

**DormCon Meeting
November 20, 2014
Location: Burton Conner**

Agenda:

1. **Maker's Spaces (with Dennis Collins, Pam Greenley, and Henry Humphreys)**
2. **Security**
3. **Gender Inclusive Housing**
4. **CPW 1AM Rule/CPW feedback**
5. **Sexual Assault & Partysafe Training**

Attendance

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Sean Corcoran	
Burton-Conner	Victoria Stivanello	
East Campus	Jessica Parker	
MacGregor	Walter Menendez	
McCormick	Chloe Orphanides	
New House	Matthew Davis	Sarah Wharton
Next House	Ryan McDermott	
Random Hall	Gaurav Singh	
Senior House	Rodrigo Lopez Uricoechea	
Simmons Hall	Lars Johnson	
Secretary	Jasmeet Arora	
Treasurer	Caitlin Heber	x

Start time: 19:35

Maker's Spaces:

Dennis Collins, Dean Humphreys, and Pam Greenley are here.

- Humphreys: We thought the best way to start the maker space conversation was to start talking with Dormcon.
- Pam Greenley: I'm in the EHS office but I've worked mostly in the labs. I'm a mechE and industrial hygienist. Over the past few years we've been working to upgrade equipment in shops across campus. Because of the past three years' experience we understand the importance of this kind of hands-on education and we really wanna support it. Moving it to the residential areas are going to bring up some challenges for us, but we're up for collaborating. We've been meeting with MacGregor, New, and Next to understand what the concept is around "maker space". I just came tonight to talk about how the maker spaces can be operated and what we can learn from the existing ones. Ken Stone(?) works in the hobby shop at the student center and he's an expert at tools/shop training, so he's been a good partner to have and will give very good advice for that.
- Collins: Can we do a quick round to see who has a shop? We want to see what is missing in existing shops as well, eg Simmons doesn't have great ventilation. We want to make them more viable and more useful for you guys, that's why we're trying to take a look at them and where they all are. Is the plan for Burton Conner still to replace a gym with a shop?
 - Victoria: That's a rumor, we aren't planning to do anything with it.
- Collins: I know EC does a lot of work but I don't think they have a space, they just have tools they just keep in their rooms. Does anyone else have a space? As Pam said there is some funding and we do want to look at them, so we can help you to make the equipment in there safer.
 - Cosmos: Baker has a woodshop but it's been closed since freshman year. We aren't sure if we want to keep using it and are thinking of just putting a pool table in there maybe.
 - Pam: There's the physical aspects of it (housekeeping, safety features of tools, signage, phones, fire extinguishers, etc.) that's the observational aspects and not that difficult to meet. But we want to make sure that the space is managed well and the students that use them are properly trained, and make sure that people aren't working alone especially after the fatal Yale incident with the student working alone. We prefer things not be open all night and think it's healthier that students aren't up all night. We're willing to have back and forth about this. We want sustainability; if the dorms are spending money on it then we want to make sure it's setup in a way that it'll be used and the money will be well spent. We want agreements in writing so that we can visit them over time to make sure they've been followed up on. Those are some of the things we want to work on. One of the questions we've gotten is that whether the spaces are to support students' project inside the curriculum, outside, or both?
 - Ryan: Most of the times it's for both; Next has tools and people rent them out for both. Also I have a question about access. I know some spaces on campus

have a closing at night and then open in the morning... is that what you are envisioning right now?

