DormCon Meeting
March 3rd, 2016
Location: Simmons Hall

Agenda:
1. **Discussion on the Reference Material on Commonly Abused Substances**
2. **The Tech is hanging out with us**
3. **Funding Applications:**
    a. **Steer Roast**
    b. **Piano Drop**
4. **Party-related Discussion(s)**
5. **Storage Updates**
6. **CPW Budget**
7. **VPSL transition document**
8. **Transparency**

Attendance:

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Elizabeth Cox	Proxy: Sean Corocan
Burton-Conner	Flora Liu	
East Campus	Piper Lim	
MacGregor	Ki-Jana Carter	
Maseeh Hall	Billy Moses	
McCormick	Susan Mullen	
New House	Sarah Wharton	Proxy: Colin Godwin
Next House	Kyle Saleeby	
Random Hall	Issac Grosof	x
Senior House	Sarah Melvin	
Simmons Hall	Yuge Ji	
President	Yonadav Shavit	
Vice President	Caitlin Heber	
Secretary	Sabrina Madera	
Treasurer	Jacqueline Liu	

Start Time: 19:35

0. Introductions

1. Discussion on the Reference Material on Commonly Abused Substances

- Hairo: Last semester, you might've noticed Chancellor Barnhart's email. A lot of people felt that the reference materials were really bad. We're looking at the drug charts Zak Fallows made, and I'm here to ask on input on what you'd like to see. If you would like to see visuals or anything, Don Camilio would also like input on how to better reach out. There are posters, and on the TV screens, but they're not very effective. I'll give out my email so you can come to me.
- Eric: What reference materials did MIT distribute before this and how, and does MIT do anything to teach people to use drugs safely like they do alcohol?
  - Hairo: The reference materials are included in the Mind and Hand book; it's badly organized, it's taken from the NIA website, and it needs updating. As far as educating, I don't think there's an official thing, as Party Safe is for alcohol.
- Ru: My freshman year, we had Simon and June from Mental Health talk to us about using safely.
- Hairo: So I looked at the policy, and it just requires us to have materials that are accurate. In the case of emergency, there will be disciplinary action, under these guidelines.
- Sarah: Are you also looking at the Good Samaritan policy?
  - Hairo: Don has inputs, but I'm not currently working on it.
  - Matt: That's being worked on by a committee I'm on.
- Hairo: I just wanted to draw upon DormCon, if you have any suggestions.
- Yo: Any thoughts on methods of publicity?
- Kim: I'm a MedLink and I saw this is something MedLinks have, they're always looking for events to hold in their dorms, if you get someone from Mental Health or Medical to come in and teach students how to use safely, that'd be good.
- Ru: As for legality, the way it was framed was also like how to help your friend.
- Kim: I'll propose it to my MedLinks, you could suggest it to yours in light of the changes.

2. The Tech is hanging out with us

- Yo: Karleigh from the Tech is hanging out with us. It's important to make sure the Tech and Karleigh are friends; it's important they be informed what is going on in dormitories.
- Karleigh: Yo and I have been talking about the best way for the Tech to interact with DormCon. We hope that you'll never see your name in the paper without you knowing, and if there's anything you think the Tech should be investigating, you should let us know.
- Yo: To clarify, I don't want any of you to feel less comfortable talking. Otherwise, thanks for spending time with us.

3. Funding Applications

- Yo: The first funding application is for Steer Roast.

- Hansa: I'm one of the Veeps for Steer Roast. It is an event by Senior Haus for the MIT community; it's an annual event. A lot of alums come back, and anyone in the community can sign up for courtyard access. The main event is a concert, there's also mud wrestling. We're asking for about $5000 to fund this concert.
- Caitlin: What is DormCon funding?
  - Hansa; The band or concert, it's open to everyone in the MIT community. In addition to the people who have courtyard access, there's also the guests of residents.
- Yo: I know there was a comment that the event tends to be publicized more to the East Side.
- Hansa: Yeah, we have a website at senior.haus, and we're renting out the screens in the Infinite, also posters.
- Sean: Baker forum is moderated, so you have to get a resident to post it.
- Caitlin: In the future, bring a flyer maybe.
- Kyle: I had no idea of the capacity of the courtyard.
- Ru: Last year, there was definitely room for a lot more people.
- Hansa: The only thing you can't access is the inside of the house, for security reasons.
- Sarah: How far in advance will registration end?
  - Hansa: About two weeks before, and we're going to get the screens before that.
- Ru: We have some really nice videos of past year's Roast.
- Yo: It's also worth considering the UA Byte.
- Sean: I was concerned last year about giving so much of our budget for one event. I think it's a concern we should think about. If other people decide they want to do events in the future, there's going to be fights between dorms.
  - Ru: Our hope is that this becomes an all campus event; we really don't want it to be exclusive.
- Billy: If you're interested, I'd love to have you come put posters in Maseeh.
  - *Vote taken; 9 yes, one abstain, vote passes*
- Sean: As we do every Spring, Baker is doing the annual Piano Drop on drop date, April 24th at 4pm. We're asking for funding for advertising and stuff to fill the piano, like candy and confetti.
- Caitlin: How much did we spend on this last year?
  - Jackie: $1600.
  - Caitlin: Is there a reason for the increase?
  - Jackie: In 2014, it was $3100.
  - *Vote taken; 9 yes, 1 abstain, vote passes*
- Billy: How much of the budget is remaining?
  - Jackie: About 4 grand.

