

DormCon Meeting
February 12, 2015
Location: McCormick Hall

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. CPW
3. Security Survey
4. Move out date
5. Dormcon budget (vote)
6. CPW funding allocation (vote)
7. Steer Roast Funding (vote)
8. DormCon Meeting time
9. Retreat details

Attendance

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Amanda Lee	
Burton-Conner	Paul Hager	
East Campus	Sonja Postak	
MacGregor	Arthur Delarue	
McCormick	Mary Delaney	
New House	Matthew Davis	
Next House	Haley Hurowitz	
Random Hall	Eric Mannes	
Senior House	Adrianna Rodriguez	
Simmons Hall	Kate Farris	
President	Chloe Orphanides	
Vice President	Walter Menendez	x
Secretary	Jasmeet Arora	
Treasurer	Caitlin Heber	

Start time: 19:32

1. Introductions:

Dorm presidents & Dormcon exec members introduce themselves.

2. CPW:

- Yo: Katie wanted to come to the meeting, but couldn't due to travel difficulties/snow. This year the CPW 1AM rule is being imposed, and people are concerned that prefrash won't just go to sleep/won't have anything to do after 1AM. There are a lot of concerns about it but there are also valid reasons the admin has suggested implementing it. This year there won't be any exceptions to this rule, and Katie wanted to come and explain where this decision came from/the context behind this decision. I'll read out what she sent me:

The announced policy is as follows:

In accordance with Institute Policy [V.1 Mind and Hand Book; Event Planning Guide, Event Regulations], all CPW Events must conclude at 1am. On a case-by-case basis, events extending beyond 1AM will be reviewed as an exception to CPW Event Regulations and may only be approved if there is a compelling reason the event cannot be held prior to 1AM. The CPW Events Review Committee (consisting of representatives from Admissions, Residential Life, Student Activities Office, Environmental Health and Safety and MIT General Counsel) reviews all CPW events and will make the final decision on what warrants a compelling exception.

This can in all likelihood not be changed this year. The decision was made by Dean Freeman with feedback from the Chancellor and student representatives. They stress that student input was taken and considered (which, as a student, I believe was true). At this time, what events will be "exceptions" has not been determined, but the event needs a compelling reason as to why it needs to happen after 1 AM.

This is the first year we're having a sort of review board for post-1am events, and we're hoping people will submit post-1am events to see what happens. We told CPW chairs about this during the CPW chair meeting.

We're going to have a meeting with Dennis Freeman on the 25th, but unless we change his mind this rule is probably going to stay.

There were a lot of people involved in making this decision, and a lot of communication with student leaders--they did a really good job in involving us in this decision.

This year we're going to craft some questions for the CPW survey (for the prefrash) to get feedback on this decision--talk to CPW chairs if you're interested in helping out with this (and for any more information).

- Sadun: If you're dorm president you should forward the CPW email sent to your social list to the residents list, since we're really looking for dorm hosts--especially women.

- Brandon: Is there a limit to how early CPW events can start?
- Yo: I'm pretty sure it's 6AM.
- Sadun: They really like events that run in the 8-12am window.

