

**DormCon Meeting**  
**March 17th, 2016**  
**Location: Baker House**

**Agenda:**

1. **UA Sustainability ECO Foodware Program**
2. **Closure of Space for Former Bexley Students**
3. **Funding Applications:**
  - a. **Dance 'Til You Drop (DTYD)**
  - b. **Maseeh/Simmons War**
  - c. **Maseeh Social**
4. **Officer Updates:**
  - a. **House Chairs**
  - b. **Storage**
  - c. **JudComm Chairs**
  - d. **Treasurer**
5. **Midway Booth**
6. **Election Announcements & Publicity**
7. **DormCon Shirt**
8. **Letter to S^3**

**Attendance:**

<b>Dorm</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Baker	Elizabeth Cox	
Burton-Conner	Flora Liu	
East Campus	Piper Lim	Proxy: Lily Zhou
MacGregor	Ki-Jana Carter	Proxy: Nchinda Nchinda
Maseeh Hall	Billy Moses	
McCormick	Susan Mullen	Proxy: Mary Delaney
New House	Sarah Wharton	
Next House	Kyle Saleeby	
Random Hall	Issac Grosof	
Senior House	Sarah Melvin	Proxy: Ru Mehendale
Simmons Hall	Yuge Ji	
President	Yonadav Shavit	
Vice President	Caitlin Heber	
Secretary	Sabrina Madera	
Treasurer	Jacqueline Liu	

**Start Time: 19:35**

## **0. Introductions**

### **1. UA Sustainability ECO Foodware Program**

- Brandon: I'm from UA Sustainability, and we have an ECO Foodware program; for any events you can get discounted items. Our pitch is that its more sustainable, uses less resources to manufacture, if you buy from us, it's comparable to Costco utensils in bulk, and our stuff is all on campus. Other than that, if you have any questions, you can check on our website.
- Issac: Most dorms don't have any way of composting things, is it still useful?
  - Brandon: It's still useful because it uses less resources to manufacture.

### **2. Closure of Space for Former Bexley Students**

- Yo: The next thing is the discussion about Pritchett dining; it's currently occupied by former residents of Bexley.
- Alex: The space was meant to keep Bexley culture going, but soon everyone who lived there will have graduated. But, we want to keep it as a community space in some way, where people can come together and foster some East-West connections.
- Ru: We'd like to have a unified push from all dorms to get this as a space, as a student run café. The Stud is on the West side, but there's no equivalent on the East.
- Issac: Where is it?
  - Ru: Walker Memorial.
- Alex: We're going to try and figure out who's in charge of distributing power.
- Yo: I think either way, working with the UA. It would be useful if people had thoughts on what they would want in this space.
- Lily: Also, if you want more info on like the Coffee House in the Stud, talk to Phil Walsh. He has a lot of info on why student run things may not work.
- Yo: Do you know what your next steps are?
  - Alex: We're gonna come up with a more concrete plan.
  - Ru: We just wanted to gauge general interest.
- Nick: The space is run by CAC, the lowest guy on that is Dennis Collins.
- Yo: I'm sure we'd have a better sense once we have a more fleshed out proposal.

### **3. Funding Applications**

- Yo: The next things are three funding applications. First will be Burton Conner.
- David: DTYD is a large dance party that Burton 3<sup>rd</sup> has been holding for what will be 47 years. We turn the Porter Room into a disco type thing. It's one of the largest parties on campus every year.
  - Laura: DTYD was the first party I went to in Burton Conner, I went and it was really emotional for me.
- David: We also try to feature live music from local bands, this year we have Juice. We're requesting \$2000. It'll go towards a lot of things like drinks and food, lights, etc.
- Jackie: Piano Drop isn't happening, so our budget is updated.

- Mary: Our events budget was \$13000 at the beginning, and this adds up to \$14000. Do we actually have \$7000?
  - Jackie: Yes, we got money from apple picking last semester.
  - *Vote taken; unanimous yes.*
- Billy: Basically, you may have heard that Maseeh and Simmons are now at war. We thought it might be a fun event to bring dorms together. It'll be a combination of a little bit of hacking, water war, and banquet. We need money for water war type equipment and food.
- Issac: I noticed it said it's not being advertised to everyone.
  - Yuge: It's open to anyone who will pledge allegiance, or mercenary forces.
- Sonja: What are water war supplies?
  - Billy: Water soakers, water balloons.
- Yuge: How much money do you guys have, and how would you get funds from Maseeh if this were rejected?
  - Billy: We would need to amend the budget and get approval from floor reps, it would probably take a really long time.
- Nchinda: What are you doing with super soakers after this?
  - Billy: I hear there's a water war between East and West.
  - *Vote taken; 10 yes 1 no, vote passes.*
- Billy: Maseeh in both the Fall and Spring holds a large formal. It will hopefully be well attended. We're asking for some funding to cover the location costs.
- Sarah W: I saw it was only open to Maseeh residents or people going with Maseeh residents. It seems like a lot of money for something that's not really inter-dorm.
- Yo: A while ago, we discussed if DormCon were to fund this, that other students could pay a lower rate and go themselves.
- Yuge: I think the greater concern is that if you don't have a friend in Maseeh, it's not really open.
- Mary: McCormick, Next, and Simmons have a formal every year, and it's open to all people.
- Nick: It's also weekend of Steer Roast, which we already allocated money to.
- Yo: Do you know whether your chairs could not have the funding for this, and wait two weeks?
- Yuge: Is there a procedure for amending funding at a meeting?
- Billy: We could change this to be less from DormCon?
- Yo: I don't represent the dorms; but what are people interested in?
  - Sarah W: It would be nice if it was open to all dorms, period.
- Yuge: Something I'd might suggest to your social chairs, is to advertise to all dorms.
  - Billy: Last year, we had it open to all dorms. We do have money that is traditionally allocated for that, but we gave that to DormCon when we rejoined.
- Kate: How much is Maseeh paying out of pocket?
- Billy: We are paying \$4000.
- Yo: We can fund it partially now, or table it for the next meeting. Do you think the latter would be feasible?
  - Billy: Yeah, we could meet with them, they're asking for funding now to book the venue.

