

DORMCON MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 1, 2011

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Brian Luque	
Burton-Conner	Alexander Penn	
East Campus	Ducky (proxy)	
MacGregor	Edward Mugica (proxy)	
Masseh Hall	Virginia Nicholson	
McCormick	Krithika Shanmugasundaram	
New House	TyShaun Wynter	
Next House	Alec Lai	
Random Hall	Alex Westbrook (proxy)	
Senior Haus	Katy Gero (proxy), Paula Countouris	
Simmons Hall	Zachary Hynes	
President	Ellen McIsaac	
Vice President	Virginia Nicholson	
Secretary	Deena Wang	
Treasurer	Leonid Grinberg	

1. Funding proposal forthcoming for the Head of the Zesiger from residents at Simmons Hall.

- Alex – I'm working with the Z Center to get funding for the Head of the Zesiger boat race, in which teams make boats over IAP out of cardboard. Free supplies, like cardboard, waterproof paint and tape would help attendance. We'd like enough material for 14 boats. Anybody can make a team and build, all frats too.
- Leonid – How was it funded in the past?
- Alex – Teams paid for their own materials. The Z Center got money from its own budgets or the UA to make t-shirts. We will get funding from advertising. Last year there were 3 teams and in previous years there have been up to 11 teams.
- The event was traditionally advertised using flyers and tabling. This year we will poster the infinite corridor, put ads in all dorms, and email.
- TyShaun – If it's free there might be more participation. What if more than 14 teams want to compete?
- Alex – I don't know how much it cost in the past. The cost is daunting. We previously told teams to just find cardboard. This will encourage people to join. We can tell the teams that we'll give you an allotment of cardboard.
- Ellen – What is the division of money?
- Alex – \$250 cardboard, \$250 paint, \$250 tape.
- Leonid – Where are the boats raced?
- Alex – In the Zesiger pool

It was unanimously voted to fund the Head of the Zesiger.

2. Voting on restructuring.

- Ellen – UA passed a version of restructuring that doesn't involve DormCon internal issues, but gives DormCon reps on a new committee.

- Allan – The restructuring creates a council and removes the UA. We pulled back on changing the structure. We want to work with dorm presidents over IAP to replace the current structure. The dorm presidents will probably sit on a council, but it needs to be declared. I asked TyShaun to send a document.
- Ellen – The 12 DormCon representatives to the UA will be permanent delegates of the presidents of the dorms.
- Allan – The intent is that dorm presidents can't keep switching out people on the council.
- Leonid – What happens if people quit?
- Ellen – That's the kind of thing Judcom chair controls
- DormCon has no best practices document.
- Term is for February thru December?
- The terms are tied to the presidency.

The vote was unanimously passed

- Ellen – We have representatives and we can delegate them.

3. VP for REX

- Alicia – I mentioned in the first meeting that the VP of REX should be voted in earlier, mostly because SLOPE meets as soon as spring term starts.
- Alicia – There are things that start now for the VP of REX. It's easier for things if there's an early election. There have been administrators that have wanted to know who the VP is earlier. I became the VP very late and missed many SLOPE meetings; it was hard to catch up. James' argument for not voting is that the constitution says not to, but our constitution is dumb. James worried that this is an act to pander to administrators, but this benefits the VP of REX. If VP sits down earlier with Liz Young, it's better. It makes me nervous.
- What about an interim VP?
- Alicia – I think the dorm presidents should forward an email advertising the position.
- Ellen – Do we vote later or amend the constitution? It currently says to vote on the first meeting of spring semester. It would be the 9th.
- Could committees meet during IAP?
- Alicia – No, but the VP can do stuff over IAP. As soon as possible, they could meet with Liz Young to schedule the water war, etc. I think it would be helpful for REX chairs to make contact with each other.
- Virginia – When do dorms pick their REX chair?
- Paula – For Senior Haus, usually the CPW people do it. Our events are usually same year-to-year.
- Are we meeting on the 15th?
- Ellen – Finals start soon after that but we need to elect the VP.
- Tyshaun – We can push people for the position earlier.
- Alicia – That's fine as long as we have a person.
- What about a draft?
- Ellen – It's good to be prepared. Finding people and giving them information will help.

- Virginia – The only thing that needs to happen over IAP is a meeting with Liz Young. It requires a vote in the spring semester.
- Leonid – If no one runs, what happens?
- Ellen – We should be able to find people. We have 2 months to convince people. The position gives you free housing.

It was decided to wait for the spring meeting to vote for VP for REX.

4. Summer Housing

- Ellen – People living on campus will live in Bexley Hall, Random Hall, Senior Haus, and MacGregor House. An email was sent out about this. Programs and conferences will be housed in Baker House, Masseh Hall, New House, and Simmons Hall. The dorms that will be closed are Burton-Connor, East Campus, McCormick Hall and Next House.

