

**DormCon Meeting  
October 1, 2015  
Location: MacGregor**

**Agenda:**

- 1. Event Funding Application: Mac-Next-Sim Formal**
- 2. Maseeh updates and meeting attendance (w/vote)**
- 3. Treasurer's Council**
- 4. Metropolitan Warehouse updates**
- 5. Freshman Housing Survey draft**
- 6. Parents Weekend Security Policy**
- 7. Judcomm Updates**
- 8. Big Discussion: what are the ideals of a dormitory system?**
- 9. Freshman Dinners**
- 10. Steer Roast Guest Policy**

**Attendance:**

<b>Dorm</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Baker	Mandy Lee	
Burton-Conner	Paul Hager	
East Campus	Sonja Postak	
MacGregor	Arthur Delarue	
McCormick	Mary Delaney	
New House	Trey Watts	
Next House	Haley Horowitz	
Random Hall	Eric Mannes	Proxy: Taylor Sutton
Senior House	Adrianna Rodriguez	
Simmons Hall	Kate Farris	
President	Yonadav Shavit	
Vice President	Caitlin Heber	
Secretary	Sabrina Madera	
Treasurer	Jacqueline Liu	

**Start Time: 19:37**

**0. Introductions**

## 1. Event Funding Application: Mac-Sim-Next Formal

- McCormick Social Chair: Next, McCormick, and Simmons are hosting our fall formal this year, and the theme is submarine. Residents can invite guests as well. DormCon funded last year, they gave us \$1000 and we are requesting this much again out of the total \$12,000.
  - Sadun: Where is it held?
  - McCormick Social Chair: Media lab.
- Mandy: So you said the buses from apple picking came out \$1000 cheaper, right? Baker can fund this.
  - Caitlin: For now we're going to go with what we allocated.
- Paul: I support the MacSimNext formal.
- Sonja: what is our events budget going into this?
  - Caitlin: \$4500.
- Yo: Shall we move to a vote?
  - *Vote: Unanimous Yes*

## 2. Maseeh updates and meeting attendance

- Yo: We've met with MHEC and our decision with that meeting is that Maseeh will be holding a vote to see if they'll be joining DormCon. They will be allowed to join us in two of our next meetings before the vote.
  - *Vote: 1 abstains, 9 yes*

## 3. Treasurer's Council

- Jackie: We're going to reform the Treasurer's Council. The first meeting will be next Wednesday; we'll talk about CVC cards and RLADs taking money from accounts.
- Caitlin: All the student groups make up 30 percent of money processed by MIT; we have a lot of power to affect change. If you want to do that, join the council.

## 4. Metropolitan Warehouse updates

- Yo: We had a meeting with the Metropolitan Warehouse Committee, and there are changes. The 10 people suites, which formerly only had a hallway between them, now have a lounge.
- Caitlin: They decreased the number of people in dorms so we could have more public space. There isn't enough shared space to have events throughout the dorm, though.
- Kate: What is the room configuration?
  - Yo: We have the slideshow, and we will be going around asking dorms on their opinions. We have discussed that going to all of the dorms is a lot of meetings, how can we remedy this?
    - Paul: A common forum?
    - Sonja: East Campis and Senior Haus could meet as one.
- Yuge: Who would be doing the meetings?
  - Yo: The group of 7 students that were present at the meeting with the MWC.

- Sadun: There should be a bigger, general one in W20 for the MIT community, not just targeted undergrads.
- Caitlin: Is it a big deal for us to come to the house meetings?
  - Taylor: You will get much more people in Random to come if it's in Random.
- Caitlin: It should only take about an hour, and it will be around a time where involved students will be able to meet. They can discuss room space, music rooms, etc. In my mind, we would attend all dorms, IFC and Panhel would handle theirs, and the UA would show it at their meeting.
- Yo: Look out for those. We would like to have all these meetings before November.

