

DormCon Meeting Minutes
04 April 2013

Agenda

- (1) Dining Update (Plaz)**
- (2) Security Plan Updates (Plaz)**
- (3) Piano Drop Funding Request (Andrea)**
- (4) Gender Neutral Housing (Alina)**
- (5) Poems for MIT Students (Katy Gero)**

Attendance

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Andrea Gutierrez Marty	
Burton-Conner	Akhil Raju	
East Campus	Kelly Snyder	
MacGregor	Walter Menendez	
Maseeh Hall	Clay Goggil	Absent
McCormick	Henna Jethani	
New House	Anna Ho	Proxy: Suan Tuang
Next House	Linda Seymour	
Random Hall	Jacob Hurwitz	
Senior Haus	Sara Falcone	Proxy: Katy Gero (Late)
Simmons Hall	Cosmos Darwin	
President	Edward Mugica	
Vice President	Janille Maragh	
Secretary	Jacobi Vaughn	
Treasurer	Phoebe Whitwell	
Guest	Dean Humphries	

1) Dining Update

- Plaz has updates on a few dining things, Dean Humphries is here to assist and elaborate.
 - a) W20
 - MIT is planning on doing renovations in the future. E50, Walker, and W20 are slated for renovation. Dining can only support having one down at any given time.
 - There are five broad categories for new restaurants:
 - i. Mom and Pop small businesses
 - ii. Boutiques (eg Clover/Flour)
 - iii. National company for unbranded concepts
 - iv. National company for branded chains (smaller/regional ones)
 - v. National concept (something famous/giant; the current Subway fits this category)

- Talked about at UA meeting. People want things that are lower priced (cheaper than the obvious alternative, the meal plan). They also want high quality food, and care less about brand recognition.
- All contracts for vendors in the second floor of the Student Center are done year by year, so there is no long term commitment. The first floor is not under DSL, it is under the MIT real estate division. They have three year contracts, with an out clause (60 days notice from MIT to leave for unsatisfactory performance).
- Verde's is under CAC space, and has a different contract and a different out clause.

b) Main Campus (Café 4, Bosworth's, Catering Kitchen, etc)

- Up for renewal now. MIT has asked firms to make a bid for these spaces (in a financial sense, also what those spaces should even be).
- A subsidiary of Bon Appetit is interested. They want feedback from MIT students to reflect the needs of students in their bid.
- The UA or DormCon could have a focus group to allow the companies to ask students about their interests. DormCon is not very interested in this.
- A survey might also be helpful. It should include questions about satisfaction, for instance "What times do students want restaurants to be open?" People filling out the survey should know exactly how much impact they will have.
- Sales data exists (for the bidding companies). UA and DormCon only have anecdotal evidence for what students want.
- Is there any chance of integrating the dining plan with the main campus facilities? Humphries: It depends on the vendor, but it is possible.
- MIT is working on a multi-vendor dining plan (ie people getting a certain number of tickets each week, which can be given to multiple places for food). This is very early in the planning stages.

c) Food Trucks

- Currently up for renewal. There are five spots behind MIT Medical right now (given to MIT by the City of Cambridge).
- Who allows the food trucks to run? They must be officially approved by the City of Cambridge. Food trucks must be a certain distance from permanent locations for food of the same type (for non-competition reasons).

- MIT is considering all of its option (should we rotate food trucks?, should popular ones (Clover) get more access?).
 - i. A combination would be nice. Something like 2 student favorite spots and the rest rotating.
 - ii. The flexibility of food trucks should be used.
 - What should the number and location of trucks be?
 - People want more food trucks in more convenient locations. A few on the West side of campus would be great.
 - Unclear if it is possible for food trucks to be on Dorm Row. The answer might depend on the time of day.
- d) Labor Relations
- This was discussed in a closed meeting.

