

## DORMCON MINUTES – September 15th, 2011

### Attendance:

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Brian Luque	
Burton-Conner	Alexander Penn	
East Campus	James Douberly	
MacGregor	Mariya Samoylova	
Masseh Hall	Virginia Nicholson	
McCormick	Krithika Shanmugasundaram	Not here
New House	TyShaun Wynter	
Next House	Alec Lai	Not here
Random Hall	Rebecca Cox	
Senior Haus	Paula Countouris	
Simmons Hall	Zachary Hynes	
President	Ellen McIsaac	
Vice President	Virginia Nicholson	
Secretary	Deena Wang	
Treasurer	Leonid Grinberg	

Janet –UA secretary

Alicia –

TyShoun –newhaus

Maria – mcgregor

Johnatahn – baker

### Topics Discussed:

1. Guest - Robin Baughman, presenting the full data from this year's assignment and adjustment lotteries

- Passed out Freshman Summer and Adjustment Lotteries 2011 document
- Synopsis of Lotteries and comparison with previous years. 1<sup>st</sup> page is preferences and Burton and Baker were top choices. It was important for us to fill Masseh with eager freshmen. We were concerned that Masseh would affect other buildings. We had a successful year housing people in top choices with 60% in their top preference.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> page is the adjustment lottery. This year was different, as explained by the Tech article. 12% of the total class and 16% of undergraduates eligible adjusted. We were able to adjust 80% of the people who wanted to. The majority preferred Baker and Burton. We adjust people in the lottery by replacing the number of people who move out. Masseh not participating was like 2007, where Next House didn't participate, so fewer adjusted, but the people who could be placed in their more preferred housing.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> page is the breakdown of where people asked to be adjusted. This was a very typical year, with Burton and Baker the highest rated. 3 buildings were good at retaining students: Bexley, East Campus, and Next house. I think this is good and says a lot about the buildings.

- The 4<sup>th</sup> page is basic statistics. Next house got an increase in people wanting to get in. Bexley saw a dramatic increase of number of freshmen coming in.
- Alicia: They made a good I3 video.
- Robin: We survey freshman to see how they decided to live. We ask about specific dorm events, ask about attendance. We don't have it compiled yet, but we would like to share it when we do. East Campus in the summer lottery had skewed female:male ratio. McGregor as usual has a large percentage of males.
- Patrick: Do you have any reason why fewer people readjusted?
- Paula: Maybe because REX was missing one day.
- Random: It worked backwards for us because Random retained more freshmen.
- Robin: Certainly Masseh affected this because a large chunk of class couldn't move, but the hurricane causing freshman to stay in the dorm and feeling connected had something to do with it. Maybe buildings did a good job making freshmen feel welcome. I think the Tech speculated on this as well. It was not what we had expected in terms of numbers.
- I'm always happy to come to meeting or meet with people individually. I'd love to come back and share survey information.

## 2. A brief report on the state of the treasury and general REX expenses and such. – Leonid

- Leonid: For this REX, unlike last year, DormCon is not paying individual people but reimbursing their dorms. Please get REX chairs to process all RFPs and then send proof that the Dorm paid for all the stuff and I will send you reimbursement.
- Last year, some people are still owed money. I owe the West Side Party \$3300 and the East Side Party \$2610. I'd really like to get this over with. The only people I need things for CPW are EC and McGregor. I'll send email from Ben Shaibu to subsidize shuttle. GSC is also pitching in. I want an answer before next meeting.
- We're pretty good with money. The surplus diminishing process is going well, with a \$16,000 income from taxes and \$20,000 surplus.
- During REX, I talked to a police chief. DormCon can be charged the student fee for police service, so dorms should be registered as student groups.
- Alicia: It's cheaper to pay police as a student group than not.
- Leonid: In the past, I gave the police dormcon's number. It's not urgent but I will send out an email. For most of the presidents, I want to give you all the REX money. For the rest, please send in your receipts.
- The total amount in the account is \$32,000 before taxes and expenses. We paid for a small amount of REX stuff
- Ellen: For prior year's REX, can we say that anything owed is cancelled?
- Leonid: I will do that if we owe the dorms money. I want to reimburse money owed to individual people.
- Ellen: I don't think it's reasonable for a tab to be open for years
- Leonid: Come to FredFest tomorrow.
- Ellen: James, could you send things to dorm presidents? It's treated better if it's from dorm presidents
- Leonid: I can email all undergrads.

