

**DormCon Meeting**  
**April 3, 2015**  
**Location: Random Hall**

**Agenda:**

1. Ryan
2. Budget - Caitlin
3. Dorm Electricity Competition
4. Security Update
5. REX Discussion
6. Early Returns
7. REX Booklet Guidelines
8. Is there a desire to extend REX?
9. Freshmen Room Assignment process changes
10. Freshmen Advising
11. Housemaster Search Updates
12. House Team Discussion

**Attendance**

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

**Start time: 19:41**

## **1. Ryan**

Ryan: I want to request a Q&A session for the end of the meeting about Lil B, I'll be sitting here through the meeting and if anyone wants me to leave I will.

## **2. Budget**

Caitlin: I've given everyone sheets of paper w/budget & finances. All costs we've had so far are from meeting food & retreat. I sent out an email to CPW chairs regarding how to get funding; everyone should get that in about 2 weeks after CPW.

## **3. Dorm Electricity Competition**

Sam: I'm from Dorm Electricity Competition, it's happening this month. We might send out emails to you guys about it, try to get your dorms to save electricity.

## **4. Security Update**

Phoebe: We've done high-level analysis of security survey results, it's on the website. Feel free to publicize & distribute it. Matt & I are using the results but we also wanted to make them available for people for all the conversations that are happening around this. If you find something in the information that you think would be useful to be included with our analysis of it, let us know. There will be an article in the tech including an announcement of the results of the survey, sometime next week, covering the dorm security issue.

## **5. REX Discussion: Early Returns**

Yo: The first email you all got is about ERs for this year. We asked Jen what it would look like and we were given two dates: Tuesday & Friday of FPOP week. Almost everyone's gotten back to us with the numbers. It's currently standing at 360, which we probably won't get. In terms of actual dates, last year we had two additional dates: one after REX but right before in-house rush, so smaller communities in dorms could have a more robust rush. The other date is the Sunday before FPOPs began so upperclassmen could move in with frosh. I hope presidents have spoken to their dorms--we want to know what you think about the latter/earlier dates, what you think about the number, and if you think there's a priority we should pursue.

Kate: I think having the Sunday before FPOP date is important, because frosh already complain about the dorms feeling empty when they're there.

Paul: While I also feel that's important, my dorm would appreciate a focus on having people return on the date right before in-house rush.

Allen: If you have an ER on a date, do you have to come on that day or can you come later?

Yo: You can come later. Their concern is that they have to get the rooms ready.

Allen: I think it could be better for them if we spread it out more.

Arthur: Why do we need two dates during the FPOP week? It seems like the Sunday before FPOPs and the date after REX seem like important dates.

Yo: The freshmen back during FPOP week are all involved in FPOPs so there isn't as much of a need for upperclassmen as there is for REX.

Arthur: I think it'd be good to push the FPOP date back, and then have another date closer to REX.

There's some discussion of having people come back on the dates they want to come back rather than sticking to particular ER dates.

## **6. REX Discussion: Booklet Guidelines**

Yo: We've been talking about REX booklet guidelines, which we need to have. We have to come up with them before the end of the semester.

Sadun: If we make guidelines we're ok with following, and we show them to housing ahead of time, then we can agree with them that as long as we follow the guidelines we can publish our booklets.

Chloe: The focus of the committee was just changed to the mural committee, which isn't the original intent we understood from the chancellor. I asked her why it changed and she seemed confused: she did intend the meeting to be about freedom of expression, so she's going to clarify that so the meeting will be about that topic.

Yo: It'd be great if we could draft the document within the next two weeks.

Sadun: If we have clear understanding of what you want we can probably get it done this weekend.

Adri: Can I suggest that we kind of go by what the i3 guidelines are like, where it doesn't have to be PG-13 but it's tasteful and not terrible and cursing all the time?

Sonja: I was going to suggest the same thing, we recently talked with Humphreys about this and he seems happy with it.