## 5. Freshman Housing Survey draft

- Sadun: I met with Jag, some of you have sent dorm specific survey questions. I would show the draft but she hasn't come up with it yet.
  - Sonja: Will you email it to us when it comes out?
    - Sadun: Yes.
- Paul: Is there some verification that our questions are useful?
  - Sadun: I've gotten little communication but that's the idea.

## 6. Parents Weekend Security Policy

- Sonja: So, Kyle and I met with Connie: given the timeline and the fact that all dorms have different guest policies, we settled on the second option, no special guest list for Parents Weekend. We're talking to Keith, who's in charge of Allied Barton securities, about what the problems could be, so we can write a form letter you guys can send out to residents. So everyone knows what policies are. In addition, we're also going to come up with a list for parents that will go on signage; a more detailed version will go to the Parent's Association.
  - Caitlin: Can it go on their Facebook page, too?
  - Sonja: Sure. So, that's what we're going to do. The Parent's Association is trying to convince us that Parent's Weekend is doubling the amount of people on campus; if you guys could give feedback about how busy it is in the dorms, like if there is a huge blockage. Then we'll decide if we need a special guest list. If it's not working then we'll decide for the next year.
- Becky: Have you thought about how it'd impact larger communities?
  - Sonja: That's part of the feedback. Dining dorms we also have in mind, large dorms in particular is what the policy is developed for. We're going to try to solve this with information, and we'll try something next year if it doesn't work.

## 7. JudComm updates

- Lily: Thanks to all who filled the questionnaire. I'm just missing New, Next, and Baker. We're getting really mixed results, but we're just trying to compile something. We're planning on meeting with Kevin Craft so we can actually decide what we want out of this.

- Caitlin: But it's no longer on the CJAC agenda.
- Lily: We're going to figure out what they want from JudComms, if they want to standardize it etc... A lot of the base stuff is in the constitution, if you guys could read it. It's being rewritten and reworked. We are seeing what's worked and what hasn't, so we can fix those bugs.
  - Sadun: Are ya'll looking at the constitution to change the way we do things or change the way it's written?
    - Lily: The way it's written; a lot has been left to interpretation, so to make it more clear, more specific, to make our lives easier.

## 8. Big Discussion: what are the ideals of a dormitory system?

- Yo: We're going to have a new Vice President for Student Life next year. Sadun has printed out a sheet with previous iteration of the ideals of a dorm system. I would like to go into more specifics, and it'd be worth it to have a discussion on this. Does anyone want to start us off?
  - Sadun: Give people beds.
    - Yo: Provide shelter, is that better?
- Sadun: Housing should be safe, clean, and affordable according to the sheet.
- Caitlin: It'd be nice to have more space, because some people can't live on campus. More low occupancy rooms, and enough housing to house everyone.
  - Kate: MIT won't have low occupancy dorms though, it'll be more expensive.
  - Arthur: Triples and Quads are pretty unpopular.
  - Caitlin: These are ideals; they don't have to be completely feasible.
- Taylor: A sense of community?
  - Yo: Can we break that down?
    - Taylor: Feeling like you fit in, not feeling alone.
  - Sadun: There's a lot you can get out of feeling in a community: sense of identity, sense of family, culture, etc... Do we want everyone feeling like they fit in?
  - Kate: A place where everyone feels comfortable.
- Paul: The availability of food.
  - Taylor: Kitchen or dining halls in all residences.
    - Sonja: Are both necessary in a house though?
  - Adri: I really like what Macgregor has, it has a place where you can get things, and there is a lot of space to cook food.
  - Arthur: Always the ability to make your own food, and if the community wants it, a dining hall.
- Adri: I also think subcultures are fairly important; it's a way to get a very tight knit, small, community. I feel like Senior Haus as a dorm has a good balance, so people will say they live on x hall, but we are cohesive as a house.
- Caitlin: An escape from academia.
  - Sadun: A place to explore and escape academia.
    - Caitlin: You should still be able to do academic things in the dorms, but it shouldn't feel obligated.