## 3. Reflections on REX (Alicia)

- REX was hugely successful. I saw that every dorm had stuff going on and REX chairs were good to work with. I got into a little fight with the Tech and Liz Young but it's pretty much being sorted out.
- The Daily Confusion was printed by the Tech for years and years, but they recently made DormCon pay for it. Their article about it had factual inaccuracies. I saw my role was to advocate for dorms so we printed our own.
- Then there's Liz Young in the student center. I felt that REX guides should be in the check-in folder. There's no other point in time where freshman are guaranteed to get anything. We were denied mass email and a website link. It hasn't come up in the past. When we arrived to hand out flyers, the problem was because student groups can't hand out flyers in hallways and not in reserved spaces, because of the fire hazard. I had a meeting with Brian and Liz Young and Dan and talked about where things went wrong. They were sympathetic to REX. We were guaranteed a table in student center.
- Rebecca: I know in my year (2008) that I got a flyer in the booklet.
- Alicia: DormCon has screwed up in past and burned bridges. It would be nice to have more history. In the past it was issue of the guide being printed on time. I think we should think about how to make REX better in the future. I have a document with notes.
- Ellen: Thanks to Alicia, she also handled things blowing up well. I agree that DormCon screwed up things in the past. We should get a written copy of the resolution.
- Ellen: It's important to get guides out to everyone.
- Rebecca: I want to know why it was okay 3 years ago.
- Paula: I want there to be a bible about what was allowed and what to do. What about the Orientation committee? The representatives are Alicia, Tyshon, Patrick, and Rachel Meyer.
- Patrick: We didn't talk about REX last meeting. I'd rather not talk about it. It's a headache.
- Alicia: Sub-committees look at different part of orientation and make recommendations. Later talking about REX. There's nothing to talk about.
- Patrick: I'm unsure about how committees will work. There's tension, because there's pressure to shrink the pie but people also want to keep their piece of the pie.
- Tyshon: There was a massive survey that went to freshmen, but results are not back yet. Data is coming.
- Jonte: Can DormCon get data?
- TyShaun: Not yet.
- Alicia: One useful thing that came out of the meeting is to start the REX process earlier and get the REX VP elected before winter break. Maybe change it so it is a 3 term job, serving for Spring Term and Fall Term and having to stay involved with the next person to force people to communicate. I'll write something up and send it soon.

#### 4. Goals for the year

- Ellen: We should define what DormCon is better. A lot of people have no idea what DormCon is for. The Officer positions are not well defined, so we should define them so we can have bigger presence on campus and advocate better. That's the big thing. There are other people on campus that have a stake in DormCon.

- Virginia: One thing I realized was that it's not written how much power DormCon has. I want to have open discussion with house masters, be unified, set boundaries, have better sense of power and empower students.
- Virginia: This year's rooming process for my dorm, in the end students was assigned rooms by the Housemaster.
- Rebecca: Random Hall has a position in the constitution for rooming chair.
- Sweet tea: Don't all dorms have a housing chair? The Housemaster should have no power over room assignment.
- Virginia: We need to set a minimum of power
- Paula: I think that I should have power in the dorm or people don't respect you. Senior Haus is lucky to have an understanding housemaster and an official document of who has power over stuff. In the 1990 constitution, the Senior Haus president set Haus rent. We should have a strong say in the dorms.
- Virginia: For the RA issue, Masseur residents could all want to readjust but they can't. House masters only talk to other house masters.
- Zach: I think that we should go through it.
- Ellen: I want to meet with all dorm presidents individually to work with individual dorm issues. I want to rebrand DormCon. Henry Humphry is coming to a meeting soon to bridge gap between administration and DormCon. You should think about what your dorm wants to improve on.
- Sweet Tea: DormCon should work on JudComm's power. There is no unified JudComm code. Do they have power to not let people in the dorm?
- Virginia: We should sync elections better,
- Rebecca: Random's election is in last week of fall term.
- Alicia: Elections range from November to February.
- Virginia: It's important to see that dorm presidents support each other. I went to other dorm's REX events and yelled at freshmen about tensions between dorms.
- Alicia: Going to other dorms gave me so many different ideas because things are different.

#### 5. UA Restructuring Committee Updates

- Virginia: At end of spring, we decided to send questions to Residents. Over the summer there was an email desert. We took proposals, key issues and saw which proposals were addressed.
- Tyshon – We're about ready to talk to key people like students and admin.

#### 6. Discussing making all of the dorms' presidential elections be at the same time of year

- Alicia: I'll just send out an email. I want people to send when elections occur and transition times.
- Ellen: Let's make it an agenda item for the next meeting.

#### 7. Finding a replacement for Alicia on the First Year Experience Committee

- Ellen: We need to replace 2 people, one from East Campus, one from west. We can't elect people now. The committee looks at experiences of first year students and how to get freshmen involved. Student reps have not had a huge impact because meetings are at

the same time as classes. We should advertise to all dorms and vote 2 weeks from now.

8. Picking a representative for IS&T Student Technology Advisory Board

- Leonid: I chair the UA Committee on Technology and work with ISTAB. It's a bunch of boards that advise students on technology, ex printing, clusters. It's taken seriously and is very useful. It's an easy way to make an impact.
- Ellen: We're voting on this in 2 weeks.

9. Request for \$1000 in funds for a Big Gay National Coming Out Week Party @ Senior Haus

- Val: I'm from Senior House. We are throwing a party as the largest event in "Gaytober," welcoming students from all dorms. The plan is to get live music and party stuff. We want funding for an impersonator (drag queen/king), the Men band which is a super queer band with music about queer issues celebrating LGBT culture.
- Alicia: Where else are you looking for funding?
- Leonid: The big cost is the police, which is coming from Housing.
- Virginia: For whom is the party for and how many?
- Val: It's MIT Only. I met with the other planners and SH basement capacity is 250 people. We're expecting 150 people.
- Question: Has it been done in past?
- Val: This is the first one I know of. There were 2 LGBT parties at MIT last year. This is the first time an event of this magnitude has been at Senior Haus.
- *There was a unanimous vote to give the Big Gay National Coming Out Week Party \$1000 in funds.*
  
- Leonid: The UA is asking for \$1150 for this semester.
- *There was a unanimous vote to give the UA \$1150.*

10. Sending a representative to the CAC Advisory Board

- Ellen: I will compile positions, and the president should send them to students.

11. Miscellaneous

- Alicia: Remind constituents that the deadline for getting out of the dining plan is September 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Virginia: When will Maseh host a meeting?
- Ellen: Put Maseh in rotation after Simmons.