Sadun: We do need to focus on the objectification problem, which was brought up with the REX booklets last year.

Arthur: The two things we need to focus on as a baseline is anything that discriminates or violates Title IX should not be included.

Yo: We can talk about this at a Dormcon meeting, or would you rather have a document and propose edits to it? \*cricket cricket\* We're gonna draft the doc and if anyone wants to help you can email us. We know there will be disagreements and I'd rather talk about it now.

Adri: The one point I think should be made clear is that mentioning the word sex or something sexual doesn't mean it's sexually violent or discriminatory.

Yo: It doesn't matter what their interpretation of our document is, since we can contend what we meant in the document. It's not them binding us; it's us binding ourselves and showing we can bind ourselves.

Paul: I would hope that you would write this document so that anything in the guidelines is an accurate expectation of the events. If someone thinks that something in the guidelines is an accurate description of the event, then it should go through.

Yo: What's an example?

Paul: I think there was one mention of an orgy--consensual tasteful respectful orgy--I think there would be people who would come into conflict with that name, but I think that if that description is accurate then it should be fine.

Adri: I think we have a good example--we have the Alternative Sex Seminar every year, one time we couldn't call it that and we had to call it Late Night Conversations. Then some frosh came in not expecting to talk about sex, and it was uncomfortable for them.

Sadun: The three things ResLife highlighted last year was: the description that included pubes for Senior House, and using the word "bitch" in two events ("biatches we got freezepops")

Yo: Does anyone have any input on those examples? Also, should we be able to say “fuck” in the REX booklet?

Sadun: Many of the older ones said it.

Yo: I would absolutely accept whatever the presidents decide here. I’ve spoken people who actually don’t want to be reading the word “fuck” all the time in the REX booklet or actually do feel uncomfortable reading it. It is sort of less welcoming and does make some people uncomfortable by our using this language--not my words. I’m not saying we shouldn’t be able to do this but I think there should be more of a conversation about it.

Different people will want to come based on what’s described

Paul: I agree, the description will provide information on the event--and I think an informative document is better than a welcoming document

Adri: I think the point of REX is to help people find their homes. The concern is finding a cultural niche.

It might be common to use this language in dorms and emails anyway, and so you’re not giving any sort of information about how language is used in these places until you’ve already chosen it. If you self-censor to make people feel better, then they might become uncomfortable after finding out this language is used in the dorm.

Kate: It’s possible that someone could read the REX booklet and feel uncomfortable reading the descriptions, and feel uncomfortable reading the booklet at all. But if they came to an event and people were swearing then they could just leave. If they don’t read the booklet it’s hard to know all the events and they might just end up opting out of REX.

Sean: I feel like people who go to an east campus dorm feel more like they fit there than people who go to west campus dorms.

...no, they don’t really know what they’re talking about.

Yo: Back to our question: I don’t know how far we should take this discussion since we’re running into philosophical differences.

Sadun: It seems there's a consensus that we can use some profanity but not too much.

Paul: Do CPW/REX chairs review events/descriptions before submitting?

Yo: We quickly look it over but it's not really a thing we do.

Sadun: There will be a lot of people looking at it including us and ResLife, and there will be some argument but everything will be okay.

Yo: What about a bullet point saying that event descriptions should not promote or create a hostile environment? Can we focus that a little more? What do people think about a point focusing on the spirit of the REX booklet?

Adri: If we're leaving it up to ResLife to determine what a hostile environment is then no

Allen: Can we have a bullet point that only Dormcon can enforce these guidelines?

Paul: You should be able to defend the events and descriptions against the guidelines if you review them first.

Gaurav: Maybe you can say this is a vague thing and give examples that represent the spirit of what it means. I don't think this is a productive discussion and I think it might be better to write the guidelines and then bring them to us for edits.

Sonja: We didn't really talk about it here but we should consider addressing discrimination in our guidelines, and presidents should consider their stance on it. I don't know exactly what they were objecting to with the pubes and door description, maybe it's sexual language/bullying and that's another point that we should consider.