- Pam: We're still thinking about times... I'm thinking like 11PM
- Chloe: When do people work on things? I'd think in the middle of the night is kind of typical.
- Ryan: It depends on the lab, various labs close early so it limits us from working at late times.
- Adri: MIT seems to encourage students to do work very early in the morning so it's most likely that people in maker spaces will be awake enough at 1AM to work safely. Later would be better.
- Allen: A lot of people don't have time to work during the day, so putting it earlier than 1 would prevent students from working in it a lot.
- BC Resident: Based on experience if you close the maker spaces at 10pm, nobody will use it.
- New Resident: Between midnight and 8 we require having another person in the shop with you rather than having lockout hours.
- EC Resident: It seems that you want people to sleep. Everyone sleeps at different times so instead of having hours maybe you just want to make sure that people are awake in the lab.
- Adri: Yeah, the biggest rule the machine guys always tell us as soon as we walk into the shop is to make sure we're never alone in the lab.
- Pam: There's also that not all tools have the same risk level; we're talking to Ken Stone to figure out the risks of tools--the lower the risk, the more flexible we can be with hours and training requirements.
- Adri: What do you envision in maker spaces?
 - Pam: Drill press is on the list, 3D printer, ...laser cutter is a tough one because the ventilation requirements are very high and the fire potential is high. It's a desirable tool, we understand that. Looking at our resources we're trying to find some options for laser cutters... restricting materials, etc. I'd like to hear what you're interested in, for people who have expertise in the area.
- Ryan: Are you also going to talk to people other than Ken Stone about maker space implementation?
 - Pam: Yeah, I'm in N51 and N52 and we are the Maker Space building, we have dlab which is very organized, we've also been working with the Edgerton Center. We know the whole mosaic at this point. Todd Billings in aero-astro have been helpful, we've been working with mechEs as well. People have strong opinions about this stuff so we try to get as wide of an array of input as we can to make the best decisions. We want to collaborate with students and we want to make sure that the funds that are used aren't wasted.
- Chloe: What plans do you have going forward and how can you make sure it's what students want?

- Pam: Dean Columbo wants us to look at spaces so we'll do that, we're continuing to work with New House to see how all the operational aspects of the shop are going to run. We don't have a specific timeline, this is new for us.
- Collins: I think New House is the pilot.
- Ryan: This takes a lot of money and if something does go wrong in a space the residents might not have as much money to keep the space going forward, but is there any support from you guys in this?
 - Humphreys: We want to go see if these spaces are safe and sustainable, and we will fund any changes to make that happen instead of the house governments having to fund it. We want to create a template of a maker space so that if there is a new building they will have something to go by.
 - Pam: There's initial cost and operating cost, neither of which we have discussed yet.
 - Humphreys: Facilities and EHS are putting together a book so that if a new building is being built or renovated, there are certain elements that will definitely have to go into it.
 - Collins: We already have a book like that, but we want to include specific things like a desk, or spaces that can be flexible enough to be different things. Like in Maseeh we've changed up some spaces from gyms to game rooms, etc. But for maker spaces we want those to be built into dorms with the specs that are needed (ventilation, etc.)
 - Humphreys: Ashdown was entirely beds, they had no student spaces, shared spaces, meeting rooms, weight rooms, etc. The thought was that they'd share with SidPac but that didn't really happen. So we want to make sure maker spaces end up in the spec book. It's a huge project.
 - Collins: We've been looking at the design standards for other schools as well... Yale might've been one, Minnesota
 - Sadun: Is ours gonna be online when it's written?
 - Collins: We haven't thought about it yet, but why not?
- Pam: This was great, I got some ideas about timing and tools and purpose, and we appreciate your time.

Security:

- Humphreys: I met with all the housemasters last night for our monthly meeting, and they were talking about security. The articles written in the newspaper, stuff's been going around on different blogs... I think I need to clarify some misinformation that has been sent around. I think some people are trying to incite people for no reason and they just don't like the system. When we were at Random, we had footage of the front building of the house. The students brought up a good point that they didn't know about it and since then we have not taken footage of any building without explicitly telling at least the Housemaster. We promised we'd come to every community and show them what the footage saw, and then asked what should be masked. After the masking was done, screenshots were taken and sent to the housemasters. A couple

of other things: when we said we'd take student input we did. But we were very open and honest that these securities were an institute initiative and they had to happen. I've spent the last three years meeting on a regular basis with students about this and taking the feedback back, meeting with dormcon housing chairs, etc. so I take offense when people say that we aren't taking student input. We've had problems with some of the AB workers and when we have, we've taken care of it immediately. As soon as there was a problem with the Random AB worker, when I got a text from the housemaster, within a half hour the person was dismissed and fired from the company. We made a promise that if they were causing problems for a community or individual they will be removed. We are dealing with an investigation at EC with a nightwatch member, who is not as easy to remove, but we are also addressing it and the union is supportive of that. I do believe that some misinformation is being put out there. If a community does have concerns, either in person or email, they will be addressed. Nothing is ever ignored. I knew this process was not going to be without bumps and flaws--if there weren't, I'd be concerned that people aren't paying attention. We should have personnel issues and policy issues at first. If there are things that we as an Institute need to change, we should talk about that. I guess that my biggest concern is that if there are people who are just trying to get people riled up for no reason because they just don't like the changes, that's not right. If it's valid we need to address it, but if it's just to get people anxious/excited for their own personal gain, we don't need to address it.

