

DormCon Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2014
Location: Burton-Conner

Agenda

- 1) Security Updates
- 2) Burton-Conner Construction
- 3) DormCon Election Timing
- 4) Gender-Inclusive Housing
- 5) Summer Storage
- 6) Funding Proposals
 - Baker vs. Burton-Conner Grill-Out & Athletics Competition (CPW)
 - EC, Burton-Conner, + Senior Haus Jam Session (CPW)
 - EC vs. Senior Haus Water War (CPW)
 - McCormick + Baker Capture the Flag (CPW)
 - McCormick + Next Party
 - DTYD

Attendance

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Sean Corcoran	
Burton-Conner	Victoria Stivanello	Proxy: Iris Fong
East Campus	Jessica Parker	
MacGregor	Walter Menendez	
McCormick	Chloe Orphanides	
New House	Matthew Davis	
Next House	Ryan McDermott	
Random Hall	Gaurav Singh	
Senior Haus	Rodrigo Lopez Uricoechea	
Simmons Hall	Lars Johnson	
President	Eli Ross	
Vice President	Katherine Silvestre	
Secretary	Caitlin Heber	
Treasurer	Phoebe Whitwell	

Begin: 7:05
End: 8:00

1) Security Updates [Eli]

- Eli: Phase I dorms shouldn't have any changes at this time. Meetings of Phase II dorms are happening. They are discussing what can be changed vs. what can't be changed. Only Senior Haus and Burton-Conner have had this meeting. MacGregor and East Campus have their meeting next week. At this point, the dorms who had these meetings are the most informed.
- Rodrigo: Nothing was very clear at our meeting. We're unsure of what's negotiable and what we could do about the parts of the plan we disagree with. Four students were allowed to attend this meeting (President, VP, Treasurer and Desk Captain). Senior Haus is getting 19 cameras. They wanted to alarm all the dorms, but also seemed to suggest that this might be negotiable. We want the doors to be exit only, they seem to be against that.
- Iris: Burton-Conner had three students allowed to attend the meeting. Desk captain couldn't make it. We will be having town hall style meeting in the upcoming weeks.
- Walter: They want to implement security so soon; it seems as if our input isn't going to be processed and is only being collected for the sake of being collected.
- Ryan: When they come to show you camera spots, I would suggest pointing out why spots are inappropriate, as opposed to just disliking the placement.
- Walter: Did they hint at anything being custom tailored to Senior Haus? Rodrigo: not particularly.
- Iris: Burton-Conner security concern is this room (the Porter Room). One thing discussed was knocking walls to form a pass through secure area.
- Ryan: Did they mention card reader on elevators? Rodrigo: No. Eli: Make sure to ask specifically about the card readers on elevators. Antonio: Press them on this issue.
- Eli: When you go to talk with them about all these issues, I'm curious to see the reaction if they don't take your input. What will happen? Rodrigo: Residents will be very unhappy and discourteous, especially to the desk attendant who becomes the face of the whole process. People would find ways to get around the alarmed door. With regards to the cameras, I don't know what would happen.
- Eli: I asked Dean Humphries what the action plan is if we reach an impasse. Your dorm's appeal would have to go to Chancellor Barnhart. She would make the final call.
- Matthew: You can get what you want through these meetings, if you go into them knowing what you want. You should know that housing has three "upgrades" for all dorms. 1) New Card Readers, 2) Desk Attendant at all dorms (except East Campus until renovations and maybe not Random), and 3) Policies (guest list (all MIT IDs can get in, or non-MIT and/or on guest lists, need letters from house master approving all these things about the overall structure).

- Rodrigo: MIT students = MIT alumna? Matthew: I'll ask about that.
- Eli: One of the "benefits" is that once everyone is upgraded your dorms have more flexibility on guest lists. People could get card access to other dorms. Rethinking the guest policy is on the table now, so please ask your dorms about it. Becky: Maseeh will soon be granting card access to guest lists.
- Eli: The idea that we're more secure with these upgrades is hugely up for debate. It's access control if anything. Matthew and Alina will be having more meetings with DSL about what's going on and what will be the best way to move forward on this issue.
- Chloe: McCormick is having issues with event guest lists. Eli: I have a feeling that in Phase II housing will be better with this. However, you should approach your house masters and DSL about the issue if you want it fixed promptly. Also, we should get a document with everyone's current policies.
- Lars: What's happening during CPW? Eli: They haven't figured it out yet. Lars: Only current pertinent issue to Phase I dorms.
- Matthew: You all should be aware of key control; AB will soon be in charge of spare keys. Gaurav: All keys or just residents' rooms? Matthew: Just rooms.
- Matthew: Please make sure to ask how students are going to have input on future security changes within your dorm. If you have a way you want that to happen, make sure you bring it up. We will be getting access to the survey data from Phase I dorms soon. I am going to send out a document with important questions to you tonight.
- Rodrigo: Where is the security footage stored? Katherine: SEMO.
- Eli: When we get the data and if it has clear statements that have not been incorporated into Phase II, it is important to ask why student feedback has not been taken into account.