- Sadun: The Meta ideal is variety and choice, so residents can choose what they want.
  - Lily: It feeds into the idea that when you go off to college, you gain a lot of autonomy, so people should feel like they have choice.
- Sadun: All the things we like from MIT culture, like culture of exploration, discovery; the residence system propagates those values and ought to.
- Sonja: On the flip side, there are things like diversity. It crosses a lot of lines and it's hard to find where these lines are, so diversity across many axes.
  - Paul: Also, the ability to choose wherever you feel comfortable.
- Sadun: Opportunities to grow, and make friends. A residence system is essentially a bubble, what are the ideals of a university social life? The ability to learn from different people. Provide opportunities for personal growth.
  - John Doe: Personal growth is very vague.
  - Sadun: Opportunities to develop responsibility and judgment.
- Arthur: It should be like a place where you learn to become an adult, a member of society.
  - Kate: Learn to be respectful of other human beings.
- Taylor: Do we want to include Housemasters, GRTs, RLADs into the ideals?
  - Sonja: Support beyond your peers, that would be a way to reach the ideals.
  - Taylor: But if you have trouble, someone who's job description is to be a support.
  - Rachel: I think what we're getting at is having someone to provide mentorship.
  - Paul: I can imagine a person wanting total autonomy in a dorm system, but the choice.
  - Sadun: When I think of mentorship I'm not thinking of anyone more than 4 years older than me, I'm thinking of all the seniors who provided mentorship when I was a freshman.
  - Yo: Let's say instead of a GRT, I had a faculty member, where I didn't feel like I was forced to talk. It should be to provide a connection to MIT.
- Sadun: You can frame this as being ways the dormitory system connects you to the wider MIT community.
  - Sonja: In a similar way, like sororities and fraternities, connecting you to a network of people who extend beyond your time here.
- Caitlin: Creating a unique MIT environment that makes MIT different is written on the paper; I don't think that should be important. I quoted it because in a way, people want us to be unique, but is that important? A goal should not be to be different.
  - Kate: We can make the ideal a residence system is flexible enough to implement ideas that we didn't come up with.
  - Sadun: The residence system should be flexible.
  - Kate: Open to change.
- Taylor: I was thinking about house government. One thing is ownership; students run a lot of what goes on. Another is leadership; there should be opportunities to lead in housing.

- Sadun: The people in the 90s wouldn't shut up about this, they thought student government should make up 2/3 of their discussion. Sense of ownership is also important.
  - Kate: Do we want a sense of ownership or actual ownership?
- Adri: Do you understand how many times I've dreamt of becoming a millionaire and buying Senior Haus in the future?
- Caitlin: My issue is, it may be an ideal but won't be a reality in any sense.
- Yo: I think ownership over a public space is valuable, but ownership over an entire building is unrealistic.
- Kate: A non false sense of ownership.
- Mandy: A sense of ownership is when you feel as if you have ownership but you don't actually have it. Ownership itself is when you feel like it's yours and you want to take responsibility over it.
- Kate: I think we want both ownership and a sense of ownership.
- Sonja: Someone can own individual parts of the dorm, but you want everyone to feel a sense of ownership in the dorm.
- Sadun: Respect, to treat the residents with respect, as people who are trying to live and not people who are trying to be managed.
- Yo: It's important that we not view this as the metrics that we view our current system as.
  - Sadun: Like what do other schools do that we don't even try to do.
- Trey: You might want to put something there about sustainable. Environmentally sustainable, physically sustainable, culturally, etc...
  - Sadun: The ideal that's being referenced to is that it lives longer than the undergrads living there.
  - Rachel: A lot of what we're touching on falls under the community idea of a residence hall. Sustainability is more of the infrastructure of the building, which can still be an ideal.
- Arthur: For function over form; we want a physical space to serve the community and not a community to serve the space.
- Adri: Not everyone is going to agree that these are all ideals. A lot of the points are a balance, but we have to recognize that one person's set of ideals won't be another's. I don't want a homogenous system. That variety is going to come from things listed and things not listed. If the residence system as a whole has a set of ideals, that is going to be a lot smaller.
- Kate: Do you think it is a good idea to have a Google form throughout the dorms?
  - Sadun: If you want to reach the student body as a whole, why not just ask the students what they wished MIT would do or not do?
  - Kate: I'm willing to synthesize a list for Simmons.
- Yo: It would be great if the presidents could go back to their communities and bring back the other things they find.
- Caitlin: The first meeting for the Vice President of Student Life search is tomorrow. They got me thinking of trying to illicit feedback from you and your residents, is there a better way to get in touch with your residents?
  - Adri: I did a poll in my dorm, I can send you a document. I literally just had a Google form of open ended questions.

