

DormCon Meeting
May 14, 2015
Location: Baker House

Agenda:

1. Sexual Assault Task Force Meeting Updates
2. REX Guidelines Announcements
3. Gender Inclusive Housing Updates
4. Freedom of Speech Committee Announcements
5. Fall Budget & Carnival Event Funding (McCormick, Baker, Maseeh)
6. GRT Application Questions
7. Freshmen Rooming Conversation and Updates

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	Yonadav Shavit	
Vice President	Caitlin Heber	
Secretary	Jasmeet Arora	
Treasurer	Jacqueline Liu	

Start time: 19:34

Sexual Assault Task Force Meeting Updates

- Sean: Went to sexual assault thing--the Task Force are taking COD procedures and making a completely different procedure out of it for sexual assault specifically--streamlined process that deals with everything that could come up with a sexual assault case. They took students off because survivors didn't want any students on that committee, since it would hinder them from actually reporting sexual assaults. They're going to use 6 members of COD & train them specifically to deal with sexual assault cases, and 3 of them will be on the panel that decides the case. Usually takes long at other schools to resolve these disputes, but they want to get it done within 60 days for each case. Seems like they have a good idea how to handle these things.
- Paul: Who do we contact if someone approaches us about this?
 - Sean: RLAD, VPR directly, or Sarah Rankin (who does the complete initial investigation). VPR is confidential but could contact Rankin for you. They're hiring another investigator.
- Sean: Had a meeting with Don Camilio and Kate McCarthy about PST, and they wanted a recommendation on how to best come into the dorm to get the most number of people PST. They know it's different for each dorm so they want a list of specific recommendations from each dorm.
- Charlotte Swasey is in charge of Star for Panhel, will meet with her soon
- Sadun: It doesn't seem like a Star vs PST sort of thing, because Star isn't a program that we can copy & also it's more important that we get the proper education to the right people than what we name it.
- Sean: Star is run by alum of each sorority, different for each one. We could make PST dorm specific if you have strong feelings about what your dorm should know when throwing a party you can send us these recommendations.
- Yo: Do you know when Don is planning to do all of this?
 - Sean: When I came as a frosh we didn't have the alcohol edu that they do now, but they have orientation events and summer things now. They wanted to hear from dorm presidents to see what time would be best for each dorm. They're flexible and have a lot of money for this, they would give monetary prizes for this to happen. They really want this to happen.
- Chloe: Can you talk about the incentives for people who don't throw parties?
 - Sean: I don't know.. it's also sexual bystander training.
- Sadun: When you met with Don did he want more people PST, or provide the programming to more people?
 - Sean: It seemed like he wanted to do the right programming for each community. They want to reach as many people as they can. They set an unofficial goal of ~70%.
- Yo: It sounds like this would be a good discussion to have next year, anything time sensitive for the summer?

- Sean: Just get the best way you think you'd be able to reach members of your dorm, incentives, etc. and send that to us/Don & Kate.

Gender Inclusive Housing

Yo: We have no updates on this.

Mysterious round of applause for Phoebe

REX Guideline Announcements

- Sadun: We met with Julie Rothar recently to talk about the guidelines we drafted. She also liked them and seemed pretty okay with them, made one or two word changes not relevant to the content of the doc.
- The one thing UAAP might turn its back on is Senior House doing the "cum" thing for all its events, so Rothar is checking with UAAP for that example specifically. We're expecting booklets to be distributed by UAAP this year.

Freedom of Speech Committee Meetings

Apparently everything at these meetings is too confidential to talk about.