2) BC Construction [Akashar Wunnava and Jaaron Botello]

- Akashar: Construction significantly impacted student living. Housing chairs and Burton-Conner presidents talked with Housing about this, and they privately recognized the disruption and apologized. Construction started in the fall. There was lots of noise, drills and jack hammers. The insulation was removed; windows were covered with tarps. Dust settled on everything, not to mention you couldn't see the sun. After a lot of protestation, construction stopped at the end of IAP and we haven't received any more communication from administration. We want a public apology and a refund of our housing fees. Upon researching our living conditions it's apparent that MIT broke five or six different city codes. Now we are trying to figure out the best strategy for moving forward with this.
- Lars: How much of Burton-Conner was affected? Akashar: One wing, 24 students immediately affected, about 40 in total were impacted.

- Katherine: Was the house team aware of this? Akashar: Kind of, the house masters were also affected by the construction. Whenever they communicated with us, it was more of conveying the information from facilities rather than actually making the living situation better. Our president spoke to Dean Humphries, and told him privately that it would never happen again.
- Rodrigo: Did you talk with your house manager? Akashar: Yes, and same thing happened as house master. One of the more irritating things about this process was communication. Construction workers were in people's rooms without notifying the residents. House staff were not immediately part of the chain of communication and eventually got added to it. All in all, it was a **very** difficult process.
- Eli: They're looking for a paragraph or a page of support for the ideals they've laid out, something stating that this was unacceptable and the reasons why this should never happen again. Are we on board with writing a short supporting document for them? (Everyone: Yes) The goal is to have something drafted by the end of the weekend. I will send out an email via dorms-prez tonight or tomorrow. Right now we've gotten nowhere with administration, it would be nice to get a formal statement about this huge mistake. We get private apologies often, but they should be willing to say it publicly as a matter of record.
- Matthew: Update on where we are – if you have any concern about construction contact Dennis Collins. In all future construction/work done on buildings, there will be notices sent out in advance to the executive team notifying them first, and then public to the people. They will also be writing into their policies that types of projects that significantly disrupt students cannot happen during the school year.

3) DormCon Election Timing [Eli]

- Eli: Last year they were at the end of April/beginning of May. I can personally attest to the transition period being short and awful.
- Katherine: We were all learning a lot very fast. Eli in particular had a lot thrown on his plate.
- Eli: To avoid a difficult transition period, we would like to move executive elections up. I strongly believe they should be on April 3rd or April 17th.
- Ryan: April 17th. It's worth the wait in order to get better candidates.
- Eli: April 17th would provide ample time for transition. Fortunately, there's not a rule of when we want these to happen. Everyone agrees that April 17th is the best date for elections. Also, consensus is that CPW should be moved to the fall too.

4) Gender-Inclusive Housing [Eli]

- Eli: At the housing strategy group on March 5th, housing decided to move forward with getting an outline of a plan for dorms that are interested in gender inclusive housing. We should play a role in determining what peoples' feelings are in all dorms and acquire data about these feelings. Matthew and Alina will send out an email brainstorming ways to get this feedback.

5) Summer Storage [Eli]

- Eli: At our retreat we talked about summer storage and are concerned about future changes. Matthew is soliciting feedback on this. I recently met with Dan Roderick and we ended up discussing this. Housing explicitly stated they are trying to get out of the business of storage in dorms. Apparently, the space could be used for more important things. At least housing gave us an honest answer about this situation. We are currently in the process of looking into alternative storage options.

6) Funding Proposals

a) Baker vs. Burton-Conner Grill-Out & Athletics Competition (CPW)

- Unrepresented (tabled)

b) EC, Burton-Conner, + Senior Haus Jam Session (CPW)

- Unrepresented (tabled)

c) EC vs. Senior Haus Water War (CPW)

- Unrepresented (tabled)

d) McCormick + Baker Capture the Flag (CPW)

- When: Saturday, April 12th from 12 to 1pm
- This event will promote dorm community by encouraging residents of McCormick and Baker to socialize with prefrish and with each other. Before the event, McCormick and Baker will each decorate a flag to represent their dorm. The flags will be red and black, and we are planning to distinguish members of each team with red and black bandanas. We are using MIT colors since the main goal of CPW is to promote MIT and not so much our individual dorms. Open for all of campus and is free of charge.
- \$132 total, asking for \$66 from DormCon

Vote passes unanimously for \$66.

e) McCormick + Next Party

- When: Saturday, May 10th from 10pm to 1am
- People from all across campus, dance to music from DJ Anthony Occidentale, and enjoy our amazing view! The party will be in the McCormick East Penthouse. The party will provide an opportunity for undergraduates all across campus to socialize. The event will be completely open to all MIT undergraduates, with no entrance fees and campus-wide advertising. Further, the Next House and McCormick Hall will build links between themselves by working together to plan the party.
- \$350 total, asking for \$175 from DormCon

Vote passes unanimously for \$175.

f) DTYD

- When: Sunday, April 20th from 9pm to 1 am
- Burton Third's 45th annual Dance 'Til You Drop (DTYD) event is a celebration promoting the wondrous physical expression of human's response to music: dancing. The event affords Burton Conner a rare chance to both open its doors to non-residents and give back to the MIT students through a night of fun and free entertainment. Hosted in Burton Conner's Porter Room, DTYD brings together all members of the MIT community to celebrate an enthusiasm of live music and dancing. Food and beverages help to draw students from all parts of the MIT campus while local bands provide live music and entertainment.
- \$6230 total, asking for \$1599 from DormCon

Vote passes unanimously for \$1599.