- Sadun: Caitlin, do you feel that the stuff you got from the last public spamming was enough?
- Caitlin: The thing is, this is a dynamic process and things will change. It's important to people that the candidate is a minority candidate.
- Sadun: Why don't you do what Matt did when the Mind and Hand book was under review? Make a mailing list.
  - Caitlin: My job is to represent DormCon and the dorms.
  - Arthur: The mailing list only gets the vocal minority.
- Caitlin: Is the best way to just keep presidents updated and you will give it to your residents?

## 9. Freshman Dinners

- Yuge: The point is to get the freshman in one place for a check in; to get it set up just talk to an RLAD or house team member. Julie sent me a packet on what to say to the freshman, but it's all statistics. If you want to talk about that with your freshmen, go ahead, not sure how that's supposed to help them. What they need is more official MIT support. Timeline wise, I need people to send me when they're doing large study groups, etc. Dining hall dorms, since they can't fit all of their freshman, you can section off a portion of dining for their freshman, and you can use the money from Julie to buy better drinks, food, etc. For non dining, you will be given money, but you can also cook.
  - Haley: So we have to do dinner?
    - Yuge: You can do a study break. She said it was okay if people only stayed for 15 minutes, as long as you can talk to them.
- Mandy: Where does she expect us to come up with a time?
  - Mary: Can we just do it at 9pm, so it'd be more accessible?
  - Caitlin: If you're unsure you can ask your house team.
- Sonja: If you can get us a budget, that'd be great. Also next week, the flags come out. Monday?
  - Becky: They'll all be out by the 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - Sonja: I think this would be more effective after the flags come out.
  - Yuge: Julia and I had this idea, where you can talk to the freshman about the flags. The other thing is, you can invite professors or faculty. If you have trouble reaching out, Julie can help. About budget, dining hall dorms would have 1-2 dollars per person, and non dining hall dorms would have on average 7-8 dollars.
- Haley: Dinners don't work. I can't do a dinner. It's just logistically complicated.
- Mary: I don't think a dinner would be effective.
- Sadun: I think the number should be equal, so the dining dorms can use the money for anything.
- Arthur: Can we ask her for more money? If we want to organize events, we need more.
- Haley: We can hold a study break in dining after dining hours.
- Caitlin: If everyone got the same amount of money, it would be \$450.
  - Yuge: We need to include Maseeh.

- Caitlin: It shouldn't be on the order of \$100 for Maseeh, it should be at least \$225.
- Sadun: Why can't we do 4-5 dollars per freshman?
- Haley: Only giving Next \$150 to do study breaks, it would be impossible.
- Yuge: Would people be opposed to me scaling regularly by numbers?
  - Haley: I'm okay with giving non dining dorms more, but \$1.50 per freshman is not possible.
- Arthur: We should give her an amount we want, not just say we want more.
  - Sonja: 5 dollars a head?
  - Sadun: Right now she's giving us 4 dollars a head?
    - Taylor: It's \$5 per freshman and then subtract the freshman who won't come.
  - Sonja: My suggestion is to ask for \$5 a head.
  - Sadun: And then allocate based on the number of freshman.
  - Sonja: Even is fine.
- Yo: I do want to mention one more thing, which is the curriculum of these events. In your dorms, reaching out to the relevant people part of these groups, contact house teams.
- Sadun: Do all dorms MedLinks have a dinner like ours did?
- Yuge: Julie specifically sent a list of statistics; she's trying to get more information out there instead of just study breaks.
  - Becky: You can do this passively, like put it on the tables where they are. Not like a TedTalk.
- Taylor: Is the idea to have a couple of upperclassmen there for advice?
- Caitlin: Our last point is to possibly section via GRT section, if you think that's relevant.
- Yuge: I'll send out the points and chart.

