## DormCon Minutes 10/12/17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dorm</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burton-Conner (proxy)</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Campus</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MacGregor</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maseeh</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>McCormick</td>
<td>--</td>
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<tr>
<td>New</td>
<td>--</td>
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<tr>
<td>Next</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Random</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simmons</td>
<td>x</td>
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</tbody>
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**PROXIES:**
BC - Katie Fisher

Meeting started at approximately: 7:39pm

### Officer Updates

#### Event Reg Policy
- Not much happened at the meeting; mostly just catching up
- Next step: get more contact
- Get it up by spring
- Is there any way to move up the timeline to test it at the end of the semester?
  - It depends on atlas
  - Could also test it during IAP

### REX Chairs’ Update
- Feedback from Jen and Julie
  - Have more food options - halal, kosher
  - Could have a marker in the booklet?
  - Having accountability plans in place sooner so that early return numbers are higher
- Having freshmen check-in events
- 6/10 dorms already have peer mentorship program, so funding for freshmen check-in events would be for other 4 dorms
- Also could have events for other class years - is there interest?
  - Doesn’t hurt
- Part of bigger discussion about in dorm programming
  - Don’t want checklist programming: want more thoughtful programming
  - If too many events, attendance goes down
  - Lower barrier by having right in entrance
  - Ideas for more programming?
    - More non-course 6 career programming
    - MISTI
  - Also good for meeting more people
  - Don’t want to have too many events with people not in the dorm
  - Maybe flip the programming to be globalized so people can have more global programming

Creating In-House Rooming Guidelines
- Problem: keeping freshmen information private
  - Want to have some guiding principles
  - Example: distributing freshmen information through email
  - Institutions have obligations to keep educational records private, including surveys filled out: because rooming survey is semi-required, information needs to be kept private
- Dorm rooming process
  - Macgregor
    - Allows squatting
    - Freshmen split into 10 groups
    - Freshmen visits each entry/HOH for 15 minutes
    - Entries rank freshmen on 1-6, 6 being freshman really doesn’t fit
    - If problems, rush person for each entry
    - Information goes into an algorithm
  - Maseeh
    - Freshmen can stay in their old room if they want (squatting)
    - Or can join new lottery (usually <15 people)
  - Random
    - No freshmen get to squat
    - Get on a list then get to choose
    - Difficult because cat floors and gender floors
  - Baker
    - Kinda similar to Maseeh
    - Not random, try to make good fit
    - Freshmen fill out survey whether they want to move or not, but usually people that want to stay can stay
- Form: where they want to move
- Minimize number of rooms but maximize happiness
  - Simmons
    - No guaranteed squatting
    - Go visit all the sections
    - Fill out long form
    - Then assigned to rooms by rooming chairs
  - Next
    - No squats
    - Wing rush - visit all the wings
    - Get a lottery number, then freshmen pick rooms based on their lottery pick
    - Awkward at the end if say, one triple and two males one female, then need to backtrack
      - Try not to get to that point
  - BC
    - No squatting
    - Freshmen organize all the forms (stapling)
    - Freshmen rank floors
    - Floors submit 5 freshmen that they want
    - Then try to match
  - EC
    - Mutual selection
    - Hall rush: visit all 10 halls
    - Freshmen fill out forms
    - Get together with prez, RAC, rep from each hall
    - Room freshmen based on principles/rules
      - Done manually
    - Use algorithm to quantify happiness
- Squatting: good or bad? :/
  - Some freshmen really like their section
  - But also might not know where they really want to live
  - Don't think it's fair that FYREs don't have the same opportunity
- Anything with upperclassmen choice = mutual selection
  - Line that mutual selection is not good though - ie if freshmen prefs never get taken into account
- Macgregor: in mutual selection, some freshmen are really popular among some entries and some are not
  - In algorithm, rank freshmen prefs higher than upperclassmen prefs
  - Most people get their top 1-3 choices
  - Concern: entries have different personalities
- Needs to be more clear about how to get SDS form for singles for medical reasons
  - Don't want students to be in the position of having to choose
Tough when not even singles: what to do if none of them have the validation?

- Idea behind number 7 is to avoid having to make RACs choose

Please make sure that housing is clear about single gender bathrooms/suites

- Macgregor: for single bathroom suite, bathrooms are still shared
- That’s a Jen thing

Another principle is transparency

- Reason people get upset is that they don’t know
- Actually disagree, (EC) tell freshmen that it’s a mutual selection but they preferences are priority, 99% will get top 3 choice
  - Emphasizing the mutual selection may make them feel more pressured
  - Don’t want to overwhelm them with detailed information on the steps
- Simmons: don’t want to release number of rooms per section because don’t want freshmen to game rooms
- Goals are good, but steps are a little difficult
- Next: extremely transparent, true that it leads to people gaming the system; especially true this year because space is tight
  - Freshmen trying to get biggest room or loopholes, not trying to meet upperclassmen or find the best place for them
  - Being extremely transparent directs focus to the wrong place

Motivations for 5

- Idea is that information needs to be protected
  - For example, if there’s a floor mailing list, information about freshmen shouldn’t go beyond RAC or rooming committee; information should not be sent to a floor or dorm mailing list

Is 4 and 5 the same?

- Unclear what “sensitive” means
- Reason they’re different is that “or rooming committee” wasn’t there

** At least one person on the committee needs to be FERPA trained

- Next house only has one rooming chair…
- Maseeh has a rooming committee, only uses summer form to match roommates and room and floor is random after that
- Macgregor: do gender ratios differ on Institute levels? Not a lot of girls
  - Continuously have a problem
  - No policy to preserve some gender ratio within suites/floors/etc.
- Something on the form: include interested in/want gender inclusive housing
  - One reason to recommend own housing form: get to be more in-depth with those questions
- For 4 and 5: only worried about sensitive information

Straw Poll: Security Tap Access for Every Undergrad?

- What’s the purpose?
  - Back in like 2013 or something, none of the dorms had security
- Is it possible to be dorm by dorm access?
- Probably
- Maybe get upsides without downsides: more express guest list

**Feelings**
- Yes: Next, BC (tentative), EC
- No: Macg, Maseeh, Random
- Not sure: Baker, Simmons (but kinda no)

- Would be nice to not have people waiting outside though
- Dorms are growing increasingly antagonistic
- How often would you need/want to get into a dorm without reasonable probability of being on a guest list
  - Having security discourages going to other dorms
- Dorms are safe zones
  - In extreme situation, no lists
  - This policy would make it easier for people to tailgate in
  - There are people that residents don’t want them to be in their dorm
  - Less confident in people, making more stringent policies are better
  - Response: some dorms that are open completely to all students
    - Never heard of situation of such discomfort; if that were something to happen, then it would be addressed

- Possible issue: people from other dorms just coming in to use facilities
- Maybe having open access hours at only specific hours?
- Why did this change?
  - Risk management in general
  - Bombings? Stabbing? Baker?
- For context: at Harvard, can access any undergrad dorm

**House Team Feedback**
- Official going to be sent out at 11/9 meeting GBM, presidents should be here
- House specific questions will be sent to HOH (maybe RLAD)

**Discussion**