2) Security Plan Updates

- Baker came up with a 13 page security plan. They wonder what progress the other dorms have made on their individual plans. The plan was forwarded to DormCon in an attempt to share best practices.
- Senior Haus has had a couple meetings. They drafted a plan about a year ago with their housemaster, but they haven't heard anything back about it. It has been implemented, including changes to the desk worker system.
- Humphries: Want to improve desk worker training for all dorms next year. Security contracts rated all dorms from 1 – 3 on a variety of issues, and have developed 'phases' to improve all dorms (grad and undergrad) to certain minimum performing levels. East Campus and Random are not part of the phasing. EC is being considered for renovations soon, and security would be updated then. Random has super tight security and only needs technology upgrades.
 - a. Phase 1 needs to be completed by August 15th. This includes Tyechnology upgrades, personnel changes, procedure updates to make the dorms more consistent.
 - b. Phase 2 discussions would start next fall, and would need to be implemented by August 14th, 2014.
- When a dorm comes up with a plan for themselves, what happens? It needs to get confirmed with Housing. Then it will be implemented and stored at desk and online (so that it won't get lost).
- A proposal is being written regarding the security contractors. They will then request bids, and a committee involving everyone (DormCon, Housing, GSC, SEMO, etc) would review the bids. They will be closer to highly trained doormen than traditional security personnel (won't be carrying guns).

- What are people's thoughts on the difference between an MIT undergrad trying to get into their own dorm versus getting into other dorms?
 - a) Guest list based system is useful. People from other communities will not respect the facilities as much as people who live there, and may have cultural differences which affect security.
 - b) Different dorms have different theories about what is common practice. Do people leave their doors unlocked? Open? Always locked? Open access for MIT students would be a lot of work for the desk workers. Technology upgrades may help with this.
 - c) Individual dorms should get to make this decision for themselves.
 - d) If you're on a guest list, people should be able to tap their student id's and get in (not knocking, talking to the desk worker, etc).
- Things will need to be different for dorms with many access points.
- Why are we doing 4 different phases rather than all upgrades at once? Cost, and to make sure things are done correctly and systematically (betas to make sure the concepts are sound).

3) Poems for MIT Students

- Katy is holding a poetry contest for poems about the MIT experience. There is a total of \$600 in cash prizes. The contest is completely student run and student judged. Selected poems will be published in a small book before graduation, and distributed freely.
- Poems due by May 1st.
- Flyers were handed out. Tell your friends, and write one yourself!

4) Piano Drop Funding Request

- Friday April 19th, a week before drop date (House manage is gone for drop date). This time the piano will be dropped on a car. T-shirts and food will be given out, and there will be a party-like atmosphere. Trying to be Wile E. Coyote themed, but copyright issues.
- \$2400 request for food and drinks, prizes, t-shirts, and advertising out of a total budget of \$5650.
- Discussed in a closed meeting.

DormCon pledges \$2400 to Baker House for Piano Drop. DormCon will not fund the giveaways, but will fund the police detail and safety equipment.

5) Gender Neutral Housing

- Some individuals have expressed interest in enacting gender neutral housing. This would allow residents to choose a roommate with no gender restrictions, benefiting people who are trans-gender, identify outside of the gender binary, or feel more comfortable living with someone of a different gender. Alina would like to find out which dorms are interested and involve those who are.
- Random has an interesting system where rooms are gendered. If you don't fit in the gender binary you can't get a room. This is being changed very soon. The understanding was that doubles must be people of the same biological sex by fiat of Housing. Alina is interested in changing that room.
- Random, Senior Haus, Burton Connor and East Campus are interested.
- Humphries: Will be marketed as "Gender Inclusive" rather than "Gender Neutral".
- Drawbacks: People dating would be allowed to live together. If they break up harshly it is now the RAC's problem. However, this is similar to roommates getting into a big fight.
- We should make sure that people should still have the option of single gender doubles if they want one. (Some people are uncomfortable rooming with someone of the opposite sex, and that should be respected).
- The parent perspective should also be considered. Discussions like "Your kid has options and will pick the right one." have worked for similar problems.
- Proposal needs to be brought up at an HSG meeting.

The next DormCon meeting will occur on April 18th, at 6 pm, in Baker House