Budget

- Caitlin: Jacqui and I came up with this budget, pretty similar to everything in the past. Only the events value has changed because we have less money now.
- Arthur: In events you have \$8000 spent but not itemized?
 - Caitlin: My bad, this shouldn't be spent. This is for next semester. That's how much is available total next sem. We have always printed the REX booklets and the UAAP distributes them. Anything left over will roll over into the spring.
 - Sadun: We won't print them before we get the okay.
- Caitlin: You could also decide to spend less on the REX booklets and not decide to print any.
 - Yuge: They gave us a number that we had to print (1050) so we can't really print less than that.
- Caitlin: They spent a little over \$2000 last year and we had a box extra.
 - Sadun: if you approve us for \$2000 we'd appreciate it because it'd give us buffer but we expect to spend \$1200.
- Caitlin: I'd assume everyone is ok with equally splitting REX funding for each dorm.
- Allan: Last year they printed 1 for every frosh + 100 for every dorm.
- Arthur: I think we should leave it at \$2000, but we could go a little over 1050.
 - Allan: We printed more than usual because they were distributed at dorms.
- Matt: Can we just leave it up to CPW/REX chairs to print booklets and then vote now that all leftover money does go to events?
- Sadun: I'd like to get a sense of how many booklets for each dorm to print as well. We can do that over email.

Budget is passed.

Fall Carnival Proposal

- McCormick Social Chairs: Sep 12 we're going to have fall carnival. Last year we had 700-800 people attend, people from all dorms. Usually each year we have moon bounces, carnival games & food, etc. This year our projected total budget is about 3600 and we're asking for 1527 from Dormcon.
- The event is co-hosted with Baker and Maseeh.
- Arthur: What events has Dormcon usually funded in the past? (in the fall)
 - Chloe: last year we funded this, apple picking, Mcc-Next-Simmons formal, Next haunt, & Bad Ideas.
- Arthur: Would this prevent us from funding the same things?
 - Caitlin: Last year we spent a total of 9850 on events.
 - Paul: I think they proportionally reduce their asking, I think we should support this.

Vote to fund McCormick-Baker-Maseeh Carnival with \$1527 passes.

GRT Application Questions

- Kate: After our GRT selection process, involved students met with house team and we talked about how we didn't really like the essay questions on current GRT applications. Why do you want to be a GRT and What is your definition of community? A lot of the applications are the same for both of those questions. We wanted to look into possibly working with ResLife to possibly change those but want to see how everyone else feels.
- Paul: I'd recommend expanding the application without taking those questions away.
- Chloe: What kinds of questions?
 - Kate: Anything that's more interesting.
- Adri: Does anyone here remember the full process for selecting GRTs?
 - Kate: In Simmons we read them all, select a number to come back for a study break, get student feedback then select for interviews.
 - Adri: I think the second question is stupid and I think we can change it and/or add to it.
 - Chloe: We could come up with a list of like five questions that we want to add that would work for everyone.
- Paul: If we're willing to brainstorm ideas, name an interesting experience in your life and describe in detail?
 - Kate: There's an optional question like that at the end.
- Adri: If we ask a lot of questions nobody will read through all the applications, it needs to be a reasonable length.
- Yo: It doesn't seem like the GRTs understand that the students are reading these, is that made clear to them?

It seems that GRTs who haven't gone here think they're applying to a real job.

- Arthur: Do housemasters also read the application?
 - *Apparently this happens differently in different dorms*

- Kate: I'd be interested in pursuing this further if nobody else wants to.
- Yo: We'll try to come up with questions over email sometime this summer.

Freshman Rooming (Updates per dorm)