- Issac: It seems very expensive.
- Mary: Ours was in line with this, but we charged people twice as much.
  - Billy: Our social chairs checked, and the Hyatt was one of the cheapest.
- Yo: Do you know how much money would be required to book the venue?
- Flora: How important is this formal to Maseeh? Has it been done in the past?
  - Billy: It has been done in the past.
  - Flora: Do you think it brings the dorm together?
  - Billy: In the past, the boat cruise has brought people together, and it's one of our well known events.
- Yo: One thing we can vote on is that we allocate the money, contingent that it's open to all dorm residents. So, we're voting on funding it, if it is changed to be open to all residents.
  - *Vote taken; 6 yes 5 no, vote passes.*

#### 4. Officer Updates

- Sonja: Kyle and I are meeting with DSL every week to push forward the storage things. At this point, we are pretty much done wrapping up in-dorm storage. Basically, we're outlining the things required by MIT to allow in-dorm storage, also some guidelines on some good ideas/timelines/practices, but it's all varied house to house. Speak with your chairs. On the external storage solution, communication was supposed to come out already from DSL; we haven't quite agreed on what packages we're going to be offering. We have a plan after Spring Break, we're working out the details, like what days they'll be on campus and where. Renters insurance deal has come through, and it will probably be announced, 76 dollars annually. You're still welcome to find your own third party renter's insurance, they couldn't get any company to agree to a monthly rate.
- Issac: What's the in-dorm storage going to be like?
  - Sonja: It exists if you buy renter's insurance. Everything else is contingent, DSL wants things to be in DSL boxes, fridges will be allowed, everything else will have to get approved by your house manager.
- Yuge: Did you talk about how people can get their parent's insurance?
  - Sonja: For any insurance that's not the recommended, you'll need to submit an insurance binder to DSL. The document says what you're covered up to, but you'll need to clear on your own end if you're covered.
- Nchinda: Is MIT insurance covered by MIT?
  - Sonja: It's a third party.
- Lily: We've been having our fun times with the constitution, and we've been looking at all the documents that exist, but haven't been used since 2004. Instead of trying to force each dorm to have a Judicial Committee, we thought it might work better if we had a universal JudComm to bring informal complaints to, thoughts?
- Eric: We did a survey of all the dorms and their JudComms, and it seems like none of them actually have active JudComms. It would be nice for them to go to informal dispute resolution. If the best avenue is through DormCon, maybe we should do that.
- Ru: I personally can't see a situation where I would go to a group of students with my problems.
- Issac: What are some examples of situations you think you'll get?

- Eric: I could imagine if people in dorms want to make a teasing complaint about someone in their living group.
  - Lily: If you have a complaint against your entire dorm, especially if you want to keep yourself anonymous. Like, if you have a complaint against your section, wing, entry. We're wondering if this might be more accessible.
- Eric: You would expect us to be used fairly rarely, but it might be worth it to have.
- Matt: So, last year the COD passed new bylaws to let them take complaints directly from student groups. For example, if you're a frat and something happens, it'll first try to be resolved at the student level. For dorms, that doesn't exist right now. I don't know if that's where that's going. It's probably in your best interest to have some kind of student ways to resolve this. For hazing violations, alcohol.
- Eric: And, we can decide which of these things we want to enforce ourselves.
- Kate: How would we enforce anything?
  - Lily: A big problem is, you can bring in a complaint, but we don't really have much power.
- Kris: It's kind of like the previous Rush Agreement; the punishment was like it would negatively impact your CPW events.
- Eric: Having this agreement is something that's in our best interest.
- Yo: I think it would not be unreasonable to ask the Judicial Body get greater power.
- Sonja: Presidents have more power in their dorm to implement things than DormCon currently does.
- Yuge: Take the REX Rush example, this comes back to what was added last year, about enforcing something upon groups. Does that mean individuals in Simmons who broke the agreement and it escalated, or that all of Simmons would be punished?
  - Eric: If this is something we all agree to, we won't be locked into one thing. There are implementation details we'd have to figure out.
- Yuge: Can I just say, I completely understand the reasoning on having this, I am taking a little bit for granted that our house team stands in place of this committee, but I would feel more comfortable if our house team wouldn't be superseded by this. If it can be internal, it would be more optimal.
  - Lily: Going on that, this wouldn't replace your internal dorm structure. This is in case someone doesn't feel comfortable going through your internal route. If the person would feel more comfortable going through their house team, this wouldn't replace that.
- Yuge: I'm just envisioning a complaint against a whole hall. The Housemasters would hear about it from you, and we would prefer to do it internally.
- Matt: It would seem to be best to give the student the choice where they want to escalate. If people were okay with the idea, maybe it would be best for Eric and Lily to flesh it out, if the proof of concept is okay.
- Jackie: The SAO is getting a new system for RFP, everything is going to be digitized, now we don't need to turn things into SAO.
  - Matt: They haven't finalized that, the question of paperwork is not a result of the RFP system, but a requirement by the Audit Office. The changes