5. Party Related Discussion
- Rachel: The first thing we want to address is Party Safe Plus, how many dorms have had Party Safe done? 3. Are there dorms interested in having it?
  - Flora: Party Safe was run in Burton 3rd, but only their floor.

- Rachel: It's something you all should try to do. You should try and coordinate the second part of it through your RLAD, I sent a link to the online portion. CDSA said they publicized it this year, but I don't think it was very effective. This is the first time they're offering Party Safe Plus. Do people in your dorms know they have to do Party Safe Plus again?
- Sarah: We've only recently heard this, there was no communication from anyone except you guys.
- Rachel: Maybe this is something to revisit. We want to know if it's relevant and helpful, if there's anything to add.
- Sean: Currently we're doing the scenario on a dorm by dorm basis, do you like dorm specific focuses?
    - Sarah: I like dorm specific ones.
- Sean: I know in Senior Haus it would be different, but in Baker I tried to do it and I got 4 people. Are there dorms with large amounts of people that would like a centralized thing?
    - Kate: Why can't it be both?
    - Rachel: It can.
- Sonja: I think it'd be reasonable to have one or two general ones in addition. I think smaller sessions are better, though.
- Rachel: They said they were doing posters and publicizing a lot. The case now is that if a floor in a community gets more than 60 percent training, they get a couple hundred dollars.
- Sonja: I asked our RLAD if they could provide us with the people who were Party Safe trained, and it never happened, I asked multiple times with sufficient time, I think it would be very valuable. How do we know what percent we're at?
- Sarah: Is this incentive specifically for Plus?
- Rachel: If there's any way we can help to get Party Safe Plus to run, a couple people have told me they want to do it but can't get their residents to come. When we were working with them last semester, they came up with a thing like getting money for food.
- Sarah: We run a couple sessions every year, and the one with Simon Lajun is the most popular one.
- Caitlin: Can you look into who does the scenarios?
- Sarah: More of a discussion with a medical professional would be better.
- Rachel: Are there things you think Party Safe lacks? For people to be prepared to deal with their friends. The next thing we wanted to address is party registration, if people register them, if there's other systems you'd rather see, any general thoughts?
- Sarah: I think the timeline disincentives people from registering.
- Sean: With the new Atlas system, it changed.
- Yo: My understanding is that there are other schools with more lenient policies, and they get much more registration.
    - Kyle: We should look at Caltech.
    - Sarah: Harvard also has a very good policy.
        - Rachel: Their alcohol policy is very detailed.
- Yo: I think it would be great for us to draft some guidelines.

- Rachel: Don is pretty reasonable, he approaches things from a health and safety perspective. Currently, you can register a party on Atlas, which everyone can do. For alcohol, you have to be 21 to register.
- Sean: I asked why we couldn't Party Safe train people as soon as they get on campus.
- Caitlin: In Simmons, the GRTs and the RLADs have an alcohol awareness thing.
- Rachel: Do other dorms do similar things? No.
- Sarah: Can they train students to do that? I feel like it'd be better to hear this stuff from your peers.
- Flora: I can't speak for every floor, but on mine there isn't a required meeting. Anytime a GRT feels like posting a study break, it happens.
- Rachel: Something Don was talking about was tweaking things to work for each dorm.
- Sonja: The rules for the party things come from the Mind and Hand book, and I think you'll have a hard time changing that, like with the 1AM rule for CPW, and parties also end at 1AM. MIT undergrad events can't use their money for alcohol.
- Yo: Coming up with a policy that is reasonable enough is the first step to getting any change.

5. Storage Updates
- Kyle: Storage updates, the two part storage system. We focused on a couple of logistics with the company and the insurance, the days we're looking for drop off dates in the fall, the 15th, 19th, and 26th. The main thing we were talking about lock in dates, potentially July 15th for freshman, and August 5th for upperclassmen. We might have a chance to meet with the insurance soon, we're trying to get Piece by Piece to go dorm to dorm. DSL issued boxes for in dorm storage, once your stuff is put in, in the summer it will be untouchable, it will be similar to Simmons.
- Sonja: I still need storage chairs from Random, Senior Haus, New, Maseeh. MacGregor, Burton Conner, Maseeh doesn't have in dorm storage, ideally you can send someone as a rep.
- Kyle: The survey I sent out, please send it out to your residents, I'll send out a full email with all the details.
- Sonja: A DSL ResLife email will go out next week that will briefly outline in dorm and external storage solutions. DSL wants to manage very little of it, you should discuss with your housemanager.
- Kyle: There's now summer-storage-questions@mit.edu.
- Sarah: I have a question about it being locked, does that mean students can't use it during the school year?
    - Kyle: No.
    - Sonja: Senior Haus and EC are the exceptions because it's in the basement. They're not excited about it, but the space is basically useless for us, and Random.
- Kim: You mentioned dorm storage had to be an approved space, do those already exist as storage?