## **7. REX Discussion: Desire to Extend REX?**

Yo: If anyone wants to be in on this we'll take your help, and will hopefully show it to you the next dormcon meeting. So the third idea is brought about by the fact that people talk about REX being too short, and I'm not sure if it's a common opinion.

Caitlin: I think REX should go to the noon of the following thursday and there shouldn't be anything the next morning so that people can move in and out of rooms.

Yo: Freshmen start moving on campus on the Saturday before. REX officially starts on Sunday at noon but we start having events beforehand.

Arthur: Maybe it's good to have a big kickoff so that we have a clear idea of when it starts.

Sadun: I guess the question is do you want there to be a longer period of time when REX events were happening?

Yo: The proposal is that after in-house rush, that we have another day or two of dorm events.

Mary: So McCormick does something like that since we don't participate in FYRE, so we have our own events that are publicized directly to residents which has been very successful for us and been really good and helping our freshmen get to know each other and making McCormick more welcoming.

Paul: I would agree that the period after you move into your dorm is more for getting to know your own community and dorm, so I wouldn't see the purpose/benefit for having more events at other dorms.

Allen: we should encourage dorms to throw their own events for themselves, but I don't think it'd be part of REX after everyone's moved in.

Eric: If we're talking about having events after FYRE, then whatever's happening on that Thursday and Friday can't be important enough that there won't be conflict. Why can't we move in-house rush to Friday?

Yo: The only reason I raised this is because there exists some pressure to have more time to run REX events. Allen made a good point--lets start talking about REX as a period of 3-4 days where people explore dorms, and then an additional day after in-house rush for dorms to throw their own events.

Sonja: Almost every hall in EC has a handful of events scheduled that weekend, and I think a lot of communities pushed back on this because small communities feel like bonding time is being taken away. But I do support having time for the entire dorm to form a community rather than just the small communities, but I do think you'll experience pushback with that.

## 8. Freshman Room Assignment Process Changes

Cosmos: So I sent an email on Monday to most presidents-the chancellor is interested in examining how frosh are assigned to rooms within a dorm. While the process works really well for most people, she's concerned that some people having a really bad experience moving in. She doesn't have much data to support it but she thinks that if anyone has this experience she should work towards fixing it. There are anecdotes she is hesitant about sharing in writing but will probably share with us verbally. The chancellor asked John E (simmons housemaster) to lead this process. They didn't know where they were gonna go next (as of 2 weeks ago) but as of yesterday the current next step is the chancellor has offered to come for dinner in your dining hall or something to meet with student leaders and discuss this to figure out what we care about and gauge how much we want to be involved in trying to fix it, a trust exercise between the students and the chancellor, and to discuss concerns. Housemasters have been told to reach out to student leaders and ask those students if they want to have dinner with the chancellor, I would encourage coming at your housemaster from the other side and saying that you do want to discuss it with her.

Chloe: the chancellor emailed me, Phoebe, and Matt today: she wants to come to dormcon to discuss this with us. She spoke with housemasters about it and also wants to talk with dormcon leadership. I spoke with her today and suggested that she comes to the dormcon meeting next Thursday, and I wanted to bring that up with you guys and ask if it's what you want.

Kate: First of all the chancellor does have some data, a survey went out in September. one of the questions was to rate their satisfaction with the rooming process, and 9% of freshmen put a 1 or 2. I don't think that necessarily means in-house rush, it might mean the dorm they're placed in. They also did a follow up survey (6 months later) where they will have the data.

The chancellor does want to listen to us, but she does want to be listened to as well so part of it might be for her to get us on board with her agenda.

Caitlin: On her agenda, three big points are that it should be ungameable, no student should feel rejection, and freshmen should be allowed to keep the rooms they're placed in over the summer. (assigned by the lottery)

Arthur: That seems a little strange because we're removing social rejection during the process and making it more drawn out through the entire semester...