will be a more streamlined RFP process, but with the same amount of paperwork.

- Kate: But you wouldn't have to front the money?
  - Jackie: No.
- David: The Atlas online RFP thing is useless; you can't even open 2 at once. You should make sure they know the system sucks.
- Yo: For those of you who were not aware; myself, Kate, and Sarah went on a tour of 9 of the 11 dormitories. The larger thing to be aware of is that Cindy was on a phone call recently with a number of campus planning people, and Cindy raised the fact that we need some kind of decision on who would be living in this dorm in 2 months. Cindy said we couldn't make this decision in 2 months. Instead, no long term change considerations will go into the new dorm. The new dorm will be as flexible as possible, the dorm right now is being built to accommodate any number of systems. That means that whatever conversations come out of SHAC, they will probably be stretching on for some time in the future.
- David: What does it mean to have the building be flexible?
  - Yo: The concept of floors is imposing a lot on the space; we're going to allow students to modify the space and build their own floors. Anyways, as a result, the SHAC conversation won't be about coming to some kind of big conclusion, but what we can do to the current system.
- Kate: Also, hopefully it's a document we can share with you guys.

## **5. Midway Booth**

- Yo: DormCon is interested in having a midway booth, but I wont staff alone.

## **6. Election Announcements and Publicity**

- Yo: DormCon elections are happening next month. DormCon has one large round of elections where we elect our members, we want to make sure as many people are involved in DormCon. The point is, we are going to send an email out as early as possible. We're hoping every dorm gets a set of positions publicized. Usually, DormCon election meetings are the longest meetings by far, and because we have important issues to talk about, instead of that, we're having a DormCon meeting on the 14th and 28th, we are going to move the election a week earlier to the 21<sup>st</sup>. If we could get the elections done then, we could get that overhead out of the way. This isn't a problem for exec, but if presidents can't make it to this date, we can still keep it to the 28th. That's election announcements.

## **7. DormCon Shirt**

- Yo: About the DormCon shirt, Becky has agreed to subsidize it. All exec and presidents, you get a free shirt.
- Yuge: The front of the shirt will look like this, this was approved by Yo.
- Yo: The decision is between having text on the front, and not having text.
- Yuge: Do we want a capital w on the shirt? And do we want an asterisk in the front or the left?
  - Sonja: If it's referring to something on the back, the asterisk should be at the end.

## **8. Letter to S^3**

- Yo: What I'm passing out right now, for those of you that have seen the amount of confessions about some deans at s^3. In particular, this has led to a number of student government leaders who want to reach out to s^3 for what protocols are in place for accountability for the counselors, and what steps they are taking to improve their image. While on the first order, these experiences are traumatic and terrible, they also color the community perception, and if you don't feel comfortable going to them, it's bad for the students. We wrote the first draft, and I wanted to hear whether you disagree with the points raised, and if you have further things to talk about.
  - Billy: I think it would be useful to ask them to have a feedback survey automatically sent out after going to s^3.
- Issac: I've talked to a number of people who've had bad experiences, and it was specifically about mental health related issues to s^3.
- Liz: I'd like to ask what current s^3 hiring practices are like, and if we could get student involvement on that.
- Yo: Beyond just the letter, hopefully there will be conversation.
- Sarah W: Do students know where to go if they have trouble with their s^3 dean?
  - Becky: I've actually helped students switch deans, and I've done that on a number of occasions.
- Issac: And this is about switching, not about feedback?
  - Becky: If there are issues, they are communicated.
- Flora: Is there any way this could be expanded to include mental health?
  - Yo: Since this is restricted to s^3, we want to keep it with only them. Clarifying s^3 policy with mental health would be great, though.
- Sarah W: what would look better, if you sign, or if all of us?
  - Issac: I would also like to sign.

**End Time: 21:04**