

**DormCon Meeting
February 26, 2015
Location: New House**

Agenda:

1. Event/CPW funding
2. Spring Picnic (Burton-Conner, McCormick, Next House)
3. Fall 2015 Carnival (McCormick and Baker)
4. DTYD (Burton 3rd)
5. Piano Drop (Baker)
6. Facilities discussion (what facilities do you like/wish you had in your dorm?)
7. House team discussion (how does your house team work/what could work better?)
8. Gender inclusive housing
9. i3 videos

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: 19:34

1. Event/CPW Funding

- Caitlin: We need to decide on an amount, and how to distribute between dorms. Right now there's \$5000 allocated towards CPW, if we allocate less then the rest would be allocated towards event funding.

Some presidents express some hesitant desires to lower the CPW budget.

- Adri: Maybe we can stop having food at meetings instead of deciding between CPW and events?
- Sonja: We should decide CPW now and worry about money later.
- Matt: I don't want to spend too much time debating funding. There are other issues that are pretty important that we need to discuss. I would prefer to move forward and stick with \$5000.

Vote to fund CPW w/\$5000 passes unanimously

- Caitlin: Now we need to figure out how. If we don't choose to distribute evenly, then you can base your estimate of funding distribution on last year's budget (given to all presidents).
- Paul: I'm heavily in support of evenly distributing; I don't think it's fair to discriminate by number of events.
- Sonja: I'm in favor of not distributing evenly; I think CPW is a good thing and encouraging dorms to do events is good. I'm in favor of distributing with \$4000 cap.
- Kate: I think how much money a dorm spends isn't indicative of how much they need. Instead of giving them money every year without seeing where it's going, we should have them justify their demand for money like all the other events we give money to.
- Eric: I would prefer a system that's more predictable rather than depending on CPW chairs.
- Gaurav: We usually evenly split it because it takes too long to discuss it at meetings otherwise.
- Chloe: So we're choosing between even split and \$4000 cap, yes?
- Caitlin: The \$4000 leaves for some uncertainty for what you're getting. So you cap your total itemized budget, cap it at \$4000, then divide by all the other budgets that are submitted. This is a population vote; the highest number of votes decides this.
- Gaurav: Oh whoops, it's a president vote; not a population vote.

- Kate: Why are we doing it proportionally to what dorms spend rather than what they can spend?
- Sonja: I think it's a valuable conversation, but not now.
- Kate: because if a dorm has less spending power, it would make sense to give them more money.
- Sonja: A great idea to be proposed in the future is that it shows monetarily how much you value CPW rather than how much money you have.
- Matt: Every resident pays \$5 in house taxes to Dormcon. If we want Dormcon to fund CPW; are we funding CPW such that each dorm resident pays \$5 so that other dorms have better CPWs? Or are we funding it so that each dorm has a basic CPW? When I see the even distribution, it seems like we're making sure every dorm has a CPW. When we look at what our \$5 goes towards--do we want it to allow one dorm to have an awesome CPW, or do we want to make sure that each dorm has CPW at all? The second thing is that there's a lot that dormcon does, and the \$500-\$1600 that each dorm gets is not what my residents want us to be discussing right now. I move for a vote to decide between even distribution or \$4000 cap.

6 votes for even split, 3 for 4000 cap, 1 abstain

2. Spring Picnic

- The spring picnic is an event in the spring where residents across campus can come eat picnic foods and play games. We've done it for the past three years, and everyone has a good time. In the past we've had residents from all dorms attend and we think it'll happen again. We're asking for \$2000.
- BC, McCormick & Next are requesting this money.
- Yo: Are we doing this sequentially?
- Caitlin: We usually do them in the order they're submitted.
- Chloe: We can discuss them all at the same time if you'd prefer that.

Carnival

Carnival is 9/12. We usually have carnival food, we had it this past fall and there's about 750 people in attendance and we expect more this fall. McCormick & Baker are requesting \$5000.

DTYD:

46th year of this party in BC; open to all of MIT Campus. We get ~350 people, and have historically gotten funding from Dormcon for this.

Piano Drop

Been on and off since the 60s, annual since 06. It's on Drop Day.

