

**DormCon Meeting  
March 31st, 2016  
Location: Burton Conner**

**Agenda:**

- 1. DormCon Constitution**
- 2. CPW/REX Updates**
- 3. Soap Updates**
- 4. Open Discussion**

**Attendance:**

<b>Dorm</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Baker	Elizabeth Cox	
Burton-Conner	Flora Liu	
East Campus	Piper Lim	
MacGregor	Ki-Jana Carter	
Maseeh Hall	Billy Moses	
McCormick	Susan Mullen	
New House	Sarah Wharton	
Next House	Kyle Saleeby	x
Random Hall	Issac Grosf	
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. DormCon Constitution**

- Lily: We talked about this a little bit with exec and we felt things. Basically, there exists a Rooming Committee in the constitution, and this committee has a DormCon Housing Chair, and one RAC from each dorm. This exists, but hasn't met in recent memory. And, DormCon Housing Chairs are not on the mailing list

- at all. We discussed this, and thought maybe one way to change it and bring it back would be to incorporate that job into the i3 chair, and can be more of a Res Life chair.
- Eric: Right now, the Housing Chairs have a lot of things on their plate, and the i3 Chair already interacts with Nilam and other RAC related admins.
    - Kim: Res Life chair sounded good to me.
    - Issac: People will get confused with Res Life organization.
    - Lily: Member at Large is pretty open ended for future things, which we may want, since this basically deals with housing things.
    - Sarah: Res Life Liaison?
    - Sean: Just Rooming and i3 Chair.
    - Eric: We could also just call it RAC Chair.
  - Lily: i3 and Rooming deal with the same people. Also, i3 is like one time of the year, and rooming is a different time, so the entire position could be more.
  - Yo: Does anyone have any problems with Member at Large?
    - Issac: Yeah, it gives no indication of what it does.
  - Susan: Does the i3 chair enjoy video, or are they on top of things?
    - Brenda: Definitely more keeping people on top of things. I haven't done any videos. Also, talking to Nilam, the two positions relate to the same people.
    - Sonja: Historically it was, but now we have phones and everyone can do it themselves.
  - Yo: I'm leaning towards RAC chair as well.
    - Kate: And not putting the i3 in?
    - Yo: Is everyone alright with that?
  - Yuge: If you sent out an email like "DormCon is holding elections for RAC chair", right now i3 chair is elected one semester off. Also, when you send out emails about elections, RAC position says nothing about the implicit i3 position.
  - Yo: All of the emails have descriptions.
  - Arthur: All the titles need to sound sexy.
  - Issac: I think how long the position is should be there, too.
  - Kim: If we wanted to organize positions by what they do, it makes more sense to keep i3 and RAC separate, and suggest i3 run for something else.
    - Yo: We have compound positions already, any further concerns.
  - Brenda: The only slight concern I have is that April gets really intense, and RAC spot is fairly undefined, but what if it develops where they have to deal with spring lottery, too?
  - Lily: We can solve this by putting RAC/i3.
  - Eric: The other things are just a consequence of this, we remove RAC name from the description and add the new name
  - Yo: Unless anyone has any further thoughts, we're going to vote on it.
  - Eric: This is a population vote; each president has one vote per person, but if you're here, you can vote against your dorm.
    - *Vote taken, vote passes*

## 2. CPW/REX Updates

- Kim: Hi, we're the REX and CPW chairs. CPW is in a week, be afraid, be excited, everything is pretty much on track. We worked out the issues with the booklets, and the safety plans. Your residents should be signed up to host, remind them they have to pick up the identity of who they're hosting tomorrow 9-5.
- Kris: Also, now we're getting into the REX phase. We emailed all your dorm's REX chairs, if you notice they're not responding or cc'ing you, check on that.
- Kim: Also, early returns. Yuge and I met with Jennifer Hathaway and Julie Rothards about early returns. The first is that there are 375 returns, we asked if we could get more, and she wasn't on board. Theoretically, there are 3 dates of early returns. If all of the dorms submit a plan for keeping residents accountable for being part of their dorm's REX, she'll let us have 50 more returns for the day before FYRE.
- Yuge: Can we survey presidents about how much that matters?
- Issac: How do early returns work if your dorms are open during the summer?
  - Sean: They get out like August 15th before any early return dates.
- Kim: How much do you guys care about getting the extra returns?
  - Sarah W: It's worth the effort.
- Sarah: I don't know how much they're asking for, for proof.
  - Yuge: It's easy to keep a spreadsheet, but Jen asked me why we want more early returns. I made the argument that hall rush is less representative if people aren't there, and she asked me how you can guarantee a certain amount of people will come back per floor.
- Sarah: Of the people who apply, we try to have at least 2 people from every hall, and REX chairs decide early returns, and that's their main goal.
  - Yuge: That's great, and exactly what we're looking for.
- Kim: We'll give you an example of what she's looking for, for an accountability plan. It just involves residents signing into spreadsheet whenever they go to an event, like Simmons, then you can submit something like that, and we'll give it to Jen. If it doesn't work the first or second time, then I would say it's too much work.
- Sonja: One thing I think is valuable is, if we put in the work this year and follow our plan, it gives us leverage.
- Sarah: This is slightly separate, but in the future, can we push for an earlier move in date? A lot of people had summer housing, and their leases ended at the end of August, and couldn't move in.
  - Kim: It's hard, because facilities needs time to get things ready.
  - Sarah: Also, when freshman move into places for FPOPs, it's super empty.
- Yuge: Jen thinks if there are too many upperclassmen around, it scares freshmen.
- Yo: The freshman survey consistently shows that this is negative when there's no one around.
- Yuge: Is there any opposition?
- Issac: Is this tracking who's involved in the floor rush, or REX system? It's because we want more floor rush people, but we're not tracking that.
- Billy: When I was a freshman, there weren't that many people, and it sucked.
- Sarah: How many did we gain from Maseeh joining?
  - Yuge: 15.