3. Security Survey:

- Phoebe: (passes out packet with survey results) Last semester there were a lot of questions about dorm security, so we created a survey to assess what the problems really were and what people wanted changes to look like. On the whole, most responses are fairly neutral. Some are a little skewed, but most are not very dramatic.
- The blocks of text are the text responses we got for some questions, which we found interesting.
- Matt: Major takeaways from this survey: two big areas are cameras and workers. The general outlook is that people don't like the cameras, we didn't get any positive comments. The text responses identify a few specific ways they can be used if we have to use them.
- Phoebe: There were a lot of text responses to questions about security workers as well. Responses seemed to be more positive than negative, though there were workers described as grumpy and being difficult to work with, as well as more negative interactions. The main trend is that they hate Allied-Barton less than the rigidity of the rules they have to follow.
- Matt: A third point concerns guest lists. There are a lot of comments specific to dorms concerning guest lists, which we'll send to presidents. But there is a lot of concern/a lot of problems about how guest lists are handled by dorms, which we as dorm governments should be working on fixing. There was an overarching trend concerning consistency of guest lists across dorms.
- Phoebe: The first three suggestions on the last page (additional doors, removing AB workers, more student participation in decisions) were by far the most common suggestions.
- Matt: We neglected to put a N/A response for some questions so there's a high neutral response rate, but we've been able to sort that out based on previous questions.
- Phoebe: We have some cleaning up to do, which is why they're not public yet.
- Matt: We're working on releasing this publicly so students can use the data to facilitate discussions with administrations. We'll be choosing the four \$25 gift card winners too.
- Lily: I'm a Random Hall resident. I'm angry about an event that happened in September so I've been talking to students/chancellor/president/administration about this. I talked to the chancellor and I did reference this survey. There's a

general lack of students feeling that administration is listening to students. The dorms are all very different in terms of security policies, and people aren't sure about the motivation behind those inconsistencies or behind the security policies in general.

- Sadun: To what extent are individual dorm governments/presidents in charge of their guest list/side-door policy?
 - Rodrigo: Guest list needs to be approved by housemaster, but presidents are in charge. We can't control the side door policy.
 - Haley: We tried to change it from 3-5 and it took really long to get approved.
 - Chloe: Our housemaster just set ours.
- Gaurav: Random can use our other entrance because we talked to Dean Humphreys and we got him to do it.
- Amanda: To get our guest list to last a day instead of an hour, we had to go through our housemaster. There isn't a permanent guest list and many residents don't understand it.
- Matt: If you reach out to your housemaster and make a compelling case with your housemaster on board and bring it to DSL, you can work on getting your guest list policy changed. Please reach out to Phoebe and I, we can work on an individual dorm basis on sorting that out.
- Lily: Many residents are confused/unaware of the policy, so if there was a posting of the policy somewhere so people know what it is, they can argue against it better.
 - Chloe: Housing probably has it documented for all the dorms.
- Rodrigo: The other thing that's useful to remember is that the default policy for dorms is that you're automatically let into the building if you say you're going to visit the housemaster or GRTs. That's something you can change if your house team is on board with that--Senior House changed ours.
- Phoebe: if you look this over later and decide you have questions, feel free to email us.
- Matt: We can put together a document going over security for you as well.

4. Move-Out Date Extension Proposal:

- Phoebe: Haley came up with this idea. Antonio and I were assigned to this. Basically if someone has a final on Friday they still have to move out by Saturday at noon. This is problematic because it's not much time to get your stuff together. The proposal is to extend the move-out date by 24 hours to noon on Sundays. Antonio and I talked about this and depending on what's easier for housing we have two proposals: extending the move out date for everyone, which has the

advantage of not having to keep track of who has a final on Thursday and Friday. The second proposal is more advantageous for dorms who want to start opening up for the summer straight away. At the last meeting in the fall, we asked the presidents to confirm this was a good plan. Is there anyone who wants to rescind approval for their dorm?

- We also talked with house managers, especially with those that offered summer housing, and none of the house managers have raised any objections. Because the seniors can stay, it doesn't really change much for them, and because it's only 24 hours and over a weekend.
- Metro isn't usually open on weekends but they're open on the Saturday as a favor to MIT and we asked them about Sunday as well. We'll update you when we hear back. If we were to hear no from them, we would still try to get housing to agree and people will still have Saturday afternoon to move back.
- Paul: Was there a reason that Sunday at noon was the proposed extension?
 - Haley: I took this to Dean Columbo and he said to bring it to Dormcon. He made it seem like it would be a big deal and a lot of effort which is why I kept it to 24 hours.
 - Paul: Are we willing to entertain moving it to Monday or even Tuesday?
 - Adrianna: Can we ask house managers prior to asking Housing?
 - Haley: I asked my house managers at the time if it matters if it's Sunday or Monday or whatever, and he said it wasn't a problem, but apparently "officially" Facilities thinks it would be a problem.
 - Allen: I also talked to my house manager who thinks it would be a problem but Simmons might be a special case.
 - Phoebe: So we're going to talk to the house managers again and see how they feel about it, then take it to Humphreys and then bring it back to Dormcon.