- Haley: I don't know if you got email from my social chairs but I think Dormcon owes Next House money from last semester.
- Caitlin: Everything that got allocated from last semester is going through the SAO. I've submitted everything. It's just slow because I didn't get budgets from you for a while.
- Chloe: Any questions about funding requests?
- Kate: How comfortable are carnival people waiting until May, since Caitlin said we can do the fall events budget then?
- Mary: If that's something we can do, then I would be fine with that. My biggest concern with the carnival is that last year we had to push it back two weeks because Dormcon couldn't allocate money over the summer and they didn't have a meeting. If you guys are okay revisiting the carnival and allocating fall budget before the fall, as long as we discuss it I'm okay pushing that discussion off.
- Paul: I move that we push this off.
- Chloe: We will revisit Carnival funding request later this semester.
- Caitlin: All of the requests totaled are putting us \$600 over our budget. If you want to leave some money open for future events that's also worth discussing.
- Sonja: Can I get the dates on these events? We might be able to push it off and then reallocate budget.
- Piano Drop 4/22, Picnic 4/25, DTYD is 4/19
- Chloe: Do we have suggestions for this?
- Arthur: If we leave some money in our events budget, maybe we can reallocate later if nobody comes to us for funding.
- Matt: Is piano drop able to use other sources of funding?
- Sonja: Do you think you meet the requirements for getting LEF funding?
- Amanda: I don't believe we've asked for it in the past, but I believe we meet the requirements.
- Sonja: Piano Drop and picnic are both asking for a substantially larger portion of their costs from us than DTYD. If we decide to disproportionately scale funding, I feel more comfortable giving DTYD a larger fraction of what they asked for because they have other sources.
- Mary: We don't think we'll get 3000 LEF funding for the picnic, we're anticipating each dorm will have to contribute about 300

- Matt: I don't feel comfortable with Dormcon fully funding the dorm's side of the event in budgeting.
- Mary: For the past two years the dorms have each contributed 500, but given the number of non-residents that came we thought to ask for outside funding sources. We've normally asked for 2000 from Dormcon; so we're not asking for more money from Dormcon, we're increasing our request from LEF.
- Kate: It looks like last year you asked 1700 from Dormcon.
- Mary: we anticipated more people at the event this year so we increased the budget and therefore the request.
- Sonja: I agree with Matt; if these are events that dorms think are valuable they should be contributing to them. I don't know how that translates into how I want to vote on the budget yet.
- Mary: We're anticipating paying about 300 per dorm.
- Haley: People generally just walk by and join.
- Mary: We're thinking it's going to be ~750 this year. We had about 500 last year even when we held it inside and it was raining.
- Paul: I'd love to bring up scaling all the events down by a fraction till the total is 4500.
- Arthur: is everyone ok with leaving a small amount of money (\$500) in our money vault?
- Kate: So are we scaling them all evenly? I think we shouldn't do that.
- Eric: Do we want to scale down picnic and piano drop until they all have the same proportion?
- Amanda: I would be okay with everyone just getting \$1500.

--some presidents indicate they would prefer percentage scaling--

piano drop & picnic would get 1610 each, and DTYD would get 1285→ total of 1405
vote to approve that is unanimous; it passes

GIH

- Phoebe: I wanted to provide everyone with an update on this process. We met with Humphreys and a number of other people who've been working on this yesterday, and kind of talked about the status of where it's at. The housemasters are currently looking at it and a number of them have questions about implementation and need for the program. We would really like you to talk to your housemasters and draw up an implementation plan if you haven't yet. Also, about a year ago Dormcon put out a statement of support for GIH. We wanted to ask if we could put out another statement of support that we could then bring to

the chancellor/housemaster/whoever is going to approve it so that we can show that Dormcon and dorm residents are behind this proposal.

