

DormCon Meeting
April 30, 2015
Location: Simmons Hall

Agenda:

1. DormCon Elections
2. PartySafe Training
3. Freshmen Rooming

Attendance

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Amanda Lee	
Burton-Conner	Paul Hager	Proxy: Reva
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	Proxy: Jasmeet Arora
Simmons Hall	Kate Farris	
President	Chloe Orphanides	
Vice President	Walter Menendez	look! Walter's here!
Secretary	Jasmeet Arora	
Treasurer	Caitlin Heber	

Start time: 19:35

0. Treasurer Announcement

- If you have an RLAD buy food for a meeting, tell the DormCon treasurer! Also for the budget of that meeting
 - Happened, was problematic for the treasurer.
- Chloe asked about SAO
- Thanks to Dorms who sent in their CPW receipts, for those who didn't, shame on you. You will be pursued by the treasurer.

1. Elections:

President

Aaron Zwiebach:

- BC resident
- Culture is dictated by residents
- Goal: to work with dorm leaders by strengthening autonomy within policies
- Did some things in BC politics, interfacing with administration (Chancellor, Don), talking about floor rush, HM relations
- Sees that dorm reps aren't involved in policy formation, and that this is a problem; esp. w/data collection and analysis.
- Dorm residents should explain dorm culture to admin.
- Want to spearhead initiatives that change the culture of policy changes at MIT--involving ourselves in the process and demanding accountability. Proactive, not reactive.
- Work with admin so that policies evolve with dorm cultures, not against them.

Caitlin Heber:

- Past roles: house chair for Simmons, treasurer for Simmons, dormcon treasurer & secretary. Finboard on UA, student-admin collab committee on UA.
- Really want to be involved and further Dormcon as an advocacy group on campus--admin really listen to and consider our ideas. Wants to improve meeting efficiency and communication with admin in both confidential and public meetings.

Yonadav Shavit:

- Hall chair for his hall freshman year, CPW chair for EC and Dormcon.
- Really loves MIT community and the diversity and qualities of dorm communities. Likes to work with people and wants to give back in that way. Would love to be

involved with Dormcon and wants to bring it together and address a lot of issues we've been facing.

Questions for Candidates:

What are your commitments next year and how do they contrast with commitments this semester?

- Aaron: I play squash in the fall. I'm taking a lighter course load, and will less overall responsibilities.
- Caitlin: Also taking a lighter course load, part of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, & house chair of Simmons.
- Yo: I'll be taking three and a half classes per semester & Dormcon will be my only major commitment.

Yo and Caitlin, you say you're running in collaboration? How does this work?

- Caitlin: Yo and I were both really interested in being super involved, and we tried to figure out if we could work together as an exec team and if that would be manageable. We thought we'd make a good pairing, we cover a broad range of campus and each others' skills and weaknesses. We're letting you decide that and the remaining one will run for VP.
- Yo: The job of the prez is a big job, and there's a lot of room for two people to carry some of that load. I think Caitlin and I work well together.

How would you balance interests of own dorm and interest of all dorms?

- Aaron: I think when looking at specific issues (security, REX, rooming, etc) dorm priorities don't necessarily align, but we're all committed to making the right decisions and do what's best for us. I would make decisions as a member of the MIT dorm community rather than a member of BC.
- Caitlin: I don't disagree with Aaron; I do think there can come a point where a dorm's interest is not aligned with interest as a whole. Everything must be looked at from Dormcon's perspective, and your dorm must have an equal share of priority as the rest. If there's a problem that a solution doesn't fix, it'll be taken care of on a dorm by dorm basis.
- Yo: There are decisions that are dorm-specific but that all dorms should be involved in. If it's about representing my dorm vs representing dormcon, I should never be representing only my dorm.

How do you see Dormcon interacting with the UA, IFC, Panhel, etc?

- Yo: Dormcon does not technically have to take on a lot of responsibilities that it does take on (ex last year we talked about mental health, even though the UA

specifically has a committee set up to promote this discussion) In the past the UA and Dormcon have tried to solve problems in parallel, and I would like to work closely with them so that we can work on these problems together.

- Caitlin: I agree, I think the UA could be run a lot better next year. We could do a better job at working closer with parties who have vested interests in certain topics.
- Aaron: Interests of different communities sometimes mix and don't mix. I think there's great opportunity for these groups to work together, esp when specific issues that are more appropriate for one group to handle.

Yonadav Shavit is elected president.

