

Minutes

Billy Moses stepped in on the minutes this week.

Elections:

Kate: They're next week

Dorm	Attendance	
Baker	1	
Burton-Conner	1	
East Campus	1	
MacGregor	1	
Maseeh	1	
McCormick	1	
New	1	
Next	1	
Random	1	
Senior	1	
Simmons	1	

Admissions Thank-You and Summer Tour Guide Positions

Kate: people here from admissions to talk here for a bit:

"Hi there I'm ... I'm from admissions and in addition to reading apps I oversee campus visits and our tour guides"

"Hi I'm craig I help schedule tours and help work with admissions"

"Wanted to get the word out about a new opportunity for MIT students over the summer, came to MIT last june. Jul 1 the tour guides moved to admissions office and runs both info sessions for students and families as well as tours. When you run both of these programs its a lot more work and need support for the people who come over summer. Have part time tour guide position, especially good if here over summer if UROP'ing to supplement income as well as full time position. Craigs gonna talk what tour guiding is about"

"Been a tour guide for a couple of years. Great fun to welcome all these visitors and prospective students to campus. Really great opporunity. I notice people from all different dorms here today and its really good to have all different aspects represented in the tour guides -- get a different perspective, stories from different tours so its good to sign up, talk about your dorm, things they do. So I can encourage that. Being a tour guide is really great working in the admissions office and I'd highly recommend it -- a great thing to do. I also gave tours my freshman summer and you get a nice understanding of everyone as well"

"Some of the skills that we see/look for are working in that office environemnt, public speaking skills, as well as potential connections that could come from that as well. So something that we would like you to help us with is get the word out -- so we haev these fliers that look a little like watermelons -- and it would be tremendously helpful if you could get the word out"

Isaac: "So what are the hours if someone has a part time job"

"Our hours in admissions are 9-5 and on the part-time basis, people can give tours at 11am and 3pm. We also have tours from a lot of community organizations or schools or camps with some sort of college components and those can happen any time. We also have tours on the weekend sometimes. The full time position is 9-5 M-F."

Craig: "As far as part time goes I did 20hrs up and 20 hours of this."

"Well thank you so much for having us again -- if you think of any questions you can email summertours@mit.edu or just admissions@mit.edu and your message will get to me in some way shape or form"

Kate "so the next thing on our agenda is jacqui has a number of cpw/rex updates for us"

CPW/REX Updates:

J "So is cnythia here"

"I'm subbing for her"

J "Do you know if you're getting a cpw reimbursement"

"Will check with her"

J "For everyone else working on getting the reimbursement back"

Rex start date aug 22nd or 27th (didn't hear properly); do any dorms not have their rex chairs elected (one person next week, one person next month);

For rex there's no rex event limit and our timeline is that we want all the events by next july so we can start working on the booklet, once they're elected we'll have a meeting with the rex chairs

There are 375 early returns for the returns they are aug 20, 24 and 26 and 20th are for DC officers / rex chairs; RAC's have their own early returns because they have to come back for a training

Peer mentors are completely separate

Kate are we doing the accountability thing and how many more ER do we get for that

J: Yes we are

Yuga: we're trying to get 5 more per dorm from last year

Kate: how many

Allie: do you have numerical breakdown for each dorm

J: we don't have one we ask all how many they think they need then get back and distribute from there, so ask everyone how many early returns they want and will send out a tentative poll and will ask about ~early june

K: that's really late

Y: people know for summer housing plans if they're getting an early return

J: Oh sorry I mean may -- I misread 5 as 6.

Isaac: so the timeline goes the chairs get elected, they get contacted, then figure out early returns

K: any other questions about the timelines or the dates or early returns in general

Sadun: I'm curious what this accountability game is but it sounds like it'll take a long time so I'll ask about afterwards

J: allie, I was going to ask you if you want specific early returns for new house transfers.

A: We asked and admin didn't seem to budge so we placed them on halls they think they'd like now. I think in general it would be good to give interdorm transfers early returns. It would be nice, but if it doesn't work out it's okay.