- Kate: We haven't done anything more.
- Eric: We're discussing how to make Random more gender-inclusive & having a re-adjustment lottery a few weeks into term.
- Sonja: Our meeting with the chancellor went pretty well, she had some feelings about how algorithms could solve problems but Rob Miller felt differently and it worked really well. The only thing she followed up with us about that she felt strongly about is part of our process that we want to fix as well, so we're on pretty good terms right now. She offered to pay for one or two students this summer to start working on this stuff. We don't have students to do that yet. We're also looking at rooming internally and proposed vague changes to HouseComm last night and looked for a vote of confidence among halls that we should continue to examine this and we got it. The part that we don't like is that some frosh are placed into places they are uncomfortable.
- New House: We reached out to Chancellor & talked with her a little about how we could improve the process.
- Mary: No updates.
- Paul: Our housemaster is against any mutual preference, students were against that. We proposed getting training for RACs so they had diversity & inclusion backgrounds, and at the end the housemaster asked if we were going to change things and nobody said anything.
- Adri: We had a small meeting about this. Chancellor suggested a meeting but secretary never got back to us. There are other issues they have with haus that they care more about. We decided that we wouldn't change our rooming process, but wanted to extend the amount of time they get for hall rush and also have more events earlier on before classes start so everyone can hangout and realize that it's a community whether or not they were placed on their top choice hall.
- Arthur: I met with the chancellor two weeks ago, we like algorithms and she does too so she's happy. I told her I'd be working over the summer to compare the different algorithms we've been using the past three years. We're at the same point as EC.
- Sean: if something has been going on I wasn't informed. Usually we aren't a problem so I'll say nothing's happening with Baker.
- Haley: We had our meeting with the chancellor a month ago, the only thing she seemed interested in changing was allowing frosh to squat their rooms, and then we kind of disagreed and she said it was our decision and she wouldn't really push it. We had a really extensive housing lottery survey, students felt they didn't have enough time during wing rush so we're going to restructure REX a little this year so it's more like extended wing-rush, try to have an event in every wing.

- Paul: can we revisit the idea that maybe we push up when FYRE results come in, so they know where they're going to live for a longer period of time before we have to submit room assignments to housing?
 - FYRE closes at midnight, gets back to dorms a few hours before in-house rush and by that night room assignments need to be final.
- Haley: one of the reasons we decided to make wing events during regular REX is because we don't have that many people who move out, we get like 5 or 6 new people in the dorm out of like 120.
 - Paul: That number is similar to BC, but before the FYRE results come out we only promote BC, and once they come out we make it floor by floor. We could start promote floors earlier instead of waiting for FYRE results.
- Yo: in terms of amount of extension what are numbers you're looking for?
 - Paul: If we could do the process Tuesday, like a day earlier...
- Adri: What's our reason for not pushing back the time that frosh find out their permanent assignments? Instead of freshman getting permanent room results on 7AM thursday, get them 7PM thursday instead? I think we could move back that date instead of trying to infringe more on REX.
 - Sonja: That time after hall rush is scheduled for hall bonding with permanent freshmen, so those people would be sad if we pushed it back. But scheduled hall bonding might be a good way to deal with this.
 - Sadun: It sounds like some dorms would like to postpone permanent assignments until Friday morning. Can we do it dorm by dorm?
 - *Everything needs to happen at the same time because logistics.*
- Caitlin: I think if we pushed it back and some dorms still opted to remain the same way, I don't think it gives them ability to have extra hall rush time. Would giving assignments Thursday and then having social events while moving around and stuff, would this work?
 - Sonja: We'd ask the dorm if they wanted to have hall rush that night or postpone it. If we did, then we would have hall events without them living on their hall yet, which isn't the end of the world.
- Arthur: We'd have FYRE results on Wednesday at 5pm, and then have hall rush whenever the dorm wants.
- Adri: We can use Thursday to have a more chill hall rush, less intense as the in-house rush on Wednesday.
 - Paul: Thursday is when the frosh meet with advisors to schedule classes, so that might have to interrupt these events.
 - Kate: I think Thursday is a bad time to have advisor meetings anyway, it's when everyone's moving.
- Mary: Wednesday has no required events, Thursday has some things with o-leaders, housemaster meetings, Friday there's a class photo at 11, community programming at lunch, activities midway in the afternoon, dinner, then aquarium. Diversity inclusion seminar is Wednesday.

