

DORMCON MINUTES - FEBRUARY 17, 2011

Attendance:

Dorm	Representative	Present
Baker	Brian Luque	X
Burton-Conner	Alex Penn	X
East Campus	James Douberley	X
MacGregor	Mariya Samoylova	X
McCormick	Krithika Shanmugasundaram	(absent)
New House	TyShaun Wynter	X
Next House	Alec Lai	X
Random Hall	Rebecca Cox	X
Senior Haus	Paula Countouris	X
Simmons Hall	Zach Hynes	X
Phoenix Group	Virginia Nicholson	X
President	Christina Johnson	X
Vice President	Meagan Roth	X
Secretary	Alicia Singham Goodwin	X
Treasurer	Betsy Soukup	X

Topics Discussed:

Donna Dennoncourt: I work in Residential Life, and I come to DormCon once each year to meet the new presidents. My job logistically is to supervise the RLAs, work with student crisis facilities, hire and train GRTs, and to work with the housemasters. I'd like to go around the room and have everyone introduce themselves. (*Everyone introduced themselves*)

1. Becky and Robin from Housing: MIT 150

- MIT 150 is this year, and one of the big events is the April 30th campus wide open house.
- MIT sent out 50,000 invitations, and expects about half of those people to show up.
- Our committee is planning events, and we want students to be involved with these events.
- We're here to talk about two projects; the residential life self-guided walking tour and the time capsule.

- Walking Tour:
 - Think of the Freedom Trail in Boston
 - This is a self-guided tour for people to learn about the neat things that have happened in the dorms, grad dorms, and FSILGs.
 - If you're interested in being involved, we're looking for content for the map that people on the tour will use. We'd like to include interesting things that your dorm does, or things that you want people to know about. (ex. important events that you have or interesting facts about the history of your dorm)
 - We're also looking to make a list of famous past residents of your dorms.
 - We're asking that each dorm send this information to us by e-mail by March 31. (*rbaughman@mit.edu, kjaerbye@mit.edu*)
 - During the self-guided walking tours, it would be great to have events outside of your dorms to welcome people, or to tell them about your history. This is not required, but is encouraged. We recognize that it might be a lot of work, but if your dorm is already planning on holding an event like that, we can let the people on the walking tour know. You can also host indoor walking tours of your dorms.
- Time Capsule:
 - We're creating a time capsule for 2011, and we're hoping that each dorm will submit 1 or 2 items.
 - We're thinking of anything from photos or documents, to –if you are builders and build amazing things– maybe a small scale replica of your roller coaster or something.
 - We plan to display these items at the open house, and have the time capsule on display at the MIT museum, and then afterwards to keep them at the residential life office.
 - We need those submissions by March 31 as well.
- *Question:* Is there any funding available that people can get for making things to go into the time capsule?
- *Answer:* Definitely. Just ask us if you need funding, and we'll try to pull something together.

2. Brian Morrison: Funding Request for Leadership Retreat

- I'm here asking you all for money for our proposed Leadership Retreat.
- I talked with exec last week, and one of the things we mentioned is that we're doing very little skills development, and often have trouble recruiting people to run for positions within DormCon.
- We want to put together a 1st year leadership workshop, which would serve as an opportunity for dorm presidents to identify freshmen in their dorms who are up and coming leaders.
- There would also be a component to the retreat where we're hoping to have existing DormCon exec and other campus leaders participate in the workshop and select a project to work on with the freshmen present.

- We will put together an interest survey, and have a pre-workshop in mid-March with DormCon exec, and will also be conducting a survey afterwards.
- We're asking that DormCon sponsor a little less than half, and my department will sponsor the rest.
- The total maximum cost for the retreat is \$3,410.
- We are asking DormCon for \$1,600.
- *Closed discussion and vote*
- **DormCon votes to approve the funding request.**

3. DSL Strategic Planning: The Division for Student Life is holding two strategic planning focus groups for students, and this is the best opportunity for you to voice your opinions on student input and engagement at MIT, so please consider participating.

4. Election for DormCon Treasurer

Candidates: Ellen McIsaac, Leonid Grinberg

- Ellen: I'm a junior from Next House, former Next House president, and therefore former DormCon member. I'd like to support dorm life and continue to support DormCon through serving as treasurer. Experience: I was Next House's treasurer, and was also the UA treasurer.
- Leonid: I'm a freshmen from EC. I'm heavily involved in SIPB and ESP, and am one of the Spark directors. I have a lot of event planning experience, and am also very excited to be involved in enhancing student life and dorm life.
- *Question:* For Ellen, how long did you serve as UA Treasurer?
 - *Answer:* June through January.
- *Question:* If you looked at the account balance, and you saw that it was a big number, what would you do about it?
 - Ellen: DormCon shouldn't be hoarding student money, but also should not spend it all at once. I would want to have a long term plan for how to put that money into growing dorm culture.
 - Leonid: It also depends on how big of a number. You can look at the money that DormCon and that other organizations have spent in the past, and we should figure out what falls under things that DormCon should be spending on. We should be planning to spend extra money to enhance dorm culture.
- *Closed discussion and vote*
- **DormCon elects Leonid Grinberg as the new Treasurer**

5. Election for VP for REX

Description of the position by Diandra (the current VP for REX)

"The VP for REX is the liaison between DormCon and individual dormitory Residence Exploration (REX) Chairs and Campus Preview Weekend (CPW) Chairs. They are in charge of coordinating large activities for REX including the Water Wars and the Inter-Dorm Parties. They must be on campus for the summer, and will serve as the DormCon representative to the SLOPE (Student Life Orientation Programming and Experiences) Committee during Summer 2011. They will take note of all individual dormitory REX

event listings and create the REX Guide for Freshman. Overall, they work closely with dormitory chairs to ensure event clarity and facilitate open communication. The REX Chairs are appointed to help the VP for REX with his/her job.”

Candidates: Carolina Roque and TyShaun Wynter

- *Closed discussion and vote*
- **DormCon elects TyShaun Wynter as the new Vice President for REX**
- Also discussed, last year some people proposed an app that would make the CPW event planning process much easier, we should try to get in touch with them again.
- **Alicia Singham Goodwin and Carolina Roque ran and were white balloted to become REX Chairs.**

6. HSG - Summer Housing

The list of which dorms will be open for the summer, which will be used for conferences, and which will be closed has been released.

Concern from Big James: At least some of the halls in EC will have renovations over the summer and may be shut down, so I’m worried that there may not be enough space in EC and MacGreggor for all of the students staying over the summer.

8. REX!

A letter has been signed by Dean Hastings, Dean Colombo, Vrajesh (UA President), and Chrsitina (DormCon President) that agrees not to change the schedule for Orientation from 2010 to 2011, and that creates a committee with student representation to examine and schedule future orientations. For more information, please read the [letter](#).