

6/14/16 Chancellor Meeting Summary

rvasen, cavery , dguberek , aleffell , canepa , haNSA , mgcain , skirma, corymj , kakobh , csimps , trattner , deywos , iszhang , onga, + barnhart kim and jag

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Main Discussion Topics

- Privacy and confidentiality - In order for these meeting conversations to be open and honest, and to avoid broadcasting sensitive information, Cindy asked that the meeting not be recorded. She said she wants to be transparent and candid with the individuals who are directly impacted by these actions - Senior House students.
- Overview of meetings with Senior House government leaders and GRTs: all GRTs and their partners slated to be in Senior House in 2016-17 were invited to return; discussed rationale for what data we did and did not release; touched briefly on Sarah Melvin's proposal but ran out of time and scheduled another meeting to discuss her plan in depth.
- Drug statement in letter - Students expressed concerns about this language. Cindy explained that we thought long and hard about this, and while we did not release specifics on the supporting information or data that informed our concerns about drug use, we did decide to include the statement in the letter to be honest with the community and to avoid being accused of hiding the drug issue or having people saying the immediate steps are not warranted.
- Justification for drug concerns: Cindy told students that concerns about drug use stemmed from drug-related incidents; information provided by faculty, staff, and students; and surveys (Healthy Minds in spring 2015, national college health association survey in fall 2013)
- Construction and space/room changes: Cindy said the need to create space for new live-in house team members will likely mean that there will be construction in the fall. We will do our best to mitigate these impacts (noise) as much as possible. Cindy also committed to working with the students on construction that might impact student room locations.
- First-year students: There was clear disagreement about the decision to take a temporary pause on placing first-year students in Senior House. Students said that 18 year-olds should be able to choose where they want to live; freshmen are the community's "lifeblood;" the Senior House community is incredibly welcoming and supportive; and the pause on first-years is punitive. Cindy said that the action is intended to provide support to the upperclassmen who have an established home in Senior House, and for the 6 freshmen (out of nearly 900) who ranked Senior House as their first choice as of the Friday morning before the announcement, MIT would work closely with them to find a welcoming community.

- Turnaround team membership and goals and new house team membership: Students and Cindy discussed how big to make the turnaround team and who should be on it (new administrators, CDSA representative). Cindy said a goal for the turnaround team is to ensure that we - students and the administration - are working together. They also discussed the makeup of the new house team: HM, ASS HM, RLAD, GRTs, maybe residential peer mentors (all-live in). Live outs: S3 dean, MH&C counselor.

Next Steps

- Robby planned to poll the group for another meeting on either June 22 or June 23
- Kim and Jag said they would determine a way for current students to call in next week
- Kim said she would answer Hansa's question about MH&C phone screens