Chloe: McCormick and Maseeh do this currently, where the room you were assigned during the summer is yours unless you want to move out of it.

Arthur: for dorms with smaller units (halls, entries, floors), I don't think that'll work

Chloe: This might be a positive or negative thing for these dorms, I just wanted to clarify that it happens.

Sadun: Who is taking advantage of it? It seems like people who stay in their room would be the people least likely to be taking advantage of it.

Sonja: There's a report that came out in the late 90s that have recommendations in them that aren't necessarily in place. For example: freshmen should be able to have a permanent assignment when they arrive on campus. This in part is mitigated by technology, since they can find out before they get to campus now. There is another quote in there that says these changes should not be made quickly or in times of high stress, which I think we're in, but the chancellor seems to want this to happen faster. I think everyone should read this report. There's three ways I can see keeping your room: choosing to keep your room in the summer, choosing to keep your room before hall rush starts, or deciding during/after hall-rush to opt out of hall rush (either squatting or randomized). I think if we don't push back on her idea of letting this happen over the summer, we aren't placing the value on hall rush that we have.

Kyle: The more that something like this is implemented campus-wide, the more each dorm loses its personality. Next just had its own rooming survey, and according to our situation it'd be crazy to not squat your single if you have one because otherwise you might end up in a forced triple. Consider the situation where every frosh squats their single, and that'd be unfair to the other frosh.

Cosmos: The chancellor hasn't thought of everything/these situations, but one of the big things is that it's ungameable--assuming whoever could exploit it, might. (RACs, freshmen, etc.) I would encourage you to come up with arguments for how you can make your system ungameable before you talk with her.

Sadun: one of the ways of preventing your system from being gamed by an individual person is by having a committee of people looking at things and vice versa.

Allen: A few people talked with John about how this could be mitigated at Simmons. He really liked the idea of having a third party stand in the room while the rooming chairs.

This has usually been a trusted student that everyone agrees has good ethics, but in the future it could be an RLAD or GRT or something.

Something that hasn't come up is how much of the process is freshman input vs upperclassmen input--the dorms are different in this aspect.

Sean: I think it'd be good if everyone talked about their own process and learned about others' processes. I think all the RACs had a meeting about it.

Adri: We were asked to write up a document but not necessarily talk with each other. (Chloe will email out this document)

Yo: I meant with Jag Patel about a separate issue, but we did look at the survey Kate mentioned. They have very little data and it's not broken down by as many things it could be broken down by. What sort of questions would we like asked for next year's freshmen about what's good/bad about the process. The other thing Jag mentioned was that it'd be better if we came to the table with our own proposal than if we just rejected what we were given and did nothing else. If we can come up with an idea of what "harmonization" looks like/proposals we'd prefer, I think it's a reasonable direction of inquiry for us.

Kate: John really wants this to be bottom-up rather than top-down because he values that each dorm has its own system. The chancellor is concerned that our process is confusing for parents/students because it's scattered across dorms.

Cosmos: As long as the differences don't become so confusing/elaborate that it obfuscates things, then they're okay with it. I don't think she's trying a one-size-fits-all solution.

Kate: John mentioned that the Chancellor thinks we should be like our peer institutions when it comes to rooming.

Cosmos: They're really concerned about the bullet that freshmen are feeling rejected: I don't think we'd have a hard time defending the other bullets.

Paul: Did the Chancellor mention her opinion/thoughts on upperclassmen input during this process?

Caitlin: Hearing from John, he doesn't like the system where upperclassmen are giving more input than freshmen.

Sonja: The report specifically allows for input, but doesn't say how much.

Cosmos: I think the more input you have from other students, the more potentially vulnerable it is--she'd probably prefer mostly frosh input.

Sonja: I think the way to solve this bullet/statement is to completely randomize it, because there will be no social rejection. But in my opinion it is not okay to be unhappy with your room assignment just because an algorithm said so.

Cosmos: Some amount of rejection is going to happen.

