

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

DormCon

MIT DORMITORY COUNCIL MEETING
Nov. 15 2006, 5:30pm -- McCormick

SPECIAL GUEST: Veronica Mendoza (Director, Office of Student Mediation and Community Standards)

ON THE AGENDA:

Get Food (5:15)

Welcome & Welfare (5:30)

Present: Baker, East Campus, MacGregor, McCormick, Next, Random, Senior House

Absent: Bexley, Burton-Conner, New, Simmons

UPDATES (5:35)

- Housing

-MIT Cable

- Discovery Channel is now here! Replaced MIT Weather
- MIT only has a finite amount of bandwidth so we can only have so many channels so what do we purchase and which ones do we actually get to see
- The L.A.M.P. channels have really bad quality so those could only be used by audio
- International channels are paid for by the language departments and we can not touch them
- Lowest channel on the survey was the GBH-Kids but that was kept because of the Westgate and Eastgate families
- MTV/MTV-U is still up in the air

-HSG

- Release of cultural house subcommittee report
- David will send out the 40 page report to look at
- 3 recommendations:
 - Making sure that they are achieving a core academic purpose
 - If there are new themed houses, where will they end up? Housing will think about that
 - Residential Scholar program should be expanded in numbers and to other dorms besides New and Simmons

-W1 Committee

- At the second meeting, the feasibility design study was released

- Will be plenty of opportunities in the coming months to sit in on the subcommittee meetings
- How will the dining program be implemented?
 - Current plan would be dining hall plus a country kitchen (no additional dining space)
- Dining
 - Survey and analysis of that continues
 - Allie is working with the UA and Rich Berlin
- JudComm (see below)
- Risk Management
 - CLC hearing was very quick - reported on the Social Host Initiative Training
 - MIT is now released from the CLC's watch
- Student Groups
 - Senate was 2 days ago

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. The "new" office of Student Mediation and Community Standards (5:45)
 - Veronica Mendoza began on September 1st this year
 - Her job focuses on supervising student mediation and other things (like the COD) and setting goals for things to come
 - Veronica will be hiring a full time mediation trainer that will be in charge of setting up a mediation program
 - Will be expanding the graduate mediation programs in Course 5 and Course 8 and will be trying to get this across campus
2. The Future for House JudComms and DormCon JudComm (5:50)
 - Another goal is to bring back the JudComm's
 - Back when Veronica was here they were in almost all of the dorms however the rest of the Institute did not really know what was going on with them
 - Purpose is to have your community making decisions based on your dorm's standards
 - Bad side was however, there was no consistency - there needs to be a basic level that shouldn't vary from dorm to dorm
 - The intent is to not impose these on the dorms - each dorm can have a JudComm only if they want to
 - Ian and Veronica both agree that they should proceed cautiously
 - Beginning with Random and MacGregor and will be putting them through training in the next few weeks so that they will hopefully be ready to hear cases beginning next term
 - Why is administrative oversight over JudComms necessary?
 - Making sure that a case is appropriate and also a mechanism for making sure a fine or community service is enforced
 - Do all of the JudComm members have to be trained?
 - Only complaints filed against a certain individual or a group of people
 - Simmons will hopefully be trained during IAP
 - "Rules and Procedures for Dormitory Judicial Committees" document can have each dorm specify what kinds of cases they can hear
 - Hopefully by the end of the academic year can have a functioning DormCon JudComm
 - 30 hour mediation training will occur during IAP during one of the weeks

3. DormCon IAP Leadership Summit (6:00)

- Purpose is to get new and returning dormitory leaders together to talk about differences in different dorms and campus issues etc.
- Timing - towards end of January because more people will be back on campus
 - Not holding it during LeaderShape
 - Could be like last year - 5 hour evening session during the 3rd week of IAP on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday night etc
 - Or could use weekend or parts of weekend
 - If we went for the weekend some fun could be involved
 - This is worth looking in to
 - Time for leaving - maybe better if it's not in the early morning so more people would come - possibly leave on Friday afternoon and return on Saturday evening
- Half of goal is to introduce new dormitory leaders to DormCon but other half is to get dormitory leaders together and talking

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 29th at MacGregor at 5:30 PM

ADJOURN - 6:11 PM