- Sadun: Advisor meetings are Tuesday afternoon but I think they meet again on Thursday to register.
 - Chloe: Advisors decide what they want to do with that.
- Sadun: It seems like there's no time during the day Thursday when dorms can introduce a mandatory event, but there can be casual events during the day and two nights of hall rush and everyone moves to their permanent room Friday morning.
- Arthur: I like the flexibility this offers for each dorm, but if you're a frosh who has to go through a 36 hour process to find out where you're living it might be a lot for them. Do we want to force them to hangout with people or 36 hours without knowing where they're going to live and knowing that their interactions is going to strongly determine where they're going to live for the next year?
 - Adri: If we lengthen it it should stop becoming a grueling process. I think if we stretch it out it'll be less intense. I don't want people to be running around for 36-hours. People can do whatever they want for that time, they should just know where they wanted to live at the end. I was hearing that during in-house rush people don't really get to know the halls and whatever and it doesn't necessarily reflect them. If we make it more lax it'll hopefully relieve some of the pressure.
- Chloe: Would frosh be moving into their actual rooms Friday instead of Thursday? Friday is pretty busy for them, so I do worry that there isn't time for them to move around.
- Sadun: if we were planning for fall 2016, I think the reason why thursday morning is sparse on orientation is because they expect the frosh to move in Thursday. I think they could switch Thursday and Friday in 2016 but we can't really do this this fall.
- Arthur: We could ask for a few hours earlier than 5pm?
 - Paul: I think the thought is that diversity and inclusion ends at 4:30
 - Sadun: The things the freshman do can't start earlier than 5 b/c of mandatory orientation programming
 - Allen: It comes out at 6 and they have to be at the new dorm at 7, we could push it up an hour.
 - Arthur: if you're a freshman and you get the result earlier in the day, your mindset will be different that day and it'll give you more flexibility during the day.
 - Paul: they might not show up to the seminar...
 - Sadun: It's the only big mandatory event from 1:45-4pm. There's lunch before that.
- *People would like the email as soon as possible, like most people would be happy with noon.*
- Things people are interested in seeing implemented this year?
- Paul: If people find the results earlier we will be telling them to come find a community faster. Are people okay with that?
 - *no. getting results earlier doesn't help us that much.*
- Kate: it might help the frosh to know where they're going to be in four hours instead of an hour?

- Holly: As a freshman who attempted to FYRE and was denied it, it would be helpful to get it earlier because I was just upset during all of hall rush. The more time, the better freshman have to adjust.
- *Let's talk about the Friday thing next year.*
- Haley: Is there a way we can ask Housing to put on the housing website that all the dorms that have forced triples that triples are an option in that dorm? Right now in Next it only says singles and doubles.
 - Chloe: Just email them and ask them to change it and they will.
 - Haley: They won't change it because Next house's triples are forced and temporary.
 - Caitlin: Directly email them and we'll go from there.
 - Kate: It says you guys have triples.
 - Phoebe: Sonja & Kyle and I have a meeting with Humphreys tomorrow, we can clarify this with them.
- Sadun: During CPW we had all dorms run a potluck, Communities Who Care. McCormick's was well-attended, but nobody else's was. We talked about a more useful form of this event we could do 2-3 weeks after term starts, housing will give lots of money for each dorm to have a big check-in dinner with all the frosh. This was mentioned for five minutes and is very informal.
 - Yo: Julie mentioned giving Dormcon several thousand dollars to organize this.
- Yo: Next year we're going to be working on mental health on campus. I know a lot of dorms & communities brought up a lot of changes they'd like to see. Dormcon will be more involved in gathering this data next year. I know a lot of dorms this year have been collecting data about deficiencies in support systems, and was wondering if any dorms have compiled any data that they're interested in passing onto us.
- **cricket**
- Paul: I think we'd love to have an RLAD that has mental health training.
- Chloe: Just to add to that, I've talked to my RLAD about this and they do go through some mental health training. Not to the extent that a lot of dorms would like for it to be.

End: 20:43