Ryan: I'm gonna speak for Next here but we are kind of random with our freshmen because they randomly get numbers, and even though it's random there's still a case of social rejection.

Sonja: That sort of way of choosing ends up with the first ten people being really happy and then everyone else becoming more and more unhappy.

Ryan: I think they'd rather people being sad because of randomness than sad because of people.

Kate: Though that doesn't solve the problem.

Students are really confused about how their responses over the summer and what they fill out play into the process--they don't know what parts go to housing and what parts go to undergrads, and it would be good if we could make it more transparent to them.

Kate: We should send out a second survey to freshmen after they're placed in a dorm that pertain to the dorm (so nothing about cats and smoking in a dorm that doesn't have cats and smoking)

Chloe: The Chancellor is free to come to the next dormcon meeting. I do think she still intends to talk to individual dorms after that.

Caitlin: I think our discussion with her needs to be a little tempered. I think John was worried that it'd be a little dorm-specific. Try to make your questions more general.

Mary: I think housemasters have a lot of information about what the chancellor is thinking so I'd suggest reaching out to them to get more information.

## **9. Housemaster Search Updates**

Chloe: Housemaster search updates--how are the three dorms going through this process?

Sean: I talked to Mandy, I don't think anything has started besides us assigning people to the committee. We hadn't had any meetings or anything yet. We've given GRT preferences.

Arthur: We had the first meeting today. I was a little concerned because some candidates are being interviewed by more than one dorm which I'm not super comfortable with if two dorms like housemaster.

Chloe: I was talking with the McCormick housemaster and he was saying that there should probably be coordination between the committees so that all dorms don't end up preferring the same housemaster.

Arthur: I think there's an idea where the candidates will tour the dorms and have a chance to preference them.

Mary: The first meeting will be next week; as of now there are 7 total candidates, there may be more, and all are interested in at least 2 dorms right now.

Chloe: one thing I'd suggest for Baker is reaching out to Charles (McCormick housemaster) about it ([cstewart@mit.edu](mailto:cstewart@mit.edu))

## **10. House Team Evaluations**

Phoebe: We want to make a focus group. we want to evaluate the ADs and house team, but student groups aren't allowed to do that and we don't want anyone to feel like we're attacking them/their job. If we could have a discussion about dormcon wants to do about this: we can take back the survey, we can just do it anyway, or we can compromise by meeting with people who have concerns and explain to them why we want this data or compromise some other way by changing questions or something. What do people think?

Yo: Could you remind us what the questions are that we're trying to answer by having this survey?

Phoebe: As I understood it we had questions about what the house team structure looks like in various dorms, what pieces are useful/less useful in dorms, how can we as

dorm-exec help the house team be most efficient and effective? The intent is not to get rid of ADs if one dorm doesn't like it; the intent is to have discussions about what is effective where and why.

Allen: John was charged both last and this year to write a statement about what a housemaster role is in dorms. Last year he apparently failed at doing so, because every housemaster has a different idea about what their job is. I just want to point out that even the housemasters don't agree on what the role is.

Phoebe: And that's the information the survey will provide us.

Sonja: even on halls in EC, some people might think the way some halls are run are really good ideas but they haven't thought of them/heard of them yet. So this is a good way to share ideas about the roles they play.

Kate: I do think that'd be great, I do know there's a lot of concern about sharing information with everyone especially at a dormcon meeting. I don't think we'd be able to do that.

Paul: I sent out the survey on Monday and received a little bit of feedback, but then at the house meeting my housemaster thought the survey was bad and not correctly implemented, but I received positive feedback from GRTs who also wanted to know if they could have feedback on their jobs. Would you feel comfortable sharing the information with GRTs if they want their own feedback?

Phoebe: I personally don't have a problem with it but I'd have to see if it's okay

Kate: I think mine would also like it.

Yo: If people don't know their GRTs might not be reading it then it might be weird to show it to them.