5. Dormcon Budget:

Caitlin passes out budget:

Current Balance: 9932.14

Events: 10,000

CPW: 5000

REX: 2000

Projected Final Balance: 397.14

Don't freak out about the final balance, we don't usually spend as much as we say we will. This year we're spending \$5000 less on events than in the past.

- Mary: Last year dorms asked for a lot of money during the spring, and to maintain what we typically fund we're going to go over the \$10,000
- Caitlin: We can only allocate half of our events budget in one meeting, so \$5000 today, and we're going to have to vote on what we can and cannot fund. We don't have the budget to maintain what has been spent in the past.
- Matt: Could we see if any dorm would have an objection to paying \$150 per meeting instead of being reimbursed for the meeting food?
 - Chloe: It's about one meeting per dorm per semester.
 - Sonja: It's certainly a discussion we could have for the fall budget, but we probably don't have time now.
- Yo: We're just redistributing the \$5000 given to CPW from Dormcon anyway, so we could lower that.
- Caitlin: We're getting \$5000 from Admissions that is going to be evenly allocated to each dorm. We've traditionally matched Admissions with \$5000, although it hasn't always been distributed evenly. Some dorms didn't think they were getting as much out of Dormcon funding so we voted on some way to distribute the \$5000, but in the end it didn't make that much difference. That's the next thing we were going to vote on tonight.
- Yo: Motion to lower CPW funding to \$3000
- Amanda: I see the note that says the \$2000 assumes we're printing REX booklets again; how feasible would it be to go through administration to print those booklets?
 - Yo: This is a big conversation we'll have at some point. While we won't necessarily print them ourselves it's really good to keep the option in case we need to.
 - Allen: There's a mistake in here--Admissions doesn't run REX, also. Housing runs REX. In the past EC has refused Dormcon CPW funding and given it back. I think there are some larger dorms with more money than others, who wouldn't need as money from us. This might be helpful.
- Sonja: What was last spring's event allocation?
- Caitlin: Last year's events was \$15,000 and CPW was \$5000. Last spring we spent the entire \$15,000. For CPW some people refused the money but every dorm was reimbursed for REX.
- Yo: How about we leave it as is, and everyone goes back and talks to their CPW chairs and figures out if they can do without those \$500 and report back to Dormcon.

- Chloe: We can't fund Roast/other events until we approve the budget, so that's another consideration to take into account.
- Matt: New House really relies on the \$500 we get for CPW specifically. Looking forward I'm not sure if there will be a radically new effective way to spend CPW money coming out of this meeting. Some dorms give money back, some don't. I would personally prefer keeping it at \$5000. To add money to the events budget, Phoebe and I agreed we'll pay for the survey prizes. We could bring retreat down to \$200 or \$300. The REX booklet may add \$2000 as well.
- Mary: McCormick also relies pretty heavily on the \$500, but do we get a total of \$1000 to include what Admissions gave us?
- Caitlin: Last year we split the money from Admissions equally, and allocated our \$5000 proportionally.
- Paul: Is reallocation later in the semester possible for this budget?
 - Chloe: Yeah, that's something we can do. We just don't have that much flexibility.
 - Allen: Do most events happen after CPW?
 - Chloe: We had Roast & Picnic funding right at the beginning, and then many CPW chairs were coming in asking for interdorm funding for CPW.
 - Phoebe: It'd also be reasonable to say that we aren't going to allocate anything to interdorm funding for CPW events.
- Eric: I'm curious where we got the \$5000 number from Admissions from?
 - Sadun: That's just what they've always been giving us, and will continue to give us.
- Caitlin: The biggest events were the CPW Picnic, Piano Drop, Dance Till You Drop, Steer Roast, and the McCormick Picnic. We aren't having the CPW Picnic this year.
- Yo: What are the options that are on the table right now?
 - Chloe: Matt suggested to leave it as is, Paul suggested to look at the budget later in the semester and possibly reallocate. There was also the suggestion of lowering the CPW budget.
 - Allen: So we can allocate it now and dorm presidents can report back on whether or not CPW chairs will need the money or not, and then we can reallocate.
- Haley: We use Dormcon money as kind of a safety net; we don't plan it into our budget but we use it as a buffer in case we need more money.
 - Chloe: In that case we could just allocate you the money, and if dorms do want the money we can keep it in.