- Mary: For a dorm that doesn't have floor rushes, most of our volunteers come from 1 or 2 floors.
- Sarah: It might be helpful to have a spread, even if they don't volunteer, it's good for frosh to be around people.
- Flora: Would there be any penalization if the accountability plan didn't work for our dorm?
- Jane: I'm one of the CPW/REX chairs for Burton Conner; a lot of people request early returns and don't do anything. We can instigate this, but there's still a possibility people won't do that.
  - Yuge: I think the effort you put in is satisfactory.
- Sarah: What we do in Senior Haus is if you got an early return and didn't do anything, you won't get any more.
- Kim: In the past, early returns had to be submitted really early.
  - Yuge: We now can submit them July 8th instead of June 12th, the difference is before, the residents would say they wanted an early return, Jen would file into her system, it would take 3 weeks, and then a response would be given.
  - Kim: The problem was that people didn't know their plans.
  - Yuge: Now, people only have 1 week to accept, so now we submit July 8th instead of June 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - Kim: She doesn't think 1 week is enough time for people to click that they want an early return. If we can prove this wrong, she'll let us continue this.
- David: Does that mean you'll find out about early returns later?
  - Yuge: Every dorm gets assigned a certain number of early returns, so as long as they don't exceed that, everyone on that list will be given early returns.
- Sonja: Does the date students get an email from Housing change?
  - Yuge: Yes, it's later, but you should already have known from your REX chairs.
- Mary: Does this change the date from when REX chairs have to submit a number?
  - Yuge: Yes.
- Mary: For people that need to book flights, this could be inconvenient.
  - Kim: We could get back to you at an earlier date.

### 3. Soap Updates

- Yo: I have an update on soap. It has come to my attention that Doctor Hellard at MIT Medical wrote a letter about the importance of soap in the dorms, and that it didn't exist. I met with Peter Cummings, we got a baseline understanding of what was happening, and he said he would get back to me after speaking to Medical about why soap is needed and not sanitizer. They're gonna do a financial and need analysis, I'm fairly confident it will happen. In this meeting we also discussed the Security Committee, it should meet at least once this semester, the first thing they'll discuss is about people tailgating, and how it shouldn't bring a student to COD. I'm gonna explain the cheese now. In 1828, Andrew Jackson was elected president and began a tradition of bringing a huge block of cheese to the

White House once a year, and everyone was allowed to come into the meeting, and eat the cheese and talk.

#### 4. Open Discussion

- Flora: We had a night watch officer that everyone in the dorm loved, and she was moved, with no notice. The rumor was that is because she was too close to the students.
- Yo: I found out who the director of the night watch program is, it is a concern, it was brought up that the security committee would be a good one to discuss this in.
- Flora: What is Ken Windsor's part in this?
  - Yo: He directs the program and assigns people.
- Sonja: From my understanding, policy thinks that when night watch gets too close to students, they don't do their job well.
  - Yo: At the core of this, the solution is that you move the night watch and start the students from zero, so people don't get too attached.
- Sarah: We've had night watch in the past, that know students so well that they can recognize when someone's not okay, and is so comfortable with the dorm that they go to the GRT with concerns, they have a dialogue with students, and students are very comfortable going to night watch.
- Piper: The question is if that's in their job description.
- Yo: I would understand if night watch to them is just a form of control.
- Issac: Has there been cases where night watch being familiar with students caused problems?
  - Yo: I think there are cases.
- Sarah: We run into the problem where some students view nightwatch in certain ways, and it would change their behavior. I think it's students taking advantage of night watch they know.
- Flora: As far as I know, this is the first time this has happened to us. I agree with Yo that this is a policy change we should be concerned with. The current policy is not good, we weren't notified, and this person is a part of our community, it was really hard to get an explanation.
- Sarah: So I've heard rumors that the GRT contracts are changing this year, I don't know if anyone has concrete info about it. It sounds like the GRTs aren't going to be told how they're changing until the contracts are in front of them. I think DormCon should be involved with that. Also RLADs were involved with the GRT applications, I don't think it's bad, but I think it sets a precedent for people outside the dorm to have a say in this process.
  - Yo: I also remember a similar conversation last year, and the changes were pretty normal, but I do think we should be involved.
- Kim: I have a quick question for exec, someone told Yuge that exec gets a version of early-early returns. Her point of data was that Sadun was on campus early.
- Kate: Sadun talked about this, that DormCon Housing Chairs get housing.
  - Sonja: It's also possible Sadun had friends.
- Kim: We're trying to see if DormCon exec can get these things, because she thinks DormCon exec deserves early early returns.
- Issac: Yo mentioned the security thing and the tailgating things, it happened at Random. A resident had been coming into the dorm and letting in another

Random resident who didn't have their ID, it happened a number of times, and now the COD notified them that their registration would be put on hold et cetera. This is a wider policy concern, one of the things is that they need to know everyone that goes into the building, and it was never clear why this was the case.

- Kate: The argument made was that the person could have had their access revoked, and the person who let them in wouldn't know.
- Caitlin: Another argument I possibly heard is that if any emergency happens in the building, you can find who you're looking for on campus.
- Sonja: Tap access is controlled by IS&T, you'd need to open a police investigation to access that.
- Becky: The general premise is access control.
  - Issac: They let in anyone who's coming in with a resident.
- Kate: Also in theory, you can ask desk to not let someone in.

**End Time: 20:00**