

DormCon Meeting

February 26, 2015

Location: Senior House

Agenda:

1. Judy Robinson (HPEC, hazing prevention, Title IX, etc.)
2. Gender Inclusive Housing Updates
3. Move Out Date Policy
4. Meeting with Dean Freeman about Mental Health
5. CPW
6. REX
7. House Team Survey
8. i3
9. Coffee and Puppies Event
10. Support in dorms (what each community has been doing/plans to do)
11. Administrator Response to Recent Events

Attendance

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Amanda Lee	
Burton-Conner	Paul Hager	
East Campus	Sonja Postak	
MacGregor	Arthur Delarue	Proxy: Jack Greenfield/Elena de la Paz
McCormick	Mary Delaney	
New House	Matthew Davis	
Next House	Haley Hurowitz	Proxy: Kyle Saleeby
Random Hall	Eric Mannes	
Senior House	Adrianna Rodriguez	
Simmons Hall	Kate Farris	Proxy: Alex Delmore
President	Chloe Orphanides	
Vice President	Walter Menendez	x
Secretary	Jasmeet Arora	Proxy: Yuge Ji
Treasurer	Caitlin Heber	

Start time: 19:34

1. Judy Robinson (HPEC, hazing prevention, Title IX, etc.)

- Summary(Judy) on Hazing Initiative: DSL hazing committee(few years back) and redo of policy(last year)- the committee currently has representatives from various student groups and advisory committees (ex/ Dormcon, Panhel, etc). Some of their action items: first-year anti-hazing initiatives, new member program recognition(ie. recognizing groups that make an effort to welcome new members), focus groups. Conversation items: definition of hazing, building group identity in positive ways.

Questions: (answers are all by Judy Robinson)

- Chloe: How successful has the new member recognition?
 - Has gotten a 3-4 submissions so far
 - Pros to doing it well - award at end of year ceremony,
- Matthew: Is there any new program that introduces freshmen to the definition of hazing?
 - In the works, adding to the freshmen introduction curriculum (w/Haven, etc)
- Sonja: How can we update upperclassmen and make sure comprehensively prevent hazing on all levels?
 - Tap into the influence of upperclassmen
 - consider a community of peers that actively prevent hazing
 - note: transition of Judy's role to Don ???
 - note: "new" anonymous hazing reporting form on MIT website
 - separate and specific investigators for student groups, athletics, living groups
 - would be good if that could become a better known resource
- Phoebe: Current status of the alcohol and drug policies?
 - Last year: "small" committee on updates to alcohol, drugs, weapons, violence, etc
 - Currently updated in the Mind and Hand book
 - Open to looking at said policies again
 - looking at the procedure and protocol again this year in new committee (with UA rep, GSE rep, etc?)
 - considering asking out (via The Tech perhaps)
 - revising the Health Seeking Protocol to include other drugs (not just alcohol)
 - HSP: non-disciplinary response to students reporting under the influence conditions, to ensure the safety of students with friends who don't want to get in trouble

- does not apply to GRTs or nightwatch (because...)
 - goal is early intervention
 - Gaurav: not only over 21?
 - Yes, applies to under 21.
- Someone: What's the course of action for the committee?
 - What's the most effective way to get student feedback on hazing?
 - Qualtrics survey
 - Dining
 - UA (or merged) study break (food, quick, email with link to...)
- Sadun: When do you meet?
 - Every other Wednesday.
- Chloe: If anyone has more individual/collective feedback or more concerns, they can send an individual email to Judy Robinson.

2. Gender Inclusive Housing Updates

- Phoebe: Still trying to meet with the housemasters - **again, for those who haven't, talk to housemasters and send implementations to Phoebe and Matt.**
 - Also trying to get together with students to talk about implementations - and if you're the one implementing the system, you cannot vote on whether or not to implement GIH
- (who?) If a dorm's housemasters are slow in the process, are other dorms going to proceed?
 - Phoebe: admins want the dorms to generally start GIH plans at the same time

3. Move Out Date Policy

- Kyle Saleeby (VP from Next) - new deadline is 5pm Sunday
 - form has been released, any student who fills the form can be guaranteed stay past Saturday
 - trying to get Metro to stay open Sunday

4. Meeting with Dean Freeman about Mental Health

- Walter and Chloe met with Dean Freeman (see email from Walter)

- **ask dorm residents what they would like to see in the form of reducing academic stress and report back**

5. CPW

- Basically no 1am events were allowed in the booklet
 - talk to Gaurav if you're holding an event after 1am (secret planning)
 - CPW Survey Questions
 - sent updates to Katie Kelley on a few detailed thoughts (See Sadun's email)
 - **Let Sadun know if you have any suggestions**
 - Adrianna: Everything has to be rated G?! (Senior house event)
 - Yo: Yes, you can't use the word erotic because everything has to be super G rated. Will **talk to Katie about being okay with PG-13**
- "Freedom of Speech" Committee - ...actually on the MIT Mural Policy?!
- "implications of our policies will be far reaching"?
 - yet to see what action items will come out of it

6. REX

- Sadun will be coming up with a set of some guidelines that will be approved by administration and then used for the REX booklet
 - Discuss at next meeting: what should go into such guidelines

