

The Dormitory Council

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
dormcon-exec@mit.edu



Minutes of Regular Meeting – East Campus

04 November 2004

Attendance			
<i>Executive Committee</i>			
President:	Ian Brelinsky	Secretary:	Aayesha Siddiqui
Vice President:	Joshua Velasquez	Treasurer:	Seth Dorfman
REX Chairs:	<i>(absent)</i>	JudComm Chairs:	David Nedzel
Housing Chair:	<i>(absent)</i>	Webmaster:	Joshua Velasquez
<i>Dormitory Representatives</i>			
Baker House:	Martijn Stevenson	New House:	Joshua Velasquez
Bexley Hall:	<i>(absent)</i>	Next House:	Chris Hemond
Burton-Connor:	Nick Baldasaro	Random Hall:	Jeff Cohen
East Campus:	Jessie Austin-Breneman	Senior Haus:	Matt Brooks
MacGregor House:	Aayesha Siddiqui	Simmons Hall:	Seth Dorfman <i>(proxy)</i>
McCormick Hall:	Emily Cheng <i>(proxy)</i>		
<i>Also In Attendance</i>			
UA Liason:	Estevan Martinez	Residents:	Yoyo Zhou (Random) Maria Schriver (East Campus) Jessie Lowell (East Campus)

(Food selection: Pizza)

RBA Update

Liz Young <ecy> and Dan Chapman <dwc> declined invitation to come to today's meeting. General consensus that they're scared of DormCon. Next House says they believe all questions have already been answered by Next House and thus there was no need to come.

ARC/Orientation Update

Last week's meeting with the ARC (to discuss orientation) went well. They seemed to listen to our perspectives. No definitive agreement on anything, but it was established that DormCon and the ARC might be able to work together. We don't know when the orientation schedule is coming out (perhaps the week before finals). Also, there will be an Institute Meeting where DormCon, IFC, UA, Panhel, LGC, Housing, ARC, and SLP will all convene to discuss "orientation philosophy."

i3 Update

i3 is starting early this year, so Josh needs all presidents to send him <chillin> names of i3 chairs. And should i3 be on DVD, CD, or both this year? Random and Senior stress that we should emphasize better [read: funnier] quality, not more material. DVD discussion to continue next time.

JudComm

Regarding the Simmons party incident (as discussed last meeting), JudComm Chair apologizes for being “far too defensive” of administrators and how the case was handled. The new Dean of Student Discipline Bill Fischer is willing to work with us and ensure that we are part of the process, being first in line when a dorm issue comes up. Bill is invited to the next DormCon meeting, but there will also be a ‘working dinner’ with him to discuss JudComm. **Individual dorms need to email Bill <wfischer> when they want to start training their JudComms.**

Educational Commons Task Force

Guest speaker Chris Suarez came to solicit more involvement from dorms in the Task Force for Educational Commons. The task force will be reviewing the curriculum and making recommendations for change. The student advisory committee needs more members (currently only Sidney Pacific and Next House are represented). Its goal is to produce a student report that codifies the ideas in preparation for the formation of a formal report to be submitted in the spring. The committee meets every Sunday in the UA Senate Room from 12:30-2:00pm, and members are expected to attend *all* meetings. This commitment is for the rest of the fall 2004 term (and through the end of IAP if possible). Email Chris Suarez <casuarez> with any interest.

All-Access Card

Ian’s 8.05 class discussed proximity cards and log access attempts and had apparently addressed this issue before. Privacy and security were the main concerns. Random asserts that the individual dorms should have a choice whether or not to implement the card. (Random, Senior, and EC will probably not approve the all-access card. New, MacGregor, and Burton-Connor probably will.)

Housing Office can implement this. Possible to go through house managers, but why do so if we can deal with the administration directly? RLA Dan Kirsch said it would be difficult to change the settings once dorms decided *yes* or *no* to the all-access card, therefore dorms need to make a long-term decision. Ian will contact Housing.

REX

The ARC asked what DormCon did for REX, and there was generally positive feedback from them (especially concerning the State Event). They will also be meeting with other groups (e.g. IFC). We are trying to push the ARC to rethink REX and open it up to discussion, despite the fact that they think all is well.

Julie Norman <jbnorman> does not want to push REX to the earlier part of the week.

We swapped our residential life i3 video/book for Princeton’s academic i3 version. :-)

Liz Young <eyc> supports in-dorm programming instead of talks like Danny Trujillo. The in-dorm events would more directly involve the students, employing Orientation leaders and REX workers to lead events. If this is the case, it was suggested the orientation groups not be confined to one dorm – if an orientation group’s members are dispersed throughout different dorms on campus, in-dorm programming would necessitate that they visit *other* dorms for such events.

“Mutual respect” is being fostered between the ARC and DormCon. So things might not be as bad as they might have seemed.

What do other colleges do for orientation and REX?

Random said an effort to find out could backfire because other colleges might not do something analogous to residence selection. Treasurer rebuts with the argument that REX makes MIT unique. **Goal: accumulate information and stories from other college students about the residence selection process and orientation at their schools.**

Ian – *Stanford*

Josh – *Northwestern*

Aayesha – *Harvard*

Seth – *University of Virginia*

Jeff – *Tufts*

Matt – *Oberlin*

Martin – *Berkeley*

Nick – *Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*

Emily – *College Park and Cornell*

Estevan – *University of Texas*

Maria – *University of Chicago*

****Email all dorms about open positions for REX chairs****

Next meeting to be held in MacGregor House on 18 November 2004.