Kate: There should be a good institutional way to give GRT feedback (some dorms have this, Random's housemaster does it)

Phoebe: there is a disclaimer that states the use of the survey but doesn't clarify who will be reading the data. I think we could move on to what do we want to do about this/what actions do we want to take?

Yo: Personally, it sounds like there are a lot of people who are really unhappy and I don't know this is something we should really fight for unless someone has strong feelings about why we should fight for it (we should take it down and don't use anything we have)

Phoebe: as a personal opinion, there have been a lot of efforts to have some sort of feedback system about the various house team roles, and every one of them have been shut down because of this. There's never been an alternative. So this could go that same way.

Eric: Can we start with having the survey apply only to people who want themselves to be evaluated and then at a later date move forward from there?

Sonja: if there are 10 GRTs, and one doesn't want to be in the survey, then all the GRT data is scrapped.

Caitlin: I think we could break it down by member of house team, and if anyone wants their particular feedback we could give it to them.

Gaurav: When people say this isn't allowed, what are they basing it off of?

Phoebe: I've heard it violates HR policies for anyone besides HR to evaluate MIT employees.

Gaurav: It may not be a good idea but we could still do it without legal repercussions.

Yo: We don't want to burn bridges here.

Ryan: I think by asking them if they want feedback, we are giving them a choice but in their mind they might not be.

Phoebe: How many people are for Eric's idea where we survey only the people that want to be surveyed, or we can just drop it completely, or we can go ahead and do it anyway and clarify how we're going to use the information.

(nobody knows what to do here, most people abstained)

Gaurav: I think we should still collect data and give it to people who want it.

Sonja: I think the problem is that HR believes that collecting data isn't allowed.

Phoebe: I don't think we're in danger with HR, I think we're in danger of the housemasters and ADs being angry with us.

Arthur: we're interviewing for RLADs now, and our housemasters are about to leave, so I'd rather not do anything to strain the relationship with our house team.

Kate: Our housemaster is concerned with the security of the data, and individual people on the house team getting fired. He's very against it and I think it'd be damaging relationship if we sent it out.

Sonja: can we reach out to our own house teams? will that affect anyone else? Everyone says probably not.

Phoebe: At this point it seems like it's probably better for it to be left up to dorm presidents. Originally the data would only be seen by Matt and me and we'd compile it, but now it's more appropriate to go to the dorm exec rather than just us.

Paul: That's how I defended it to our house team; I said it was fact-gathering for BC exec.

Yo: So is our official stance that dormcon is backing off this?

Allen: Whatever data is collected, you should be very careful with it.

Sonja: Anything that's signed off on that will compile, I will turn that info into a report and give it to the house team and if they're okay with it will give it to dormcon.

Phoebe: If you want our help let us know, but I think Matthew and I will be hands-off on this.

## **11. Residence Based Advising**

Chloe: I wanted to talk about freshman advising. There have been discussions about residential based advising--mccormick, next, maseeh, and some frosh in new house. There has been some question as to whether or not the program should exist. I met with Rother who's in charge of the residential aspect of the program and asked what was going on with it, she didn't know and said it was up to UAAP. She said to her knowledge they were going to come up with a decision by 4/1 whether or not they were gonna have it next year. I was concerned because I nor Ryan had been asked about this. Dean

Freeman (on 3/31) said that no decision has been made as to whether or not it'll happen next year, and they're reevaluating the whole freshman advising process (so not just RBA). He told me that right now they're trying to see if people think freshman advising should be changed or not, and his plan currently is to talk to housemasters and ask if it should be changed. If he gets an overwhelming yes he plans to move forward with it. He'll contact me after he talks with the housemasters if they do plan on doing anything and will get student feedback. I think it'd be useful for us to talk about how freshman advising works in your dorms--what you think works/doesn't work, and what you think could/shouldn't/should be changed. Even if nothing happens for next year, it seems to me this is something they'll look at in the future anyway.

Arthur: if we don't have RBA, some people have traditional advising and some people have seminar advising, and that's it.