- Haley: How close are we to this? We're trying to rework our housing lottery. We sent a survey to the dorm which we'll get back next week.
- Phoebe: We're trying to implement it for the April housing lottery. I think if the housemasters can agree it needs to happen, and if the RACs can work out implementation.
- Sonja: A couple dorms on campus have already implemented it, like EC. If you as a dorm are interested in implementing before it's required on campus, you can...
- Adrianna: That seems like the kind of information you can get back without an official survey. Have a house meeting about it?
- Haley: We're not allowed to do that for house policy. We can't implement policy unless we have proof that it's what the house wants and it needs to be through a vetted survey. We can't take a vote unless we have the policy proposal change which we can't have unless we have a survey...
- Sadun: are there other dorms with housemasters really involved with policy?
- Mary: McCormick had our housemasters involved, but they weren't controlling about it
- Kate: Our housemasters can vote, but they don't normally.
- Matt: Here's kind of the two action items that we have: the first is that if you could have house governments start thinking about how it can be implemented, then when your housemaster asks how it can be implemented then you can have something to hand to them. The other is our support message from Dormcon.
- Paul: I move that we put out a GIH support message for dormcon.
- Phoebe & Matt can draft this and then send out to dorms-prez for editing.
- Adri: Would it help for you at all if you had contacts in dorms that are piloting GIH, about why this is a good thing or anything like that?
Haley: I think in general our exec is in support of it, but we've been asked to take the questions off the survey. We're gonna see because we have a meeting with IR tomorrow. I think our housing chair would probably like to have contacts with other dorms.
- Matt: Inside our meeting, I think Nina and Humphreys brought up the point that we shouldn't ask the houses whether they like GIH or not. If they say no then it goes against the idea that they're a welcoming community at all. Maybe he asked you to take it off the survey for completely benign reasons.

- Haley: I think he just doesn't want to be opinionated. They wanted us to change the survey question to "would you participate" rather than "is it something you think the dorms would have"
- Adrianna: Not everyone is going to have a need to participate; if you have a footnote that explains the question means that it's asking if you're generally in support of it...
- Haley: That would change the question again.
- Kate: I feel like Matt's point was a good one, maybe that question shouldn't be on the survey. Dormwide support should exist because it creates a more inclusive community, and it only affects the individual
- Sadun: If you can't get the on paper support, but just want to know how people feel, I think the house meeting idea would work.
- Phoebe: Abigail Francis offered to serve as a resource and talk to dorms/housemasters about this. We would like housemasters to approve it this.
- Matt: There's no housemaster who has a huge moral disposition against it. There's just questions of how it'll be implemented as well as general confusion. The goal is to have something ready for housemasters who want to know how it'll be implemented. I feel confident that the concept will be approved of after the next meeting with the housemasters on March 18th. If you haven't spoken to your housemaster about how it'd be implemented, or even if you have, it might be good to talk to them about it. We're not really sure which housemasters are on the fence.
- Sonja: If you don't have a procedure in place, come up with one.

i3

- Adri: Every year we have a meeting with three people with reslife & dining with all the i3 chairs in all dorms. They give us some pamphlet with all the rules for i3 videos. Last year there were a lot of edits that many people thought were basically censorship. MacGregor had a mural that said IDGAF and they said that the F clearly stood for "fuck", and that would be distasteful. This year they said we can't use acronyms unless we specify what they stand for.
- Nilam didn't actually give us feedback for the i3 videos. Holly and I met with them in the middle of IAP and they gave us a packet that said one set of things, then at the i3 meeting on Tuesday they gave us another packet but they changed some very key phrasing. At the meeting we told them we didn't really understand what "immoral" and "offensive" entailed and they said they would just tell us once the videos were submitted and they saw something they thought was offensive. They also added that the video must be approved by ResLife and Dining, which wasn't there earlier, which means that Humphreys or anyone else who works in the DSL

has the power to say no to the video. They also added that if something is included the video doesn't happen in the residence hall, they must receive documentation of it by an "official MIT representation". We also can't have acronyms without explaining what they mean. They told us they only really care about the parents, not the students.