- Sadun: I'm confused. You said people are getting riled up because they don't like the changes... how is that not a valid concern?
- Humphreys: The fact that the changes were taking place was happening, not a debatable issue. To say we don't like AB workers there at all, or to say that we don't like that students can't control desk anymore, etc. those aren't conversations anymore. If we're bringing up things that have been decided at an institute level, far above me, that's when I'm wondering why people are getting angry.
- Cosmos: Two things. We aren't allowed to call it security, we have to call it access control. Also I'm getting from the residents that it doesn't do anything, and we're wasting our money on something that doesn't make us feel or be any safer.
 - Humphreys: We call it that because "security" is handled by police departments, and access control is used in residential systems. Security usually implies deputized people usually having some sort of detaining power. As far as if we're safer or not... we did have issues on this campus. There was a reported armed robbery in Baker by someone who should've never gotten into the building.
 - Cosmos: There's a GRT who had a computer stolen with access control in place.
 - Humphreys: Police are investigating, and there's no evidence that it happened outside. Faculty committee looked at residence halls and determined that we didn't have the security systems that a lot of colleges have.

- Rodrigo: I was talking to a number of AB workers and nightwatches at different dorms, and a bunch of them mentioned that their bosses have access to the video feed.
 - Humphreys: They're lying. If you were to stand behind an AB worker, you can see live what's going on. But their bosses cannot log in remotely and view the feed like you say. The only person who can get access to the video footage is Matt Escher, who is only allowed to access that with permission from the police. Please tell people if they want to meet with me I can show them exactly who has access to the server.
- Gaurav: How much have you been implementing faculty committee recommendations vs looking at recommendations and implementing your own ideas to solve those problems?
 - Humphreys: This committee is internal to MIT, so we hired people who were professionals to give us a plan and set of recommendations. Some of it was based on the consultant recommendations since they're experts, since the consultants' study was more comprehensive. It should be available; there was a numerical chart they came up with that weighted each of the buildings and gave the adjustments that would be needed for each building.
 - Adri: You said before that the decision that changes had to be made to the system came from the chancellor or someone higher up... but since Cynthia is relatively new, she didn't make those decision. I feel very bad that you feel personally offended or victimized that people are unhappy with the security, but the fact that we feel unsafe and aren't happy with it--isn't that something you should be communicating to the higher ups anyway?
 - Humphreys: I'm not personally offended with people not liking it, but I'm offended that people want to get people riled up for no reason. I know some people don't feel safer, but some students and parents and faculty all feel a lot safer and really want the system in place. Cynthia was made fully aware of everything that was going on and shown all the materials; she was aware of the students' concerns and all recommendations that were brought forward; it's my understanding that she's still supported of the program that is in place.
- Walter: The recent controversy was about parents' weekend, which is that parents basically had access to like every dorm.
- Humphreys: The concerns last year was that it would be difficult for parents to get into dorms for public events, housemaster brunches, etc. The agreement was that they had to show a government ID as well as having a badge, and that way they would not have to be logged into the building. This was mostly for public/open events in the house. But houses have brought up a good point, so we're going to bring this back and see if houses should decide on their own if they want parents to be let in. The idea was to expedite the process for them. /
- Cosmos: The whole idea that showing your ID is any sort of secure is kind of a joke. I didn't think about it until I even read the article about how parents' choices might be different than yours.