- - Kyle: They used designated, what they consider designated has a lock on it.
    - Caitlin: Floor plans will also say storage or closet.
    - Sonja: Theoretically, they could designate additional space.
  - Kyle: They also have to clean them out very soon.
  - Yo: I think you'll have another round of storage updates in two weeks.

6. CPW Budget
  - Yo: CPW budget, as you know, DormCon allocates $5000 to CPW every year, 5500 this year, and that money is distributed to the dorms to subsidize events. Historically, every year we've split it $500 equally, is anyone opposed to dividing CPW equally? Ok, so the vote to divide the budget equally.
    - *Vote taken; unanimous yes.*

7. VPSL Transition Document
  - Yuge: So, the VPSL transition, basically Suzy is going to come into her position this summer, and the committee will present to her a 10-20 page document on what we think she should know about undergrad life at MIT. We can't explicitly offer opinions on specific policies, other than that, we are free to draft whatever we want. I want to get some ideas on what to add.
  - Kim: How far along in developing this 20 page document is the committee?
  - Yuge: Zero! What would you want to tell a VPSL, or what do you value about your MIT experience?
  - Yo: I think talking about student autonomy would be great.
  - Kate: Self expression.
  - Caitlin: Take the job description and flush it out, read her job description, and describe it in detail.
  - Yuge: Right now, we have, out of order, student government, we also have one on residential life, on student groups or activities, and a miscellaneous portion for things like the Tech, other sections?
  - Kyle: Understanding what students are going through would help.
    - Yuge: Academics will be covered by the undergrad education department, what exactly do you want?
    - Kyle: Understanding what a student feels when they go to class here, to be hosed.
    - Kate: The DUE report is just going to be from Dan Freeman, a point of view from the student.
    - Yo: A day in the life as a student, we can think about the main spaces students spend time in their day. It could be a good way to show the significance of the Student Center, living groups, classroom. I think it makes sense especially to explain the significance of student life and academics.
  - Yuge: We are all afraid of saying something and leaving something out, are there any other things that people spend their time on?
  - Sean: Research?
    - Yuge: There's another report on that.

- Piper: Would it be okay to have a different list of things; can I send you a list?
- Kate: There was a list like 100 things to do before you graduate, but for the DSL.
- Yuge: We are also looking into getting specific student anecdotes, in addition to the formal report. She also has the opportunity to read anecdotes polled from the population.
- Kim: This is the East Side website, there are very passionate descriptions of student life on the east side. Also, you might want to look at the Stories of Resilience the Tech has been posting.
- Lily: Are you looking for typical student experiences, or outliers?
    - Yuge: If you were in her position, what would you want to know about student life?
- Rachel: You should offer her a dictionary of MIT jargon.
- Kyle: I would want her to know how much students want to trust administrators, sincerely.
- Kim: Along the same lines as the glossary, a list of student groups that she can go to with x issue.
- Kate: Maybe a few illustrated examples, a flow chart more than an org chart. Are you going to give her good and bad examples of student admin interaction?
    - Yuge: Yes, also if presidents can talk to their residents, we'll send out a poll later to all residents, if you could get back to me with an email.
- Kate: SHAC is going to be holding student forums, they're going to be starting next week and the week after, we'll be emailing tonight. We want to hold a forum in every dorm, but we'll only be having it in dorms who 10 people say they're interested.
- Yo: And we'll also have it so people can go to events not in their dorm.
- Sarah: We're also going to be emailing out if you have questions for your specific living community.

8. Transparency
- Yo: The last thing is transparency. I think that some of the discussions regarding transparency have been going around, we're here, and this group of students are probably the most informed about dorm life. The people we have here are the best to represent the people on campus, but also it's worthwhile to think about the people who aren't being represented. Transparency isn't lack of representation, it's feeling like you have input into the process. It's beyond SHAC. I don't know that I want to have a discussion because I can't imagine where it would go, but to make sure everyone is aware of the fact, so you can reach the broadest amount of people. The more info we can get out the better, and I do believe that everyone in this room tries their best to represent everyone, but that doesn't mean we can't do better. I'd love to hear back on ways DormCon can reach the broadest possible audience with its information, and how we can reach out. The way we do it now is we send it out to the presidents, and they can send it to their residents. Once upon a time, there was a dorms@ list, and it would be sent out to all residents, what if there were a more simple or noticeable way for students to feel as if their concerns are being heard? Maybe it doesn't mean it's always heard through the presidents. That's my spiel.

- Billy: I talked with some of my residents, some poeple had additional concerns about what DormCon was doing, they asked to learn what was happening, and they tried to add themselves to dormcon-announce, and it didn't work. Is there a way to make it more aware for members to subscribe to that, and make it aware they can come to these meetings?
- Kim: Could we get DormCon meetings in the UA Byte?
    - Arthur: People don't read the UA Byte.
    - Kyle: The question is not who deletes UA Byte, it's getting it out.
- Karleigh: We could put it in a box in the Tech.
- Yo: Especially if we have particular things we're going to talk about, it could be like "DormCon is going to talk about blank".

End Time: 21:04