

DormCon Minutes 9/14/17

Dorm	Attendance	REX Budget Adjustment	Next Haunt	Fall Carnival	Fall Formal	CAC Selection: kdauber
Baker	1	1	1	1	1	1
Burton-Conner	1	1	1	1	1	1
East Campus	1	1	1	1	1	1
MacGregor	1	1	1	1	1	1
Maseeh	1	1	1	1	1	1
McCormick	1	1	1	1	1	1
New	1	1	1	1	1	1
Next	1	1	1	1	1	1
Random	1	1	1	1	1	1
Simmons	1	1	1	1	1	1

Also:

- Jeff, MacGregor Area Director
- Next Haunt
- Laura, representing Festival & Formal

Meeting Started at 6:07

Special Elections Announcement

Next GBM, will hold meetings for one Housing Chair (to join Nonye) and one Risk Management Chair (to join Darrius)

- Please pub to students!

Introductions

Names, spirit animals

70 Amherst St Moment of Silence

30 seconds

We are now 10 undergraduate dorms

REX Booklet Budget Adjustment

In spring, allocated \$1000, books cost \$1058

- Propose to amend to allocate \$1058 to booklets
 - Less extreme than last year, when allocated ~\$700!
- Where money coming from?
 - Not giving \$500 to SH for REX funding
 - Losing house taxes from SH?
 - \$5/person → approximately \$100

Funding Proposals

Proposal:

- Allocate \$550 to each dorm instead of \$500 for REX?
 - Discussion tabled for later
- Correction: events budget is now \$13000, separate new house REX displacement fund of \$2000
 - Because all of NH held REX, but 2/3 of house didn't pay house taxes
 - Still ran under-budget
 - MacGregor hosting La Casa -- were told they were getting displacement fund for La Casa so didn't have to boost their house tax, so spent extra \$1000
 - New is discussing with admin, will try to get housing to give the money instead of new house making up for it
 - New & MacGregor will touch base after meeting! :)
 - Follow up: Pres/VP has regular meetings with Suzy, can push further if needed
- Usual fall events:
 - Carnival, haunt, formal, apple-picking (jk not anymore), Fred Fest (not happening this year? unclear), Bad Ideas, Burns Supper
 -

Next Haunt

- Build a two-story haunted house within Next that serves as an escape room for teams of 6
- **Requesting \$1000** from DormCon
- Question: stats on who from which dorms can go?
 - Don't have but can get
 - Sign-ups: open up to all campus instantly, 360-400 spots,
 - Runs end of October/early November, start building end of September
- Question: how sign-ups advertised?
 - Dormspam for event, one for sign-ups, one on day of sign-ups
 - Poster in Next House
 - **Suggestion: bring posters to a dormcon meeting!**

Fall Carnival

- McCormick, Baker, Maseeh
- McCormick's front lawn
- Advertise on campus and in those three dorms

- Planning to do various carnival foods, large tent, two bouncy castles
 - Safety plans already submitted
 - No security detail
- **Requesting \$1005.64**

Next/McCormick/Simmons Formal

- This year at the Hyatt instead of the Media Lab, theme is sunset (also set earlier)
- Photographers, DJs confirmed
- Security detail pending - unknown whether will need but anticipating
- Only postering this year
- **Requesting \$1,500**, doubled by LEF, supplemented by dorms
- Question: why the Hyatt?
 - Closer to Next house for moving stuff

If like all, \$10k left in events budget

All 3 pass! Yay! Allocated about \$2.5k to events

CAC Committee Representative Selection

Need a new representative for this year

- Lily:
 - Help with room reservations
 - They're pushing wedding spaces this year
 - Complain about the student center a lot
- Deadline?
 - Now, tomorrow morning
 - Actually jk two days ago, we just have an extension
- 4:30-6, one day of the month
- Allowed to rep multiple groups?
 - Yes! Pending
 - Kim (kdauber) appointed! Yay Kim!
 - Well

Housing Update

- Want upperclassmen guest list to start when upperclassmen arrive, would need to create a guest list by the end of May for it to be ready when they move i
 - Have to give to allied early on
- Question: guest lists supposed to be controlled by dorms, dormcon negotiates for that? Sounds like security trying to take that away
 - Allied has to look at the guest list?
 - Not taking away autonomy
 - Always desk worker who vets the guests
 - Email Nonye questions!

