

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

DormCon

MIT DORMITORY COUNCIL MEETING

Sept. 13 2006, 6:30pm -- East Campus

Special Guest: Robin Smedick (Undergraduate Housing)

ON THE AGENDA:

Get Food (6:15)

Welcome & Welfare (6:30)

Present: Baker, Burton-Conner, EC, MacGregor, McCormick, Next, Random, Senior House

Absent: Bexley, New, Simmons

UPDATES (6:35)

- Housing

-no update

- Dining

-meeting with Rich Berlin tomorrow to talk about Dunkin Donuts

-trying to get it to 24 hours

-LaVerde's - going back to 24 hours?

-will be doing that temporarily

-not profitable for them because it's hard to get staff

-maybe be doing that for one more year

- JudComm

-new director Veronica Mendoza - Office of Student Mediation and Community Standards

- Risk Management

-Friday IFC having a talk for alumni about risk management in general

- Chris will be attending and giving a 10 minute talk on risk management for dorms
- Student Groups
 - UA elections happen in a week or so
 - Senate start in 2-3 weeks
- Cultural House Program Update
 - Committee formed about 18 months ago to identify purpose etc.
 - supposed to have a core academic purpose which seemed to have been lost
 - David, Harvey, Martini, and Ian have attended meetings - waiting for a report
 - once we get the report we will have the opportunity to comment on it
- ASA Hazing Policy Reminder
 - required to agree to the Massachusetts No Hazing policy

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. REX & Orientation Debriefing (6:45)

- what went well
 - all the freshmen stayed in their temporary dorms
 - mentioned DormCon website was different from Hitchhiker's Guide, these should be combined
 - Facebook groups for events
 - REX brochures were helpful, but freshman didn't know about them
 - feedback on parties: nice because there was a wide variety of choices
 - no one felt pressured to stay or to leave
- what needs to be improved
 - a lot of freshmen took food and quickly left
 - no one knew about Daily Confusion - maybe integrate that more into official REX printing
 - no one even knew what it was
 - worked better when it was printed in daily issues of the Tech
 - bad when there was too much nonsense on the front of the Tech
 - Orientation leaders give them out?
 - a lot of times there was low attendance within orientation groups so that wouldn't solve a lot of problems

- one never even met their orientation leader (didn't know who it was or where to go)
- early returns should be allowed to come back around a week earlier from a planning perspective
- especially the orientation leaders and the REX chairs
- a little bit more time for people to shift from UPOPs to orientation to REX
- Robin could probably get the ~20 Rush chairs to come back an extra week early
- why does each dorm only have a certain amount of early returns - the more should be better
 - difficult to coordinate the switch from summer housing (800-900) to early returns
- encourage people that have summer UROPs that usually end around Aug 15th to help out with REX
 - Robin says they could email the summer residents that DormCon is looking for volunteers to help the early returns with REX
- Sarah summary:
 - REX went really well because a lot of people moved around
 - Things that didn't go well
 - some people completely disappeared especially REX chairs around 2 weeks before REX started which caused problems
 - encourage them to be there for the whole summer
- REX survey & housing lottery results
 - Robin gave out results for summer lottery, readjustment lottery and surveys
 - thanks freshmen for giving us feedback
 - Robin sent the more detailed comments to David so if you are interested in those contact him <nedzel>
 - Summer Lottery
 - 1011 freshmen in class of 2010 in housing
 - ~750 freshmen were put in automated housing lottery
 - ~250 were put in manually (cultural houses and RBA)
 - gives information about how many freshman spots there were and what percent were filled with their first choice
 - 70% to their first choice, 23% to their second choice, 7% to their third choice
 - most popular buildings in the summer lottery - Baker and Random, but depends on perspective
 - Adjustment Lottery
 - 1002 freshmen total
 - 791 freshmen were allowed to enter the lottery (freshmen in Next and McCormick could not)