- The chancellor also proposed a committee to talk about freedom of speech and censorship, and this could be one of the things we talk about.
- Basically we want to make a central not-ResLife website with all the i3 videos, but we need to make sure that all dorms participate in this and no dorms put their videos on the ResLife website. So all dorms need to be on board with this.
- Sonja: I think EC would be in support of this boycott. I think with some of the other official/unofficial rules that are on this campus there still needs to be checks in place. I do understand and respect the opinions of housing on pointing out fire code violations or illegal activities. I don't know all of the firecode violations etc, so I don't know if there's a way to submit an informal copy and then withdraw the video.
- Adri: Housing does have to deal with all the parents calling them up and complaining. While the i3 videos are informative to people going to MIT, the videos are targeted towards giving students a more representative view of the dorms at MIT. So if we give them any kind of draft they can take out whatever they don't want and then put it on the housing website. The idea would be that we create a separate website where we say these are the dorm i3 videos. We don't put MIT/DSL/ResLife on it. There's just links with videos and everyone tells their frosh to go there.
- Sadun: One plus of this proposal that isn't related to issues of censorship is that we haven't publicized our i3 videos to prefrosh and frosh enough. They don't actually see them in as high rates as we'd like to think. So this way we'd be deliberately publicizing them and we'd actually get a lot more people viewing them whether or not housing puts them up.
- Arthur: About the immoral/distasteful content ...I think we all agree we want to make tasteful i3 videos we just don't want other people to decide what tasteful is for us. If we do go ahead with this, we want to have a group of people who make sure that the videos aren't over the top. The issue I foresee is that we make these videos and then housing gets too upset about one of them.
- Adri: This is why we have nothing on the website explicitly linking it to MIT. They're still MIT property since we're filming it here. Basically what we're asking for is the ability for people to act like responsible human beings. There are people who make absurd videos just to see what housing does. I'm hoping that

people will make videos that will be worth something. Also just because we go with this process this year doesn't mean we need to next year.

- Amanda: What's the potential backlash from housing/would this change their stance?
- Adri: Humphreys said we can put our videos on YouTube and they won't go out of their way to take it down.
- Yo: What is our actual end-goal here? What are we aiming for by not putting it on their website? Is part of our goal to show housing that it makes sense for them to compromise because we have an alternative?
- Adri: Housing doesn't want to compromise. They care about what the parents think, not the students.
- Matt: Instead of a boycott, we can write up a letter saying this is what we like, this is what we don't like, and we're going to withhold our videos until these issues are resolved. If they aren't, we publish our own videos.
- Adri: Whatever we agree on tonight, is that it needs to be unanimous.
- Amanda: Can we have a week to possibly talk to our i3 chairs and residents before making a decision?

Adri: Yes, we can further discuss this at the next meeting. The videos are due right before spring break.

- Sonja: Is it possible that we could move forward with Matt's letter in a less strongly worded sense; "we are speaking to our dorms with the intention of withholding our videos if compromise is not met"--that clearly reduces the strength of the letter, but if we do want to reach a compromise then it might be possible to start the process sooner.
- Adri: We can have some kind of letter for the next meeting. I don't think we need to give this letter prior to the meeting, since I want some of the presidents endorsing this.
- Yo: It'd be really great if you could have some document outlining the plan of action you're proposing so you can give it to presidents.
- Sadun: Are there any future meetings with i3 chairs that this can be discussed at?
- Adri: I'd like presidents to talk to i3 chairs because they're not being responsive.
- Arthur: if we delay the process by another two weeks, we'll be talking about it ~7 days before the videos are due.
- Adri: The due date is so they have time to look at the drafts. They're going to be made anyway.
- Arthur: But 7 days is not a lot of time to have a back and forth with them.
- Adri: If you guys want to bring this up sooner, everyone reach out to your i3 chairs in the next 6 days and then a week from now we can get general feedback from them.
- Gaurav: Can I propose that you all go and talk to your residents/whoever you want to talk to, and then we'll have a letter to approve at the next dormcon meeting?

- Matt: It'd be great if we could vote to draft a letter today and the content of the letter is just that we'd like to start a conversation. Then the next letter we approve can be the plan of action.

This sounds good to everyone.

- Sadun: Do people think their i3 chairs will want to make slightly different videos if they know it's not going through housing?
- Sonja: I think people would want to keep the original video without taking anything out.
- Adri will send a copy of pamphlet to dorms-prez.

End: 20:45

Unofficial/informal conversation about facilities:

- Chloe: I want to know what kinds of facilities like having in your dorms, what you wish you had, etc.
- Amanda: I wish people didn't steal things.
- Yo: I wish we had an elevator.
- Phoebe: Central AC.
- Kate: I like our workshop.
- Mary: We'd like a woodshop.
- Sonja: we'd like an unregulated shop, or no shop at all
- Paul: New House had kitchens put in? BC residents are strongly in favor of that.