Vice President

Caitlin Heber:

- Same thing as before, I look forward to working with Yo.

Do you foresee yourself having any pending obligations on Thursday nights?

- Caitlin: No

Aaron is nominated.

- Aaron: No, no obligations.

Caitlin Heber is elected vice president.

Treasurer

Jacqueline Liu: Absent, so platform was read.

Rachel Aviles:

- Sophomore in East Campus.
- Hall chair, Bad Ideas Chair, one of 3 EC rush chairs.
- Looking to get more involved with dorm community outside of EC. Pretty good with money, uses spreadsheets in day-to-day life, knows how to do reimbursements, funding forms, etc.

Questions for Candidates:

If you were not elected treasurer would you run for something else?

- Rachel: Housing chair or Risk management

How good are you with email?

- Rachel: Very good, check it constantly.

Do you have a preference between which chair you'd like to run for?

- Rachel: No, no strong pref

Have you held a treasurer position before?

- Rachel: No, not formally

Jacqueline Liu is elected treasurer.

Secretary

Jasmeet Arora:

- Cares about things
- Admits to things she didn't do as well, also about sending emails
- Improved attendance for next semester
- Ensures minutes will be updated within three days
- Sending out agendas before meetings

Jasmeet Arora is elected secretary. (YAAAAAY)

Housing Assignments Chair

Sonja Postak:

- Waffled back and forth on this pretty hard, but I realized it's something I do want to add to my life. I've already started to work on some of the issues, and I want to work on them both for EC and the dorm community as a whole. I'm the EC president, and I think that coming from a dorm with mutual selection brings value to my position in this.

Kyle Saleeby:

- Read my platform to see past positions.
- For the past semester I've been VP for Next, we've had a huge housing fight within own dorm trying to revamp housing lottery etc. including GIH and how freshman can stay in there temp rooms, and other issues you've heard about. Right now you don't want anyone who's going to get angry with admin and complain, you need someone with class and maturity that can talk to them and work out issues in a good way. I've done that--worked with Housemaster Columbo, and I know many people in various dorms. I know people in Zeta Psi,

have a lot of support in frat communities. I want to rep what you guys want and the unique views of each dorm. I can separate my roles in Next and Dormcon to do just that.

Mary Delaney:

- I've been RAC in McCormick, last year I worked to rewrite a lot of rooming procedures which gave me interesting experience. Worked a lot with admin including Humphreys and Barnheart.
- Want to communicate with all dorms and understand how each one works. Would really like to see reestablishment of rooming committee (RACs + housing chairs), would give Dormcon the opportunity to get feedback from individual dorms easily. Make sure people know about whatever changes are coming and to get their input.

Anastasia Neuman:

- Freshman in BC, CPW/REX chair. Cares a lot about community. Want frosh to find places they'll be comfortable living. Main priority: what students saying = what admins are hearing. Remove disconnect between admins and students.

Questions for Candidates:

If not elected will you run for any other exec positions?

- Sonja: No
- Kyle: Probably CPW/REX chair in the spring.
- Ana: No
- Mary: No

Matt & Phoebe on time commitment: Sometimes there's a crisis and you get pulled into a lot of conversations around that, we talked to Humphries a lot; sometimes it's just working on projects Dormcon assigns but we got a lot of those the past few years.

- Kyle: We instituted a committee from 3-5 people to run REX/CPW and I think working in a small group helps with a workload, and I think it would significantly strengthen the position.
- Sonja: I will be super free, only 2 HASS classes before I graduate.
- Mary: I'll have a much lighter workload.
- Ana: Not going to be a senior, but no other commitments.

What about job hunting, post-grad plans, etc?

- Sonja: My intent is to go into industry, so I won't be wandering away to other universities or anything.

- Mary: I don't know what the time commitment will look like but don't anticipate it as a problem.

How many people can hold this and is anyone running as a team?

Gaurav: Can be held up to 2 people, I will explain

It's been observed that every housing chair in the past 3 years has either graduated with the position or become UA president, do you have plans for that?

None of them do.

This position is going to be largely representing opinions that aren't your own. How do you intend to do that? What's your plan?

