

The Dormitory Council

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

dormcon-exec@mit.edu



Minutes of Regular Meeting – MacGregor House

18 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 Jacqueline Greene
Housing Chair:	<i>Absent</i>	Webmaster:	Joshua Velasquez
<i>Dormitory Representatives</i>			
Baker:	Martijn Stevenson	New House:	Joshua Velasquez
Bexley:	<i>Absent</i>	Next House:	Chris Hamond
Burton-Connor:	<i>Proxy</i> - Mitra Lohrasbpour	Random Hall:	Jeff Cohen
East Campus:	Jessie Austin-Breneman	Senior Haus:	Matt Brooks
MacGregor:	Aayesha Siddiqui	Simmons Hall:	Jennifer Wong
McCormick:	Alice Wu		
<i>Also in attendance</i>			
Special Guest:	Bill Fischer	UA Liason:	Estevan Martinez
RLAs:	Sharon Snaggs Dan Kirsch	Residents:	Austin Chu (Random) Mike Yee (MacGregor)

JudComm Business

Bill Fischer is the new associate dean for student conduct. He is currently in his third week here at the institute and is interested in participating as much as possible. He would like to learn more about the community values and culture of MIT. Steve Tyrell's opinion and openness was highly valued, and we hope to continue this type of relationship with the office.

Yesterday's meeting with Bill Fischer was in regards to conduct management in the residence halls. JudComms should be up and running soon – the central is what needs to happen to get this done? Also, is this from the standpoint of MIT as an institution? What about those dorms that express no interest in having their own JudComm?

There needs to be a codified document of student conduct, including the philosophy and mission behind it and outlining what procedures would be taken in the event of an infraction were to occur. Behaviors that are clear violations of the code of conduct need to be explicitly determined and communicated. *We need a replacement for Ian as a member of the OSD's student work group.*

Orientation

Pre-planning has begun with other governmental bodies on campus (e.g. UA, IFC, Panhel, and LGC) as well as in conjunction with administration (e.g. SLP, Housing). A meeting with the ARC is soon to come. Some preliminary exchanges have indicated that the possibility of moving events earlier into the week to address the “locked in” feeling of RBA might not occur.

Snaggs suggests we compile our own study and present it. This will highlight where we want to go with orientation and REX. President stresses that the issue is not necessarily the facts but the implementation.

Dorm Security

Housing thought we moved too forward with the “universal card access” idea. Another possibility could be utilizing i-campus such that automatic updates of guest lists could be made with certificates. Snaggs comments that the IT people are looking to find projects – they have funds to use so we would have to take the initiative before June (end of fiscal year).

CPW & Resident Selection

A possibility for CPW: Send out a residences CD to advertise why our residential system is “awesome.” Something akin to the i3 project, but for *all* admitted students. The administrators agree that emphasizing the uniqueness of our residential system is important. We want to convey the message that residential selection should be an integrated part of becoming assimilated into MIT life, not regarded as an “afterthought.” Snaggs brings up the counter-argument that few freshmen end up moving – so it is *really* an afterthought, or did they choose wisely from the start?

Ian stresses that we *do* show dorms during CPW, but that showcase isn't substantial. Snaggs acknowledges that we should explain to the prefrash how the residential selection system works in a designated program during CPW but how many more times will they hear the same information? Ian says that it will be more like an advertisement campaign showing how dorms are unique and what support network is available.

(The freshmen present at the meeting say that the low freshmen move rate is due primarily because of “inertia.” And if they *do* move, they do so because they don't like the dorm they are currently in and *not* because they like another dorm more.)

Another problem during CPW is that those prefrash temp-housed at fraternities don't visit the dorms much.

Admissions evaluates the prefrash and assigns them to temp-housing that they think will “fit” best.

Baker adds that if prefrash receive housing materials prior to CPW, it is more likely to encourage exploration. The sooner they have information, they sooner they are thinking about it. Vice President stresses that if that is the case, the sooner REX will disappear. Random points out that these same prefrash are receiving lots of materials from *other* schools – so if we add residential information to the admissions packet, will they even look at it? JudComm Chair suggests that because the prefrash are so excited, they probably *will* look through. Vice President says that there will be more to come regarding this idea of the pre-i3 information.

Snaggs comments how there is a changing focus of REX: prefrash make their personal choices after CPW and there is inertia in the fall. There should be time for the upperclassmen to socialize with the

prefrosh – in a more general sense, not entirely focused on the moving process, although that is part of it too.

Random says there should be descriptions of the system and of the housing, with pointers to web based materials. Vice President says the more it is pushed back (as in, when this information is sent to the prefrosh), the more outdated it will be.

Snaggs says that the DormCon coordinated dorm tours during CPW 2004 were extremely popular because admissions tours didn't have that component. An idea is to open with a DormCon session and then start the tours from there.

Random emphasizes the need to convince more people to host prefrosh, especially targeting freshmen to host. The larger residences should aim to host about 70-100, and Baker comments that this is feasible. But we have to think of the healthy relationship we have with the IFC in this matter.

Upcoming Events

- mid-January: DormCon retreat
- May 20-22: Chancellor's Summit with new DormCon officers

UA Update

- Planning to increase the number of write-in slots for dorm senators.
- Districting fraternities – currently there are only 5 senators total, thus causing some houses to have more power than others, segregating the fraternities. There is a disconnect between the senators and the actual brothers, as the senators report to the IFC only.

Meeting with Dean Benedict

Discuss dining, orientation, and dorm security. There needs to be a good faith effort regarding dorm security – we need to open up more conversation about the matter, as MIT is liable. And MIT will be better as a whole if dorm security is sufficient.