--a lot of people want kitchens--

- Sonja: We have 40 residents per floor, and the one floor has one large kitchen with fridges, some stoves, etc. This works for us because our dorm is really oriented around hall culture. We prefer it that way and probably wouldn't want it any other way.
- Paul: Would anyone like to see a different sort of kitchen arrangements?
- Adri: We have suites but also hall kitchens. On two floors there's one giant kitchen per entire floor, and on the other two floors we have a kitchen for each hall on the floor. I think it's a large reason why halls separate the way they do.
- Kate: We have randomly distributed kitchenettes, and we have a "big" kitchen on the first floor. Simmons wishes there were more kitchens and stoves.
- Amanda: What's the situation with dining hall dorm kitchens?
Mary: McCormick has a fuckton of kitchens, basically
- Amanda: More space in kitchens would be better, I just don't know where you could put it.
- Mary: We have a dish closet where people can check out pots and pans and stuff, and this works really well for us.

- Arthur: We have suites that are organized into halls. So we kind of have both and we like it that way.
 - Matt: New House has houses, I don't think it works super well and don't recommend it.
 - Paul: BC has up-down suites, but that doesn't really work. I'd recommend horizontal living groups over vertical ones.
 - Kate: Simmons is divided by GRT section which is sometimes vertical and sometimes horizontal.
 - Haley: We have wings, which are kind of like hallways. Some are a little tighter than others. It's very dorm-culture strong--people don't tend to associate with wings as much as they do with dorm in general. People really swap around where they are all the time and go to different wings. Each wing has 3 lounges... there's a main one and two small ones. Some floors have an extra one if their main lounge is smaller. Basically people walk around and find a lounge they want to use. They don't necessarily have to live on the floor.
 - Matt: we have elevator lounges at every stairway entry, and people study a lot there. there are big lounges on the 3rd and 5th floor that are heavily utilized. Each house has it's own lounge and it's very specific.
 - Eric: Random has lots of small lounges, and in order to get to my room we have to walk by them. Lounges that are out of the way that you don't have to walk by are generally less used.
 - Phoebe: EC has the one lounge for the whole dorm but that's mostly under utilized. We've compared it to TFL which seems to be very utilized at next.
 - Paul: Bexley also required walking through lounges to get to other rooms.
 - Yuge: I find that if you furnish a lounge, it can be very populated. A lounge near my room was basically uninhabited until a GRT put a couch there.
 - Matt: If they could just 3D print cookie dough, people would go to lounges...
-
- Sonja: I feel very strongly about big showers.
 - Chloe: what about number of bathrooms?
 - Kate: Simmons has 2-3 residents per bathroom, and 6 singles in the building with their own bathroom. and half the doubles have their own bathroom. I think we could have more residents if we didn't have as many bathrooms.
 - Adri: Senior house suites don't have facilities other than a sink--our bathrooms are one on each hall, and then one in the middle. We have nice single-occupancy bathrooms.
 - Sonja: Sinks in our rooms is also a great thing.
 - Many people here would like sinks.
-
- Amanda: I live in a triple and I get along with my roommates. I don't want to live in a triple ever again.
 - Adri: I think 1/5 as many doubles as singles is good. There are some freshman who really want to be in a double, but it's normally only frosh that occupy double so they don't need to occupy more than 1/4 of the rooms total.

- Kate: There's a lot of upperclassmen that stay in doubles so we enforce that a number of doubles must stay open for frosh
- Allen: Simmons used to not have enough singles but I think it's changed over the past few years and gotten more social, so people want to stay living in doubles.
- Haley: It was the opposite in Next; when I was a frosh, frosh were forced into singles. Once we started forcing triples, people would rather live in a single. But there are a lot of upperclassmen with doubles. They're popular in Next.
- Amanda: In Baker, the majority of singles are on the east side. All the other doubles and triples etc. are on the west side. Because of the room distribution it kind of causes a split--a lot more frosh on the west side. The kids who get stuck on the 1 east side quad don't know what to do.
- Paul: I think we agree that we like the double/single integration.
- Yo: How do people feel about varying room sizes as opposed to roughly equivalent?
- Haley: There's so much fighting over this and it'd be a lot easier if everything was the same size.
- Sonja: There's a lot of bias in terms of having sides, east & west parallel etc.
- Sadun: The extent to which these differences causing everyone hating each other is highly dependent on culture.
- Adri: People in Haus care a lot about the sun getting into their rooms.
- Some discussion about carpet, tiles, hardwood floors.
- Being able to invest in your room and make it your own is a big thing that people value.
- Simmons appreciates new and customizable furniture. Modularity woooooo.
- Painting on walls is important to people.