- Yo: Also if you find that after CPW you haven't spent the money, you can give it back then. If you want the money, take the money.
- Caitlin: I can also keep the reimbursement window to the weekend right after CPW.
- Chloe: We should make a decision to approve some type of budget; are there any final comments people have? What's the general sense on the budget we have in front of us?
- Caitlin: I get the sense that everything's fine except the money we're allocating to CPW. We can add \$100 to events. I'd recommend we approve the budget as is, and then at the next meeting I can submit another budget including retreat leftover money, etc.

Vote to approve Dormcon budget as is, with updates to come in two weeks passes unanimously.

We'll talk about CPW funding allocation in two weeks.

6. Steer Roast Funding:

- Rodrigo: Steer Roast is a weekend long party that Senior House throws every year. It's open to the entire MIT community, there's alums that come and there's bands on both nights. Currently we're requesting \$7000 but that isn't allowed since you can give us at most \$5000. We're also asking for funding from LEF, and the remainder of the funding comes from the Senior House budget. The total budget is about \$23,000 so any help would be appreciated. We got about \$5000 from LEF last year but we aren't sure what we'll get from them. There are students who sometimes get funding from arts department.
- Emilee: We're requesting funding from you guys mostly for the art projects and hall decorations this year since it's been a little difficult to get the art grants. We want it to be more community oriented and want to involve/welcome the entire MIT community.
- Chloe: Are the art projects done only by Haus residents, or do they involve the whole community?
 - Emilee: It really depends on the type of project and safety hazards, we had a project last year that wasn't funded by us but it was done by an alum. We're open to have anyone do stuff. We've had many projects throughout the house contributed by friends of the house. It's mostly residents but there's no restriction as to who can contribute.
- Chloe: It's my understanding that you're asking for \$5000 today?

- Caitlin: We can fund up to \$5000, but as a whole, presidents decide how much they want to fund. Maybe we can fund them \$4000 now and they can come back in two months and ask for more?
- Emilee: We're requesting at this point in time because a lot of this stuff takes a lot of preparation beforehand; we can't get other funding/register it until we've signed the band contracts. The budget's generated kind of off previous years, some things have gone up but we've been able to reduce some costs. The reason we ask for what we do right now is because we have to fund some things straight away to get the ball rolling.
- Paul: Are there any other budget proposals today? (no)
- Matt: Motion to approve for \$5000

Vote passes to allocate \$5000 to Steer Roast.

7. Meeting Times:

- Chloe: One suggestion we have is to move meetings earlier, to around 7pm, since Walter can't make it to 7:30 meetings.
- Paul: Are any other days on the table?
- Adri: Wednesdays are UA things, Fridays are probably off the table.
- Chloe: We probably want to keep Thursdays since we have that blocked off already. 7 or 7:30?

---keeping the meetings at 7:30pm on Thursdays---

8. Retreat:

- Chloe: we're having retreat on Monday from 10am-3pm in the Alumni Building past Next House. We have a room reserved there. You'll get to know more of who's on exec and what exec does, and we'll talk about some issues you guys might have in your dorms. Feel free to talk to residents and collect thoughts on important topics you guys might want to talk about in your dorms.
- It does look like it's going to snow; if there are any issues and we can no longer use the Alumni building (if MIT closes we lose our reservation) then we have the McCormick penthouse reserved as backup. We'll provide lunch.

End: 20:51