Duncan: do you know if there are early returns for new house (just for people within new house) or how is that decided

J: I was assuming the dorm they were moving into were going to allocate those

K: any other questions about early returns.... In that case, I'm rearranging the agenda because one of the i3 chairs has to leave early; letting Allie take the floor

A: basically every year we make an i3 video that has a lot of illegal shit in it that we send to nilam and send we need to take it out. This year though was especially bad and they flagged a lot of stuff that wasn't really illegal and they also looped in EHS and say that "Everything in the i3 video needs to be approved by EHS which is fucking ridiculous" and I remember sadun saying that housing doesn't really add anything into the i3 process and I remember a while ago a conversation about having dormcon take the i3 video back because we don't really get anything by going through nilam -- what are people's thoughts on this have people had similar struggles on the i3. We worked it out this year because it was all at the 11th hour and we didn't really have time to fight it this year because we didn't want to submit a safety plan for every 3second video"

Sarah: I'm really sorry I wasn't in these meetings because life -- there's nothing in the i3 guidelines that say they have to be approved by EHS.

A: someone had a rope swing for one of the clips in the courtyard without a safety plan -- something that happens roughly once a week in EC

Sadun: the things nilam says can and can't go in the video at the beginning of the semester is completely orthogonal to what happens at the end of the semester. The only time that they were reasonable was when we threatened to do the i3 video ourselves and our i3 chairs at the time had Henry Humphries say 'oh no don't do that' and then made an agreement. So we need to at least renew the lease on that"

Sarah: the one thing though about having MIT looped in is having them hosted on the guide to residence website

Sadun: Have you visited web.mit.edu/i3 which has i3 videos from like 2007 when we ran i3 videos ourselves

Kate: I'm not sure if you had this experience with rex but even running it ourselves didn't give us total freedom and even having MIT; dormcon doesn't have the same reach to all the freshman and we need to have a balance between representative i3's and reaching the freshman

Piper: there is an argument to be made before this which is, is EHS defending this?

Allie: Speaking for EC if we keep on this trajectory we're going to host it ourselves and not be on the guide to residences.

Issac: if what's on this document gets ignored everytime, is that what's not okay?

Sadun: doesn't that say if nothing illegal immoral or offensive

isaaC: no just illegal or offensive, immoral is fine

laughter ensues

It's less having this interactive system and suggesting that they can get it out to more people -- it's that they're changing the rules last minutes in an unreasonable way.

Piper: I think the role of dormcon is to say we don't have a reasonable agreement right now and we don't actually have proper guidelines on what's happening

Allie: A lot of people in EC feel extremely frustrated and a lot of parts of our community we like are being censored

Piper: I think that holding that accountability is something we can do as dormcon

Susan: I was at the meeting and she didn't bring up the EHS thing

Allie: I'm totally not blaming you guys

Susan: I feel like they come at a place that parents feel like things are going to be safe and you guys had a really cool video and I feel like the turnaround was really fast and it really was the 11th hour and I thought it was weird they looped EHS and we wouldn't probably want too many words of "at the discretion"

Sarah: **something involving fire hazard**

Allie: we have EHS approval to rappel from the stairwell, Joe has seen them

Sadun: Joe has seen the anchors we have on the ceiling, I'm not sure he's commented on them

Nonye: I feel like there is no difference because the paper doesn't say anything -- we can't necessarily say nilam isn't sticking to something but she's interpreting it some way

Piper: Illegal is a very specific definition -- which is against the law

Isaac: what sort of safety plan

Allie: like a safety plan you need before an event

Piper: if you had a footage of a natural disaster, do you need a safety plan?

Lily: I'm not sure how much of this is a person specific issue versus her position and her standing in housing. For one thing nilam is leaving and we don't know if the person who comes in and take this position will be just as strict

Susan: probably jen

Lily: i wonder what it was like in the room

Susan: i loved it i really enjoyed it. I don't remember but at one point they got really angry about pipes (per new house). I think it was very neural

Allie: but it wasn't from pipes, it was from anchors in the ceiling

Susan: you lit something on fire in the floor

Allie: that one was dumb

Susan: they see everything they like have eyes and i was just there eating my sandwich

BC: I feel like these restrictions are unfairly imposed and something where it turns into something like the rex booklet which is currently controlled by the RLAD and if we could get this agreement to work this would be ideal and we don't need to deal with our house team

Sarah: i think it is important that there is a new person coming into this position and then we have more of an ability to do it on our own terms and negotiate a specific agreement that is agreed to and there's nothing there about safety plans and none of these situations involve anything about them

Kate: i think over the summer we should have the i3 chairs make an agreement that would be good for all and talk with jen while you all are still in office and talk about what that agreement is and why it is and using the nuclear option is not the best path

Yuge: i still think you should state the fact that the nuclear option is something we would do

Kate: back when i3 was going to let go perhaps it was a lot of work to do that and we only did it after we had every dorm agree to be a part of it.