## 10. Steer Roast Guest Policy

- Adri: I have been talking to our Steer Roast Veeps, because we're already planning it. One problem is our PubVeep last year didn't do anything; also the chancellor gave us a severely reduced guest list. Also, alums weren't given access to the house. Overall, we had much less of campus at Steer Roast, which is a big problem. Last year, when we were planning it, the chancellor said this was supposed to be the "model event" for any big events, how can we expand the guestlist, or how can we get our PubVeep to do more? The fact is, not enough of MIT students show up, and it is typically only Senior Haus residents.
  - Arthur: How does the guestlist work?
    - Adri: Each resident is allowed to invite 4 people, if they are party safe, and 1 person can stay overnight. The regular guest list doesn't work. A lot of the events happen in the courtyard, so the only stuff people are missing out on are the hall decorations. You still get access to most of Steer Roast via the courtyard, you just need an MIT ID.
  - Sadun: What was the policy like before Allied Barton?

- Adri: Before, we could have 4 guests in the day and 4 at night, and alums were given access to Haus. Before that, there was no list at all.
- Sadun: What is the normal negotiation line?
  - Adri: We've been arguing with the same group of people.
- Paul: Allied Barton is a little friendlier if the dorm is sectioned off in some way, but that doesn't work well for Steer Roast I presume.
- Adri: The other point is that I'm upset because I can only bring 4 people into Steer Roast, when every other night I could bring the entirety of DormCon. If you say you want to come, I can try and fight for more people.
  - Taylor: Didn't you say this was the model event? In that case everyone should have access, right?
    - Adri: The thing is, if East Campus Day becomes a regular thing, they would have to follow our ideas as well.
- Haley: I don't not like the guest list idea, because you don't want random people, but I think it is strict. Maybe an expanded list where you can give one non-MIT member access and a lot more MIT students.
- Caitlin: Does anyone have any other brainstorming ways on how to get residents to Steer Roast?
- Becky: I knew Steer Roast was a thing as a freshman, but I had no idea what it was.
- Adri: We're redesigning the poster and adding a QR code to get courtyard access. We'll have all the bands and events, like mud wrestling, to let people know they can come. We have one resident that's been making really solid videos we can link to. We're plastering these posters literally everywhere.
  - Caitlin: Lobby 10 slideshow?
    - Adri: It might be worth it.
  - Alan: Infinite display is super easy.
- Arthur: If you want to come to our meetings, I'm sure everyone is fine with that.
  - Haley: I would be fine with you coming to a house meeting, but I won't be president then.
- Caitlin: Is this the first full weekend in May?
  - Adri: Yes.
- Mary: Do you have a thing where if someone's at desk, you can let people in?
  - Adri: Not during Steer Roast.
- Caitlin: If you have 10 people per resident in the dorm it's because it violates fire code safety.
  - Kate: There's no provision now though to prevent every resident from bringing 10 people in.
- Sadun: It sounds like what Adri is really asking for is help in lobbying the chancellor. Is there going to be a committee again this year?
- Caitlin: Yo and I should attend this meeting with you.
  - Adri: That's if there is a meeting, and every year things get stricter and stricter. Last year, Rodrigo and I put in 30 man-hours just getting Steer Roast to happen. At some point, I know I'll have to talk to someone, and at that point in time I'd like support.

**End Time: 21:16**