- 152 entered the readjustment lottery (15% of total entered) and ~80% of those were moved
- results were very similar to last year
- distribution of freshmen in each building was 30-40% for each dorm (35% is ideal)
- lots of good feedback about the Guide and REX in general etc.
- will discuss at administrative level and SLOPE about students who were very upset about being in Next
 - Upset because their RBA advising options were limited and they felt like they were imprisoned
 - even though they might want to stay they still want to have the choice of leaving
 - most people meet their advisors until after REX so why should Next and McCormick have to meet them before REX is over
 - Petra says she received a lot of questions about classes which she thought that she was helpful for them
 - Frank: have a poll after about a semester asking whether they are happy with how things turned out
 - Next got lowest opinion about advising options and Jessie thinks that it's very unfair that the freshmen can't participate in the opportunity to move
 - Parents were unhappy that if a woman wanted to live in an all women dorm she would have to be in RBA
 - Is there a way to either during CPW or during the summer to advertise the specifics of RBA better?
 - this has been very confusing for parents and freshmen - just because they have a traditional advisor they are in RBA just not in a seminar

2. Smoking Policy (7:00)

- All the smokers must agree in writing to the policy in order to be allowed to smoke in their rooms (this includes both roommates of a double)
- good thing is that we can do it electronically
- will be working with either the presidents or the RACs to get a list of all the rooms that have 'smokers'
- both of the students must be smokers in order for this to be allowed
- smoking should be in the rooms only even though there are "smoking floors"
- if there are suites just the person who is actually in the room has to sign because they are not supposed to be smoking in the common room anyway
- Robin would not report this information to the presidents or publish the names of the people who are listed as smokers
- How is this going to be enforced?
 - if we aren't in compliance then MIT could become non-smoking everywhere to comply with Cambridge law.
- Who would be able to solicit more response - presidents or RACs?
 - also contact hall chairs - they would probably know the best
- Contact Robin with questions and spread the word that this is not "cracking down" on smoking but just a proactive response to Cambridge's laws
- MIT policy is that smoking can only happen in the individual rooms - not in bathrooms, common spaces in suites, halls etc.

- this is the way the policy has been
- Have housemasters remind the people of the smoking policy

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Financial Report & Budget (7:10)

- Last year DormCon spent \$1700 more than we got
- Estimated income is about \$15,000
 - \$6500 will go into a reserve account from REX
 - \$1000 in exec
 - maybe make that a little more so we don't have to vote on smaller items
 - Meeting food budget remains the same
- Last year we decided that we weren't going to raise the DormCon tax so we have less money than other years to fund for events
- Propose: we free up \$6000 of surplus funds to spend on events for the fall and the spring
 - Last year we struggled a little with which events we should be funding
- We have been building up a surplus but we shouldn't deplete it very quickly
- Should we change the allocation between Fall and Spring because there were definitely more events in the Spring
 - rollover the leftover money from the Fall into the Spring allocation

Baker - Y Burton-Conner - Y EC - Y MacGregor - Y McCormick - Y Next - Y Random - Y Senior House - Y

-BUDGET PASSES-

2. Fall Formal Funding (\$ 4,000) (7:20)

- big event - good to get out -nice hotel
- event is held by four dorms - Simmons, McCormick, New, and MacGregor
 - these dorms get a discount on tickets and specially reserved tickets
 - Presidents can still offer contributions
- but it is open to the rest of the campus
- Budget:
 - food and venue: \$15,000
 - entertainment: \$700
 - transportation: \$2000
 - favors: \$700

-publicity: \$400

-Tickets Sales ~\$4,000

-Sponsoring dorms: \$8 per person \$12 per couple

-Non-sponsoring dorms: \$10 per person \$15 per couple

-Occupancy at the Hyatt is about 450 people which is more and only need one bus instead of 3 because it is so close

Baker Y Burton-Conner Y EC Y MacGregor Y McCormick Y Next Y Random Y Senior House Y

-FALL FORMAL FUNDING PASSES-

FINAL THOUGHTS

-East Side party last year for about \$800 to Random Rush Chairs

-asking to refund this because the budget cycle from last year has passed already

-receipts are original and dated from last year

-asking to restore '04-'05 budget for this \$800

Baker Y Burton-Conner Y EC Y MacGregor Y McCormick Y Next Y Random Y Senior House Y

-REIMBERSEMENT PASSES-

Next Meeting at Senior House

Presidents fill out the wiki for times that they can make it to set up next meeting time