- Ana: I think it's super important to not just get the RACs from your dorm but major dorm opinions. I think we should try to send out Dormcon surveys to the dorms (GIH, in-house rush) to try to get a feel for the majority opinion and have an open feedback sort of thing.
- Mary: I agree it's important to talk to as many people as possible. It's important to understand where other people's views are coming from and why they want whatever change they want. It's important to be able to persuasively argue for what we're looking for.
- Kyle: It should be based on trust; you should be able to get to know the people you're representing and build up relationships with them so you know why they feel that way and why it's important to them. My main priority would be trust.
- Sonja: There seems to be a lot of respect from DSL that all the dorms are different and work differently, and while I believe I'm capable of it, I think very rarely I'd have to make a decision that would affect everyone in a blanket sense. I think the biggest challenge is that there are so many opinions on the table. The biggest challenge is to represent the person that's most difficult to represent → the mutual selection dorms. But I come from a dorm that does that so I think I have an advantage in making that decision.

When should a decision be deferred to individual RACs/dorms vs made by you?

- Mary: I want to talk to dorms as often as possible to get feedback. I'd like to communicate with them directly. Blanket policies are a bad idea and part of why the housing system works well is because there are a lot of unique solutions in each dorm and I'd like to see that continue.
- Kyle: Any decision should be relayed back to each dorm's individual representative. As much communication as possible is better.

- Sonja: I agree with everything. The job will be affecting all dorms across campus. I think if something was extremely time-sensitive then our answer should be acceptable but not binding and final. more like a “best guess”. But I would need to approach at least dormcon, if not RACs.
- Ana: it’s important to communicate, so I’d probably communicate with everyone about everything.

Sonja Postak and Kyle Saleeby are elected as Housing Assignment Chairs

Juddcomm Chair

Lily Dove: Not present, so platform was read.

Eric Mannes:

- Copresident of Random, member of Committee on Student Life. Has read constitution, knows how to impeach president. Want to focus on the role of judcomm in constitution if dormcon wants him to. There are some gaps and errors, would love to fix them.
- David: Live in Simmons, junior. Interest and personality qualities most closely align with role of Judcomm chair. Really like to pay attention to detail but also remain cognizant of bigger picture of things. Double in 2 and 15 for the same reason. Have done projects that reflect this. Facilities chair in Simmons for the past year and a half, views it as role to make improvements but also to take viewpoints from different areas and bring them up when people need to make decisions. Makes decisions based on own experiences & experiences of others. Reason he didn’t submit something ahead of time is because he was unsure if he could fully commit to position but he believes it’s something he can put his full force and energy into. Will make the most of the experience.

Grace:

- Fascinated by compliance. Thinks she could help us achieve compliance with constitution, even if it involves rewriting. has also read it.

Lily arrives: Sorry I was late. Will not be doing MITSO next semester.

Questions for Candidates:

How familiar are you all with constitution?

Have all read it.

Eric Mannes and Lily Dove are elected as Juddcomm Chairs

Risk Management Chair

Sadun: Sits on exec for most of the year. Has discussions with Don Camilio sometimes. involved in partysafe training discussions, needs to make them productive.

Caitlin: They will be looking at Mind&Handbook again, be prepared for that.

Sean Corcoran:

- I'm in the process of planning a party, there's little awareness about partysafe training. I'd like to see that given to all frosh as they come in so people know what they have to do.

Rachel Aviles:

- It'd be interesting to look at Mind & Handbook again, I've read through all of it. There's a lot of confusion about ps training. I know a lot about risk management, would like to see a better process including student projects in dorms. I care a lot about student wellness & sexual assault.

Brenda Zanze:

- I wanted to do a thing for Dormcon and help with things, I think it's important esp now that it's getting a little more conversation. There was a lot of talk on campus after the sexual assault surveys came out. I didn't get much out of the partysafe training and VPR training, I'm interested in working towards improving those.

Questions for Candidates:

Time commitments?

Sean: Not sure, seems like I'll be pretty busy...

Brenda: nope, none

Rachel: I never take more than 48 units, I will have all free time

Rachel and Sean are elected as Risk Management Chairs

Dining Chair

Mary Delaney:

- Involved with dining in McC, directly with Bon Appetit people as well. Wants to make sure students have a voice in what happens with the dining contract. Will reach out to all dorms including non-dining dorms.

- Haley: Was dining chair of Next for two years, knows how dining works. Looking at new contract this year, so it's important that we have a student voice that they'll listen to and in the past has been successful in working with dining.
- Kate: I've been involved in Simmons as treasurer and pres, I live in dining hall dorm and value our dining hall but can be seriously improved. Important position in upcoming year b/c of contract renewal. I'd like dining chairs to be more involved than last year.

Questions for Candidates:

Other commitments?