7. House Team Survey

- Summary: Each dorm president will be sending out a survey (online focus group) to residents
 - Options: take suggestions and make personalized survey OR Matt and Phoebe can make a dorm personalized one for you
 - make sure to include points with RLAD, House team, housemasters, (some other stuff) and finally, might as well throw student government in there
 - kerberos will not be attached to responses
 - if you use M/P's link, all responses will head to one comprehensive form
 - **let Matt and Phoebe know which option you're taking**

- Chloe: it looks long.
 - Matt: response rate will probably be lower, but the questions are valuable enough - especially for the people who actually fill out the survey, the responses will be valuable

8. i3

- Summary: Meeting with Humphreys (who had caught wind of the i3 boycott) (see Adrianna's email)
 - you get 1 fuck per video (lol)
 - clarified many of our previous questions
- Sadun: How would have Senior House's video from last year fared under these clarified guidelines?
 - Was probably also not kosher since it was sexually offensive
 - Humphreys: "I personally find the cockroaches offensive but I'm not going to tell you to take them out."

Going forward:

- Kyle: Columbo doesn't like it - take it and run.
- Vote to submit videos: no dissent, **videos will be submitted to ResLife!**

9. Coffee and Puppies Event (Coffee, Cookies, Conversation, and Canines)

- student gathering started by Panhel - open gathering just to talk with MIT Health and administration
- **forward the pub email to respective dorm residents**
- would be great if **presidents and exec could attend** (and get some residents)
- great chance for people to ask questions/get clarification regarding certain points of policy

10. Support in dorms (what each community has been doing/plans to do)

Burton-Connor

- study breaks with house masters, with medlinks and peer-ears, talks with people in the house

Simmons

- same as above + Bob Randolph

McCormick

- same as above

Next

- same, + personal statements from students mean a lot

Maseeh

- Floor meeting, conversation (Becky's apartment is open late :)
- reflection activity
- creating times to be together

MacGregor

- Medlinks study breaks
- discussion and details about medical leave and accessing MIT Medical

Random

- visit from liaison from mental health, general chats

East Campus

- formal or informal events, opening up spaces for discussion
- did end up on ec-discuss
 - planning a sleep-in (sleep-in@mit.edu) (sleeping in the infinite as a demonstration - with a list of topics that they would like to see administration pursue, more pressure to see certain student goals/little goals(ex/timeline to vacate, waiting time to talk to MIT Medical) happen)
 - 1 night, not intended to be antagonistic, just consequential

New House

- Cards
- Communal Meals (Pancake Breakfasts), Tea Party - chance at conversation
- QPR (Suicide Prevention) Workshop
- Wellness Chair - coalescing initiatives to better mental health and support
- considering larger discussion

Senior

- food + discussion - improving the general attitude, doorstops, emails about mental health information
- medlinks reached out to their mental health liaison

Baker

- notes of encouragement - allow people to walk into rooms, have personal conversation
- Chloe: Do dorms even know there is a mental health liaison?
 - EC + Senior: comes in every fall (people know they exist)
 - otherwise unknown to non-president residents
 - Yo: **encourage the housemasters to reach out to medical liaisons and make sure residents know about them**

11. Administrator Response to Recent Events

Flow of Information

- Chloe: Opinion of response?
 - Panhel not happy regarding news of Christina - APhi heard about it after Maseeh
- Sonja: well dealt with in East Campus - met to ask about things to withhold or general opinions before a mass email was sent
- Pheobe: flow of information
 - Cindy Barnhart asked about opinions about sensitivity regarding how information is distributed/withheld - **email Pheobe with thoughts**
- Sonja: ex/MIT Police should have an SOP on mental health issues

Response to Faculty Response

- Amanda: 8.02 was great (Professor opened discussion to the floor and listened to student opinion), but 5.111 was very disappointing (Professor made no comment until emailed)
- Sonja: open, honest conversation from faculty makes a huge difference
- Chloe: 16.00 professor brought up that they were asked, which diminished the sincerity of the statement
 - Adrianna: but you don't want professors to fake sincerity
 - Chloe: Right, so **it would be good to have a resource for Professors to ask about what to say**
- But sometimes, faculty say nice things but deny extensions
- If there is an issue with a Professor, **you can report the concern to Dean Freeman or Ed Berschinger directly**
- **Class Council would like to hear feedback** - reaching out to Professors was a coalition between the Presidents of the four classes
- Kyle: example of good response from Course 2:
 - Professor talked conversationally and personally about his time and experience - not as faculty, but as an individual
- Adrianna: Some freshmen advisors reached out for individual meetings with freshmen
- Request student responses about what worked/was helpful
- Yo: example of moving/exceptional response: 6.001 professor was incredible in its degree of humanity, which means a lot to the students

- Professor spoke honestly and emotionally about the effect on him
- Amanda: in consideration for the “humanity of teaching”
 - Point: Professors are *not* hired to be sympathetic people
 - Sonja: Point: perhaps not being able to connect with your students does not make you a bad professor, but being able to connect with and inspire your students does make a much *better* professor
 - Caitlin: Point: some professors may be less adept at connecting emotionally, in which case it’s the effort that matters
- Matthew: there are indeed currently **no resources for Professors who are unsure how to reach out to their students**
- Sonja: a concern professors have is that leeway that they give would be breaking rules/guidelines, which is in part what was so helpful about Cindy Barnharts email
- Consider the OmBuds office (as a private resources that can do things on your behalf - keeps the student anonymous)