Event Registration

- BC told suites are public spaces so if 21-year-olds want to drink in suites, have to register event
 - Heard this from houseteam

- Things have changed? But a lot of confusion around this

New Meal Plan Options/Dining Updates

Aug 7 had dining meeting

- RFP is still on target for October
 - RFP = request for proposals, basically what MIT wants
 - Should get bids by January-ish
- Question:
 - What about Macgregor spaces? Owned by dining
 - MacGregor going to talk to Lily, Joe, Naomi to see what's going on
 - Concerned about mandating dining in MacG

New opportunities for meal plans

- Talked mostly about economics of new plans
- Take-aways:
 - 50% eat breakfast in their own dining hall
 - Want more flexible dining options to make sure people are eating
 - Slides about interest in dining plans for CFY and dining
 - Want to make sure CFY have option to be on meal plan but have no negative consequences
 - A significant number of people east of mass ave are on meal plan
 - There is interest there
 - Slide show is from Invision, consultants working with MIT
 - Dining dollars had low favorability but were poorly defined
 - Admin has not really decided what this would look like
 - Ie, figuring out who owns dining dollars? MIT, or dining contractor?
 - Grab-and-go fairly popular
 - W20 and east of mass ave (like Walker) opening up for something like Late Night
- Proposed meal plans:
 - All include dining dollars
 - How tie into techCash up for debate
 - look especially at slides 11, 12, 14
- Difference between meals per week and meals per semester?
 - Yes, per semester rolls over between weeks
 - Trying to lower the barrier to entry
 - But as go lower frequency, higher cost per meal
- Also talked about spreading out any and basic plans on the lower values
 - Under all plans, no more basic plans
- No longer a 19 mandate for Maseeh
- Floated shutting down either Maseeh, Baker, or McCormick for breakfast
 - Closing one might make entire meal plan cheaper
 - People might object to closing one, but might also be in favor of saving money
 - If want to get more people to eat breakfast, closing dining hall won't help

- Unless saves a lot of money, not great option
- What if offered a continental breakfast instead of a full breakfast?
- Shutting down breakfast may make crowding during lunch and dinner even worse
- Plans are fairly cheap compared to current (or at least slightly less expensive) -- because assuming (esp with new dorm) will have more people on plan
- Cafe 4 swipes?
 - Depends on dining contractor, TechCash, etc
 - Mainly having trouble because cafe 4 is too small
- Pritchett is best option, likely going to get a cafe for trial period for grab and go
- Suggestion: small cafe?
 - Problem is projected use is way too high to be sustained by any current location
 - Also, most food locations are run by different dining companies
- Will Maseeh still be open for lunch if closed for breakfast, if more any plans?
 - Probably not going to open a lunch further west than Maseeh, so yes
 - Concerned Maseeh would get big crowds at lunch
 - Referring to slide 12 or 15
- Explanation of RFP:
 - Shapes what MIT asks for, trying to get the request as favorable to students as possible, companies will then tailor bids to fit the RFP
- **Dining Chairs recommend reading through this with exec and emailing feedback to Joe and Lily**
 - **Please send which plans find most favorable**
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New Dorm Timeline

REX Feedback/Comments

Debrief FYRE and REX

- BC: seemed like very few from Baker and Maseeh at BC events, freshmen got REX booklets late?
 - Desk workers were giving booklets out to everyone, not just freshmen, at some dorms
- Overcrowding:
 - Next got triples on top of triples, freshmen were disappointed that had almost no doubles and triples instead, put a damper on REX
 - **Rooming issues might be discussed over email**
 - MacGregor a little sad that got more freshmen who just wanted singles this year
- Sororities early returns
 - During floor rush, sororities fined members if didn't go (namely AChiO)
 - From AChiO member: also sad, first year that fines existed, it should be excused
 - Can bring back agreement not to interfere?
 - IFC REX/Rush at standstill
 - Maybe try to get a sole Panhel agreement?

- Food symbols:
 - Way to identify snack versus actual meal? Would be useful so waffle snacks don't get swamped
- Can be more clear about how FYRE works?
 - Some very clear explanation from housing, instead of just individual RACs
 - Add to assignment email
 - Update FYRE explanation in the booklet, and add FAQ or contact info
 - Could also deliver housing announcement to each dorm's desk about FYRE
 - Other problem: if you FYRE, you won't know in-house rush process
- Panic over singles this year
- Parents of dorm facebook group, where spreading bad information?
 - Sightings of mice and roaches
 - Can we disseminate correct info to parents?
 - House team can go onto facebook page to counter
- Also McCormick is now FYRE! Still have ten dorms in FYRE
- Booklet vs. Online!
 - Against online:
 - Some people do not have smart phones
 - The fact that so many people take the booklets isn't bad, just need more
 - Other option - allocate more money to print more booklets
 - In favor of online:
 - An app can be edited, but the booklets can't
 - Add notifications
 - Allocating less so that each dorm can poster more?
 - Hard to poster for an entire dorm like MacGregor, where each entry holds own events
 - Can get upperclassmen to switch to online would help as well
- Most presidents in favor of having some booklets
- Got fewer booklets, get around same number of booklets as freshmen
 - Why MIT not printing?
 - UAAP - refuses to print because some events don't align with their goals
 - Don't want more admins involved
 - Still haven't told admins who critique the books that we're taking suggestions, not mandates
 - Critiques are often over-sensitive, against even small sex jokes, anything that could be 'unwelcoming' according to admin standards, not student standards
 - Because they're not paying they don't have official controls - generally in favor of this
- Steps:
 - Give better instructions to desk workers
 - Only give to freshmen

- Email events out to upperclassmen