- Haley: Next president, UROP, sorority. I go to Dormcon things anyway, and HDC isn't that often. I do feel like I have the time for it.
- Mary: Same time commitments as I said like, an hour ago. I think I have the time to commit to this.
- Kate: not a senior, so courseload will be considerable but I'm confident I can handle it.

What are your plans for non-dining dorms?

- Kate: I don't know if I have specific plans for them, I'd like to talk to them since they should have some say with what happens with dining, but I don't foresee significantly changing anything about them unless they specifically want that.
- Mary: Same as what Kate said, basically.
- Haley: Also the same thing. The only thing you can change about non-dining dorms is facilities, which I think is important. I've worked a lot with facilities in the past but it's very slow going and difficult to work with them.

Mary and Kate are elected as Dining Chairs

2. Party Safe Training

- Sadun: there's push coming from admin that say we need to make dorm residents better trained about alcohol safety and sexual assault. There's been an increase in dorm resident alcohol transports, and the req. to have party hosts party safe trained, b/c of these factors there's a desire to have more of this programming in dorms.
 - Partysafe training → lecture online, in-person session.
 - Baker exec team ran another type of programming → it was run by baker exec, not standardize, got a lot of people to receive education
 - Don C. comes to Random to talk about alcohol every year, well attended

- Panhel has a program called Star, they req. each chapter to organize some event regarding this topic
 - There are lots of various types of programming, admin wants more.
 - 3 options.
 - do what's initially suggested: bring back mandate that has been dropped (parties must have certain number of people pst) this fall, we can hash out details over email after this meeting
 - Sean and Rachel (and I) have discussions with Don C. and vpr about establishing something like Star where each of the dorms put on some programming (some requirement)
 - punt discussion till later
 - Both options b and c are kind of punting. Admin will be sad if we don't follow up after punting so I strongly suggest we do follow up if we punt.
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- Amanda: I went to both Baker's event and my sorority's event, and while both were good reviews I wasn't learning anything new and I felt in a way it was like beating a dead horse.
 - Sonja: I think it's valuable that the req. that the hosts of parties be partysafe trained come back. I don't agree with some other things in your email but I think this is really important. I think EC is interested in having something like that.
 - Haley: I just want to throw in that I think we have to be careful with this; in my sorority they have someone come and speak from MIT at a chapter one time and I thought it was isolating and counterproductive.
 - Kyle: My comments from earlier still stand; people from frats put up with it because they have to. If it's put to dorms it needs to be looked at and more presentable/engaging matter. They're great but not ready to be released to dorms.
 - Kate: I'm more comfortable with something like Star than partysafe training. People don't particularly care about it or get anything out of it. I think it should be something useful.

Sadun: It sounds like we should tell them that we aren't in favor of a req. yet but we're interested in further discussion and I'll tell risk managers this. We'll talk about this next meeting.

3. Freshman rooming

- Chloe: Paul wanted to get a discussion about what people's discussions w/Cindy have been like. Also BC proposed something?

- Reva: Can we discuss this outside of this meeting, we thought it'd be a better idea since talking about changes to REX right now might not be most effective.
- Chloe: What dorms are involved with this?
- Reva: First, whoever's been having conflicts having freshman rooming regarding this conversation, and also people who have been having mutual selection.
- Sonja: We decided we wouldn't reach out to the chancellor, but then she reached out to us and said she was uncomfortable with our system so we want to know as much as possible. I'm in favor of a lengthy discussion about this.
- Arthur: I'm also interested.
- Chloe: It sounds like most dorms would want to be involved. Should we add a dormcon meeting? It could be held next Thursday at 7:30...
- Reva: I think Yo was hoping to have it before next week?
- Chloe: I'll send out a doodle to all presidents. It sounds like most presidents do want to be involved. If we don't get enough response for certain days we can do it on Thursday.
- Kyle: we had a quote signed and dated that no matter what happens we're not going to get an email saying "thanks for talking, this is what we've decided" from Cindy.
- Kate: She also mentioned in our meeting today she didn't understand why students were so unwilling to talk to her, and came to the conclusion that most people thought she was going to force the change on them and wanted us to know that wasn't her intention.
- Sonja: I think the discomfort comes from the fact that she *can* do whatever she wants.
- Sadun: For her to do what she wants would break a lot of MIT policies.
- Chloe: McC has heard that they're making us participate in fyre next year, which we don't want. There are a lot of changes being talked about that may just happen, and we're concerned about this topic as well.

End: 22:23