- Humphreys: There are parents who are not welcome to campus. Students can bring up the name at S^3 and that name is sent to the alumni office so they are not invited to parents' weekend. If there's an individual who's having trouble with their parents, they should just tell their parents that you can't come see me. If alumni didn't give them a badge, they wouldn't be able to just walk in.
- Cosmos: Allied Barton has done a good job just making sure that people just go to dining and I don't see why they can't just implement a similar procedure.
- Humphreys: We will entertain this conversation again, housemasters have different opinions. We have to discuss this with students and housemasters to make these decisions.
- Rodrigo: I think it's a poor assumption to make that if a student hasn't talk to S^3 about their parents that they have a good relationship with their parents. This policy also wasn't implemented in Senior House, which I was kind of surprised about.
- Humphreys: If the students want it changed, we will be glad to enter that conversation. We do the same thing during CPW and REX. We're trying to balance having an open community as well as keeping security.
- Gaurav: I think our concerns are more 1. the policy was made without our input, the student government and desk workers should've been asked and 2. even if students are on good terms with their parents, they might not want them coming in and surprising them in their room. If they wanted this they could put the parents on their guest list. We feel disrespected in that we were not asked.
- Becky: I think in the phase I buildings, selected students were asked about what we should do during parents' weekend, and then the housemasters reviewed the policy before implementing it.
- Humphreys: We will bring this back up to housemasters, get student feedback and then bring it up to housemasters again. Housemasters have to sign off and give permission because they're the people responsible if something should happen.
- Gaurav: It didn't go to student leaders first.
- Humphreys: It was done last year, people didn't think of doing it again, so that's why. We need to revisit this issue. I don't know if it'll be by building or if it'll be a system-wide decision. We need to bring alumni in since parents weekend is an institute event. I would imagine at this point the conversation will start during IAP.
- Sadun: You're describing a process housemasters--student leaders--housemasters, why can't they all be in the same meeting? Why aren't students' approval also mandatory?
- Humphreys: If something happens, the students aren't liable. I've yet to see a community where a housemaster didn't take the feedback of students. Usually the student leaders and the housemasters already talk about this before I even enter the conversation.
- Adri: Is there any intention of reexamining the security system on a dorm-by-dorm basis and making adjustments dorm-by-dorm as opposed to a blanket one fits all plan?

- Humphreys: I think we're already doing that; we extended the amount of time the door to the Talbot lounge can be open. When everything is installed in a building, it's not until everything is fully up and running that we can tell what adjustments can be made. We will be back in the spring. For SH specifically we want to give some time for the housemaster to get settled but we would be back.
- Adri: Another point I want to bring up is that not all housemasters align with their students, and residents live here just as much as the housemasters do. I feel like our feelings about what security are, are pretty important.
 - Humphreys: I do know there are some communities in which residents do not have the same views as the housemasters. That's usually when I'm starting to direct the housemaster on what I think is the best thing to do. If any house wants to talk with me I can definitely come meet with you.
- Rodrigo: Is there a limit on the number of residents that can be signed in after 1AM?
 - Humphreys: No we have never sent a limit and we never would.
- Cosmos: In Baker they won't really let us have a guest list.
- Humphreys: That's an ongoing conversation we're having with your house leadership. If there's individual communities that are hearing inconsistencies in the policies, please let Dan know and Dan will bring it to my attention.
- Chloe: So the house presidents should expect to be contacted by next semester about security?
 - Humphreys: Yes, definitely.
- Cosmos: Is there anything you'd like from us as we transition to new house leadership?
- Humphreys: I'd like to have the old leadership present as well.
- Adri: Did you say if we have other concerns we should talk to the chancellor?
- Humphreys: I would encourage anyone to talk to her, she makes it very clear that she's willing to hear from students.

****Chloe reads Matt's email****

- Chloe: If you have any concerns about security you can always contact the Dormcon Housing chairs, since they're focusing on security right now.

CPW:

- Yo: Allen is going to say more about this but I spoke with Judy Robinson about the Title IX complaint. She said there's a lot of miscommunication and suggested we have a meeting with Chloe and the Dormcon REX chairs about everything that's going on and what we want out of it. Probably with Humphreys and/or Rankin, depending on whether people want guidelines or Title IX guidelines.
- Rodrigo: I was talking to my GRT yesterday and she was saying that Title IX is not meant to infringe on free speech. People should keep that in mind.

- Sonia: From my interaction with Sarah Rankin you definitely want her in the meeting. She mostly just wants you to demonstrate that you're trying to consider other people's feelings.
- Sadun: From the discussion we had a while ago, it seems we wanted Title IX guidelines more than just the guidelines.
- Gaurav: Also I talked to Rankin, she has no problem with mentions of sex or anything. She just doesn't want it to be perceived that it's only written for white males.
- Chloe: Matt and I are trying to going to have a meeting with her soon.