A: I don't want to call it the nuclear option and I don't want to hold people hostage to my desires but EC can not continue on this trajectory

Isaac: I see this often with admin in agreements that students don't do this but there's nothing saying w admin can't do

Kate: i think we should have a list of things that explicitly can be included

Isaac: and we know roughly what these conversations are going to be about

Kate: and lets be fair the i3s don't change that much year to year

Duncan: we want to make it clear we didn't like them bringing EHS into this

Sadun: although it is particularly infuriating for EC that EHS was brought in, in other years it was other dorms that had been the most hurt, like macgregor got attacked for having ihtfp because that expands to a swear word. The other point i want to make is that we don't want to do that nuclear option or whatever but the earlier you get yourself ready to do it the better, as cosmos says, the number of eyeballs we get on this through the dorms own publicizing, we would get similar number of views as when we pub it together. And if we hosted we would get roughly all the eyeballs you need as long as you know ahead of time what you need to do

Kate: remember that this is to reach the freshman and admin has better contact with the frosh early on than we do

Sadun: at the same time we don't have access to the website whose design is a piece of shit

Kate: i think you're being overly optimistic over how much they would be okay to link to this without content control

Sadun: they link to our current website

Kate: because they havent looked at them

Piper: shhhh

Susan: I don't think having a new person will make as much as a difference. Like jen is the person training the new person. Though i think it would be mutually beneficial to have a convo on the guidelines and what those things mean and having good communication and in that sense could be good

Isaac: a couple ideas, so on the discussing early sort of thing. We can both have this incorporate the things that happened the year before and what are the general principles and if its unsafe to be an event that frosh would come to, is that against the standard. But if i3 chairs have ideas of something going on to get them approved beforehand -- like a month before the deadline. We could also in addition to the i3 video have a "non i3" video that has more content on it

BC: i would be worried about antagonizing administration because that comes back to us because we have an administration that would come back to bite us like if we had the i3 vide plus the poll, that would be bad.

Isaac i was thinking a video of just the pole

laughter

Kate: other thoughts, alridhgt so i think the enxt steps unless there arew objections are to work on a new agreement over the summer and have dorm prez comment on. And i guess this is somethign to keep in mind talk to ur i3 people talk to ur dorm people, ways that you've been screwed over in the past, value you think you've provided, hosting it ourselves vs hosting it themselves. Anyone awnat to add anything to this summary? Thanks allie for bringing it up thanks sarah and susan for taking point on it now

Lily: this is going to be more brief than i think most of us wanted, me too -- so long story short the people in charge of all the contract negotiation stuff dont want the information to be released yet. We had a meeting this mornign and the ocnsltants came in and gave info on the surey results and in the next 2 weeks i will get all the information and get it out to the presidents. Because i think its ridiculous that they say they're still consulting with students. Dean nelson still hasnt seen the presentation and they dont want us to see something she thinks is terrible.

I think most fo you are interested in the suggestions that they supplied. The largest was creating a grab and go option in all dining halls in the morning as well as the evening. This is an expansion of late night services (for athletes / people want a lunch to go). 25% of people who have a meal plan skip lunch eery day vs 10% of people who cook for self skip and this "rocked" res life's world.

They were like people who are in cook for yourself are better fed?

One of the key points on their first slide was "how to increase student involvement in dining" and i was like does that mean forcing more people on the meal plan and naiomi was like no no no no no.

The other suggestion was a hybrid meal plan like dining dollars and they didnt have suggestions or details past that

The other results that came out of the survey were that there were no places to eat in "zone seven"

Their point was these places were open for lunch but not for dinner and 25% of people who responded to the survey were still there from 7-8 and one of their big concerns was that there were no dining options on main campus then.

I really wish i could give you guys more and i will push to get the information and the numbers with you. Im sorry i cant give you more but im happy to answer questions

Nonye: more info on other missed meal

Lily: was on survey, but not one they addressed so assuming wasnt interesting so what lunch number was -- was what put shock through the room

Kate: they also compare to other places so also could be when compared with them

Sarah: any questions about cost yet

Lily: flexibility and affordability and happiness and they're lofty goals but you cant get all of them and that i think is one of the best parts of our plans now that apparently its one of the cheapest in the system

Kate; any other questiosn for lily

Sarah: any other reps to meeting

Lily: panhel and ua were invited, panhel was there ua was not

lily: Spring carnival?

