**DormCon Minutes 9/14/17**

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 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 ⅓ 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 posterizing 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 in
  - 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

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