showed to be good at doing so
 - Sorry to the dorms that were in the 50 to 60 range that got 50% of what we requested. With what we received, it's hard to do anything else.

- What we're doing here: help the dorms make conscientious decisions about what events they're actually throwing, have successful events, avoid unsuccessful events.
- That said, if you got a huge hit, Edward will be happy to try to work something out, try combine events or whatever.
 1. If you want to work on that, let Edward know ASAP, to start working with admissions
- Edward: fraternities all do 6-8 events and don't even fight about it, so I'm a little bit disappointed that we're having so much trouble
- Edward: remember that the goal of CPW is to show prefrish how great MIT is, I feel like part of the issue is that we're losing sight of that fact in some places and that some dorms are working towards building their own cultures or trying to get freshmen interested in their dorms as opposed to other places to live on-campus. The focus and goal of CPW is MIT and how cool MIT is, and the coolness of your dorm is only a subpoint
- Budget (Alina, Emily)
 - Handouts.
 1. Food event will be funded separately if we can make someone do that. There's also a column for the total amount of money that the dorm is spending on CPW, if they gave us that number, and a rough breakdown (except for the really detailed ones)
 2. Can we punt this until later?
 - a. No, because the booklet gets printed on March 8.
 3. What is the "total cost" column?
 - a. That's if you include the dorm's contribution
 - Edward: we've got a budget of \$2100 and we've got \$10,000. When there's nine dorms, and \$10,000, I'm having a hard time with some of the dorms asking for double that. I feel like \$1000 is a reasonable baseline.
 1. Last year: we spent \$10,000, admissions contributed \$3,000.
 - Benjamin: CPW chairs grossly over-estimated the resources of DormCon and it's going to hurt for everyone in the room except maybe BC
 - Edward: are there dorms that will lose events if they receive \$1000 from DormCon?
 1. Random might be in some trouble
 2. New House would be in a lot of trouble
 3. Everyone else is fine with receiving \$1000 from DormCon
 - Proposal: \$1650 for Random, \$2000 for New House, \$700 for Burton-Conner, \$1000 for everyone else

Vote to approve the CPW budget
10 yes, 1 no
CPW budget approved.

- Multi-dorm food event series (Alina, Emily)
 - CAC event at REX was generally well-received

- For those of you who weren't around for that, that was basically mandated by student life, block of time set aside Tuesday evening of REX, each dorm received a certain amount of funding to host a dinner, the idea was to have a conversation about life in-dorms and life outside of MIT. You weren't restricted to go to the event in your dorm, but it was the only thing it was happening across all of the dorms on campus at that time. It was basically dinner and conversation about dorm life.
- A lot of dorms expressed interest, but we can't get dorms to agree on one time to have the event
- Right now, all dorms except Baker participating
- Concerned about getting funding for the event
- Meeting with Humphreys tomorrow (Friday) to talk about it, basically we need to make an argument for why this is good and why this is different from just regular CPW events and why it's different from dorms just trying to skip out of CPW quota
 1. Edward: We are explaining directly to prefrosh what life on campus is like, we're not explaining dorm culture, we're telling people what day to day life at MIT is like, and that's a distinct thing from cultures within our dorms, and is distinct from what the rest of our CPW as dorms entails. These events won't happen if they're not funded from elsewhere.
- This event is not your chance to recruit freshmen...it's your chance to tell prefrosh about dorm life at MIT
- Baker: our CAC event wasn't successful, mostly to do with the fact that we had it in the dining hall but orientation was also sending students to dining halls. So we had a bunch of students who were not Baker residents who were meeting their O Leaders and things like that. But we had Baker students there and Plaz was trying to talk to them over a microphone and no one was listening.
- Next House: we waited until people finished eating dinner, then sent them around the dorm to have one-on-one conversations. If you're going to have this event, make sure all MIT students know what's happening. Post signs up etc so people don't wander into the dining halls and not know what's going on in there. It was just the organization that didn't work well.
- Baker: we do our food through Bon Appetit. Because our funding was intended to be in the dining hall, because we're supposed to introduce prefrosh to the dining hall, we were restricted in that way.

5. Judcomm (Edward)

- Edward: the push behind Judcomm were meetings with Panhel and IFC. I want to impress upon you that Dormcon as an entity is really hamstrung by the fact that we don't have that kind of system in place. We're screwed over by the fact that dorms can't really get in trouble. We need something set up and ready to run, otherwise a dorm that gets in trouble could be absolutely dominated by the administration. It's definitely something we'll discuss on the retreat. Basically: it increases our ability to deal with other groups on campus, and serves as a shield between dorms and administrative oversight

6. Approval process for spending house funds (Skyler Seto - proxy)

- Will e-mail issue to dorms-prez

Adjourned.