Kate: submitted too late to ocnsider in the meeting. So constitutional amendment

Isaac: so in the dormcon constitution it says we can elect up to blank chairs and something that doesnt line up is that right now we have 3 rex chairs, as we did the time before that (and the time before that) so we should amend it to say we can hae up to 3 unlike the 2 it currently says.

Yuge: do people have thoughts

Allie: are we voting on this today?

Kate: we can do it today, next week theres no waiting time needed. The waiting time it was brought up was because kim suggested and either we should make it formally three or think about why it is 2 and actually do 2.

Becky: we've always elected 2 -- i want to be clear on that and the other person has been a committee member, though we've always just treated as equal

Lily: it sounds to me that this position works well with three people, and it worked well with for the last 3, 4 years and im wondering if anyone sees a downside to codifying that.

Sadun: we have no evidence that it doesnt work with 2.

Kate: i think the general argument against having a lot of people is that there can be decentralized responsibility. I dont have a personal opinion on it -- thats just what it is. Theres a point where having more people makes less get done.

BC: is there a head rex/cpw chair? Thats at least what we've done in BC

Duncan: how does the division work in the past?

Jacqui: i really htink its dependent on the year. So currently my cochairs are very hosed, so ive been doing a lot of the work i guess. But i dont know I... I really am not quire sure

Lilly: do u see a benefit of 2-3.

Jacqui: if it was 2 i wouldnt be doing it at all

Allie: so nobody would be doing the work

laughter

Jacqui: i guess there are more people i ahve to get stuff by?

Yuge: has that been a problem?

J: sometimes its helpful by having more peoples eyes and fix something but theres more lag

Sadun: i think the problem of 2+1 is if the two disagree and the problem of 1+2 is if the person is slacking

Kate: We say we can elect up to three so we can elect 2 but as long as ive been here we've tried to elect up to the max

Sadun: i dont think you can have 3+0 is wise

Kate: so sadun is suggesting three models, 2 leaders, 1 comm; 1 leader, 2 comm; 3 leaders, 0 comm.

Sadun: if you elect three people explicitly with no structure, bad things happen -- i saw this recently in east campus for a commiteee

Sarah: i want to go with what kate was saying, i think if we do the up to we tend to elect as many people apply up to that number. I feel like DC people do't like to turn people away unless they cant and doing so we're cementing this as a three person role thinking we could do to because in reality that won't happen

Susan: how can u suspect who is going to be doing the most work and is the top dog

Kate: i dont think its a good idea to elect three people assuming because 2 will disappear

Isaac: part of whats going on here is that this failure position where three people but heads doesn't happen very often but when it does its really bad. I don't think our current system helps with that tohugh. Just in terms of how people elected work together anyways

Kate: our constitution basically says defacto has three and we should either make it two and actually mean it this year.

PErson i dont know: Just for context im a proxy, i guess we're hypothetically discussing a model that has been in use and I understand how if its codified into the consitution and its hard to decide how this will play out and if this is happening and has been happening for the past X years this is fine.

Kate: I think that a lot of times we include the third person ebcause we want mroe people to be involved in dormcon right and not because two people we've already elected couldnt do it alone. And i guess we could make this same arguemnt for all of our positions and i feel like because its happened for a few years people jsut think you can expand on it.

Sadun: because if you had a dormcon member at large what meetings do they go to -- you need to give them something so they don't have something to do.

Isaac: what i can see as reasonable for not wanting three people isnt whats being discussed here -- were just not admitting it basically

Yuge: straw poll do we want to vote

Allie: personally opposed to amending when it was proposed today

Isaac: for clarification this was in the agenda

Person: if we dont change the constiution, does that mean we'll actually have 2 people.

Kate: i think the only way we'll have two is if the general sentiment is that we have 2 despite the constitution.

J: I think it is true we don't want

Sadun: why don't you elect judcomm in the winter

Becky: thats a separate conversation

Allie: we could do a better job of encouraging listeners, but that the reason should be that we don't want to encourage to participate. And not wanting to participate and being a rex chair is a wide gap.

Dorm	Total Votes	Abstentions	Yes	No
Baker	317	0	317	
BC	362	0	362	
EC	372	2	369	1
MacGregor	317	0	317	
Maseeh	485	0	1	484

McCormick	233	0	233	
New	249	0	249	
Next	370	0	370	
Random	93	0	93	
Senior	97	0	97	
Simmons	360	0	1	359
Total	3255	2	2409	844
			0.7400921659	