Adri: I think you're asking a tricky question. From talking to the haus residents, it seems there isn't a good way to evaluate the advising program but just how well the individuals get along with their advisors. I don't think we can generalize.

Chloe: Do people think that something like RBA would work in their dorms and would be beneficial to their dorms?

Ryan: For Next, every frosh has a student advisor that lives in the dorms. Each one has like 6-7. RBA also meets on a weekly or bi-weekly basis with residential advisors and ADs. It's nice that if frosh need anything from their advisor they can just go to somewhere in the dorm.

Arthur: Do they also have a real, like, adult?

Ryan: They have a faculty member.

Arthur: So it's the same as traditional advising, except the student has to live in the dorm.

Ryan: With RBA your seminar advisor is additional to your faculty advisor.

Chloe: If you were in Concourse for example, you would have an RBA advisor and student advisor, and also your Concourse advisor.

Ryan: It's also hard because students can move in and out of Next house so the people who move out don't know who to keep, but we have a designated advisor for people who move in.

Mary: Nobody can move in or out freshman year. We have both traditional and seminar RBA advising. All advisors are paired with an RAA who checks in informally on a regular basis with advisees, and have meetings every other week with RLADs.

Ryan: I can't see RBA being in every dorm as a realistic thing, because people move in and out all the time.

Arthur: You could keep the faculty advisor and switch the RAA, and that way it would be easier if everyone did it.

Adri: It sounds like most freshmen don't really talk to RAAs, so what's the point of that is nobody is utilizing it?

Chloe: I think it works really well in McCormick..

Adri: Right but they're residential. I give advice to my freshmen anyway, so I don't know what'd we get out of this.

Chloe: That's actually really useful--that's kind of what I want to hear. Do people feel that upperclassmen already fill that role?

Adri: I feel like it wouldn't be anything new, and I don't think the current system is helpful.

Sonja: I'd agree that upperclassmen already fill this role. I think your ability to choose who you want to advise you is crucial. I never spoke with my AA, and I wasn't forced to interact with my freshman advisor. I think the ability to move throughout a structure that feels beneficial to you is helpful.

Caitlin: Generally, yes, people make friends with upperclassmen, but what happens when you don't? There are people who don't make upperclassmen friends and I think this is why we have this.

Allen: I think four years ago in Simmons I would've been very happy if my AA were to talk to me.

Kate: I think Adri's and Sonja's points are good and it happens a lot, but there is a concern that there are students who fall through the cracks which I guess is the point of AAs. I'm wondering if RBA needs to be opted in for a whole dorm, instead of just having some AAs in a dorm and then having frosh who opt into this program.

Random has had something like this, with positive feedback.

Arthur: Can someone just figure out a way to assign advising so that people are close geographically?

Paul: That's because advisors are assigned, then AAs. Each advisor comes with AAs.

Chloe: I've seen that people tend to create close friendships with their advising group, and it's another thing to consider.

Ryan: I made no friends in my advising groups, because they all moved out to frats. I respect most dorms' opinions that RBA wouldn't work that great in your dorms, because I didn't want someone watching over me when I came in as a frosh.

Mary: I think the role of RAA and how they communicate with their freshmen varies a lot; in the case that frosh reach out to them, they will reach out back. They figure out pretty quickly which frosh have upperclassmen that they know and trust and they will reach out to those upperclassmen. If they are concerned about freshmen they will bring up the concerns to GRTs or RLADs or housemasters.

Adri: I kind of want to figure out a little better what this advisor is supposed to do. To me it sounds like this program is like making sure everyone has a friend, but we think it's good to have a separation between home and therapy.

Sadun: It'd be nice to have a system to just guarantee someone an upperclassman friend if they want one, like Random.

Gaurav: So for Random you can indicate you want a mentor, you meet and hangout with them and have dinner sometimes. There were more people who wanted to be a mentor than mentorships.

Chloe: Any last comments?

**End: 21:41**