CPW

- Allen: IFC, Panhel, Dormcon, etc. had a meeting with Katie Kelley and she told us about the 1AM rule. Chancellor and Dean for Undergraduate Education say that there is going to be a 1AM rule. They said they will have some exceptions; they're looking into what exceptions means right now but I think they will be relatively strict.
- Gaurav: They haven't decided guidelines for "exceptions" yet, there was talk of wind-down events in living spaces..
- Allen: we suggested that we should have a section for each dorm to have wind down events for each day (making pancakes, playing board games, etc.) I'm under the impression that this is about the same as having an event after 1, just different wording...
- Cosmos: Is there a reason for this 1AM rule?
- Allen: Mind and Hand book, and also prefrash are very overwhelmed and feel that they are encouraged to stay up and not sleep. They aren't gonna stop us from doing anything, they're just going to not put it in the booklet.
- Rodrigo: There was thoughts in the UA last year for printing their own booklet because of that rule...
- Allen: If we get to have that section in the book then we should be fine.
- Sadun: Is the admissions office really trying to change the culture of "hose yourself over CPW" because if they change that this year it won't really be an issue next year.
- Gaurav: The criteria about which events can be exceptions will be decided near December, we'll be able to talk more once we hear from them.
- Allen: There is some CPW feedback that Admissions gave us, as soon as we get an electronic version we will give appropriate feedback to appropriate dorms.

Gender Inclusive Housing

- Phoebe wants presidents to talk to housemasters about GIH!! She sent out a document and you should talk to her after you talk to your housemaster.

Partysafe Training

- Sadun: There's a partysafe training that CDSC does with all the frats, since there's an IFC requirement for this training. Dorms that wanted to host wet parties need to have someone that have done this training as well. The requirement appears to have been dropped thanks to the new online registration system, and it seems now that no dorm

residents are doing it. There's different parts of the training and Don Camilio is looking for feedback on how to get people to take this training even though it's no longer required; they're also trying to go through other channels to get it required again. I think if we want it required we can ask for it to be required again. I think dorms/Dormcon should be doing something in the vein of participating in It's On Us or something since the IFC and Panhel have initiatives and that seems good.

- Victoria: The IFC had to have that 2/3 rule accomplished and they didn't offer enough slots in the training for the 2/3 of frats in Cambridge for them to all be trained. I'm definitely for bystander training/being partysafe trained, but we need to be careful about that because we don't want that to happen to us. I'm worried about us being enthusiastic about it and then the administration making it a rule.
- Adrianna: I think we have a fair amount of influence over our dorms regardless and I think we don't need to mandate this but it's something we should promote and encourage people to do.
- Sonia: I think this is something that the chancellor is trying to mandate. There's a task force that's working on how to educate the MIT community and there will definitely be mandates coming out of that/some sort of training.
- Sadun: Do you think I should just wait for that to happen/ask people what's happening on that front?
- Sonia: You can ask Sarah Rankin. You can definitely encourage people to do these things, and it might be good to implement this sort of thing in communities that are very interested in implementing them before they're actually mandated.
- Adri: Do you have to do ps training every year?
- Sadun: No, you just need to do it once in your four years.
- Chloe: I guess the question is what should Dormcon be doing?
- Ryan & Adri: Encouraging people on a dorm-by-dorm basis.
- Sadun: The in-person component seems like the more valuable thing than the online component.
- Adri: We have to make sure all hosts and fascists are partysafe trained for Roast, he just asks a few questions and you get a card and you're good. He's a pretty chill guy and you're not putting that much effort in by going.
- Sonia: You could also encourage hosts and monitors to attend the training so they know what sorts of problems to look out for.
- Victoria: This session is also something that can fill a mandatory requirement for medlinks.
- Sadun: If you're a dorm president I encourage you to get Don to come to your dorm.
- Chloe: This is only for wet parties right? If you're a dorm that doesn't have wet parties, is this still beneficial/useful for people who go to parties in other dorm?
- Sonia: I would say yes.
- Chloe: So this is something all dorms should be doing.

Elections next week for i3 & REX chairs!

End: 21:06