5. Direction of DormCon.

- Virginia – Dorms that don't pay tax should still have advocacy, like Bexley. They should be part of the i3 conversation.
- Patrick – How does i3 work for them?
- Paula – They probably just get volunteers. It's not only that Bexley didn't want to pay taxes, they also didn't think they got anything out of it.
- Leonid – They also don't have a president.
- Paula – I think we need to start discussion with whoever is mostly in charge at Bexley.
- Katy – If Bexley gets screwed over, they will show up to meetings.
- Virginia – I'm worried if we split the two functions, then big dorms will drop out.
- Paula – I think that Bexley will reject our offer but we can tell them if they have issues then they can come to us.
- Virginia – Masseh could leave, because they have the funds to put on events, but I think the presidents will want to help others.
- Edward – I think Bexley determined they didn't want funding or advocacy.
- Virginia – Something's going to have to change.
- Ellen – DormCon is not effective and it hasn't worked for several years. UA restructuring took up lots of time.
- Edward – I think restructuring will help representation.
- Katy – I'm Senior Haus's senator. One lesson from restructuring was that senate didn't have any important regular duties, only appointing duties. All the difficulties were in trying to fill the void. There may be similar issues with DormCon.
- Alex Westborough – Maybe DormCon meetings could be less frequent.
- Alicia – We still need to elect the i3 chair and VP for REX. What will be different?
- Patrick – The previous proposal would absorb DormCon into the UA. DormCon's ability to do things has not been high, historically. We could pass a resolution to dissolve DormCon and work with UA over IAP.
- Virginia – We could make a DormCon restructuring committee.
- Leonid – The scary aspect of dissolving DormCon is the funding. Right now, the money is separate and nicely contained, not under the administration or the UA.

- Ducky – I look at DormCon and see nothing that can't be done by sitting on a council, or having delegates. It would be approximately the same thing. There would be two redundant bodies.
- Ellen – I feel that DormCon works a lot on dorm specific issues. The UA works on other living issues.
- Ducky – DormCon only gives the IFC a method of ragging on dorms. If DormCon is dissolved, IFC has to go through UA.
- Patrick – Now the IFC will not have one dorm governing organization to go to.
- Katy – The IFC is worried that if DormCon doesn't exist, then the UA will only do dorm stuff.
- Tyshaun – That's not a good reason.
- Ellen – Can we make DormCon better?
- ducky – No.
- Virginia – We should start to make a list of things we want DormCon to do. What are holes to be filled? Obviously something needs to change. These meetings are not the most efficient but there is value in having dorm prez meet each other. Dorms might not fund each other without a personal connection.
- Paula – The most valuable way of making DormCon appear important is the presidents. If we want to keep DormCon, the presidents just have to go back to dorms and say how important DormCon is. If we tell them about all the restructuring, the student government will seem ineffective. It's in the marketing.
- Katy – I agree in thinking the UA restructuring is redundant.
- Tyshaun – Isn't that best practices? It's not something in the constitution.
- Patrick – I think that is something that the proposal had. I think we should make a council and vote on stuff. The initial UA proposal had a stipulation that dorm presidents sit in a room together.
- Alicia – It would also be great for dorm presidents to know the IFC presidents.
- Leonid – The delegate would be the person that will represent dorm externally. What if DormCon changes its name to Dormcom under UA? It doesn't lose functionality. It acknowledges that it is not the IFC for dorms.
- Alec – We're saying that the IFC is better at playing politics and we kill ourselves in retaliation.
- Leonid – My argument is not to push them out, but rather the symbolism of having the IFC and dorm presidents in same room. It would be an acknowledgement that dorms don't have a governing body. Every other aspect would remain. I'm in favor of changing DormCon to dormcom.
- Ellen – I recommend we move the discussion to a mailing list.
- Leonid – Changing a name in the constitution may be the only change. We would be part of the UA structure.
- Do we lose autonomy?
- We're already under the UA, but a few levels removed.
- Leonid – I think it would not be hard.
- Paula – What's so horrible about having UA above us?
- Edward – I don't like idea of someone not in a dorm having control over dorms.
- Virginia – No one outside of dorms would have control over dorm issues.

- Patrick – My more important argument is that DormCon having a strong president is a bad thing. It's not the right structure decision. It gives administrators who want to push policy one person to contact. The UA is heavily dorm focused, so representation is not an issue. I would like the symbolic change of the position name to "chair," which is less autonomous.
- Alec – Before, the chair position rotated among the presidents.
- Paula – I propose a smaller discussion, but I don't like email. Right now we're arguing over a name change, but the more important thing is figuring out what to do.
- Virginia – I motion that someone sends out an email to interested people.
- Alex Westbrook – What are chances that the president will be the representative? It would be cool if the dorm affairs committee took over social purposes.
- Alicia – We would lose presidential knowledge.
- Ellen – We should talk about things in email or by person. Keep thinking about what DormCon needs to do and what the best venue for doing it is.