

## DORMCON MINUTES – MARCH 3, 2012

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Michael Plasmeier	
Burton-Conner	Ben Horkley (proxy)	
East Campus	Robert Johnson	
MacGregor	Edward Mugica	
Masseh Hall	Sean Cockey (proxy)	
McCormick	Sheila Lee	
New House	Benjamin Shaibu	
Next House	Austin Brinson	
Random Hall	Alexandra Westbrook	
Senior Haus	Katy Gero	
Simmons Hall	Eli Ross	
President	Ellen McIsaac	
Vice President	Virginia Nicholson	
Secretary	Deena Wang	
Treasurer	Leonid Grinberg	

- Ellen – I’ve been meeting with Donna and Henry on issues that affect all dorms.

### 1. Reminder on MIT CPW funding

### 2. CPW Funding requests

- Leonid – I got requests from everyone but Senior Haus and New House. We had more money requests this year than last. That’s less great because it’s more than we can spend. The total was \$16,500 and our budget was \$10,000. It’s non-unreasonable to bump up the amount we allocate. Our REX solution was to decrease everyone’s funding proportionally. That was fair, but disproportionately hurts dorms who ask for less money. Check your dorm reserves.
- Ellen – What DormCon can’t fund you can get from admissions. They have lots of money, and want funding requests.
- Leonid – We can talk to administration. Dorms that put in requests of more than \$1,500, if you want to reduce your requests voluntarily, that’s the first option. We could consider the scope of the events.
- Edward - Can we as DormCon make request to admissions to cover what we can’t?
- Ellen – They do funding on a per-event basis so it would be difficult.
- Leonid – We could convince them to give us 5k to allocate amongst ourselves.
- Virginia – What dorms applied to the Large Event Fund?
- Brian – do we have historical record of how much people spend vs their request?
- Leonid – I have last year’s data. 4 dorms requested funding. It’s hard to say. for REX, we were \$2,000 under budget. It’s hard to say what is actually funded.
- Brian – \$12,000 is our hard number, but if we approve \$15,000 and not all of it is spent, that would be okay.

*A handout of the requests were passed out.*

- Sean – Masseh is looking to buy speakers, because buying is not much more than renting.
- Leonid – Our other options are that we can put a cap on money spent per event. There would be no collateral damage for small dorms. I'm assuming a small dorm would have a small reserve.
- Michael – Consider the event's size.

#### Discussion of requests from each dorm

- Baker – We have 4 big events: the Big Horizons party, tours and icecream, breakfast on the roof, and the Housemaster's dessert with parents. We're spending 3K for four events. It's a modified version of what we did last year.
- Burton-Conner – We request \$600.
- East Campus (Virginia) – We submitted a LEF proposal, 3K and 23K for DormCon East Campus is contributing \$1,500.
- McGregor – We want funds for 1 big event to give a feel for the dorm. We would advertise, have ice cream, a splash pool, prizes, a moon bounce, barbeque, fondue, etc. We're asking for \$2,700 and \$2,000 would come from the dorm
- Masseh – We're asking for \$1,400 out of \$3,500, most of which is money for speakers. We are considering buying speakers. Our events are an around world event, barbeque, breakfast, truffles, etc.
- McCormick – We ask for \$1,200 for barbeque and morning events with DAPER. The dorm would spend \$2,000.
- New – We ask for \$6,000. Our budget is \$9,000 for 54 CPW events. We give 3K to housing.
- Next – We have smaller food events. The total cost is \$3,000. We request \$1,375.
- Random – We have a lot of different events. We request \$1,800 from DormCon.
- Senior House – Our budget is \$1,000. We request \$250.
- Simmons – We request zero dollars because we have lots of money.
- Ellen – I want to see dorms contribute the same amount of their own money to events.
- Leonid – A couple dorms requested under \$1,500 and should preserve those.
- Virginia – Dorms that request over 2.5K should ask for money from the LEF and we'll see what they give you. CPW events counts as one entry.
- Leonid – Dorms may spend less than they ask for.
- New – We can reduce our request to 3K.
- Leonid: Baker
- Ducky – You are getting a lot of food from Peapod. What about costco?
- Michael – We can lease equipment from Bon Appetit, so our request will go down to \$2,700.
- East Campus – We are requesting from multiple fonts and applying to an art grant. We can drop to \$2,000.
- McGregor – We weren't sure of LEF funding. If we get a grant, our number will decrease. We can drop to \$2,000
- Ben – How certain is LEF funding?
- Leonid – Admissions is pretty certain funding.
- Ellen – You might not get 100%, but you will get some money.

- Leonid – LEF is more stingy, but unlikely to give you nothing. The problem is writing the grant, not getting money.
- The LEF applications are due Saturday.
- Leonid – We should be prepared to have an emergency meeting for funding.
- McCormick – From \$1,200, we request \$800.
- Random – We’re not sure. We can lower to \$1,500.
- Leonid – We’re down to 16k, so we could fund it.
- Ducky – we’ve already sent out EC
- Concern: How were CPW events allocated?
- Issue: Simmons lowered the amount of events they requested and were still cut.
- Leonid – The problem is that the CPW book is overflowing. You can advertise events yourself, or submit combined descriptions.
- Virginia – I’m concerned about finding other sources of funding and dorms not paying money.
- Brian – We never made a requirement to seek other funding.
- Leonid – For New House and Baker, what about LEF funding?
- Baker – We’re uncertain of what we can get from outside event funding.
- McGregor – Could we create a smaller budget and have the caveat that if they don’t get funding, we can pay them.
- Leonid – That’s reasonable.
- Ellen – I like the second proposal for a trigger budget.
- Micheal – I think we should do it like a scholarship fund in that any amount you receive is reduced from DormCon’s money.
- Ducky – I don’t see why we shouldn’t reduce the dorm’s financial burden.
- Leonid – We need a \$2,000 reduction. We can reduce the budget fractionally. Two dorms are above \$2,000.
- Leonid – Next year’s treasurer should ask admissions for money to allocate among dorms.
- Proposal: Baker, East Campus, McGregor, and New House get \$500 less than current request. They apply for funding and if it doesn’t get through, then we give them money back. Otherwise, we reduce proportionally.
- Virginia – Can people email out when they hear back?
- Ducky – I would only take away dorm’s contribution when DormCon and dorms are paying the same amount.
- Ben – How time consuming is LEF grant writing?
- Virginia - A couple of hours, but you also need to spend time afterwards to write a summary of the event.
- Leonid – Even with reductions we’re 4k over budget.
- Leonid - We’ll tell you what happens the week from the 10<sup>th</sup>.

CPW budget proposal

Dorm	Amount requested
Baker	2200*
Burton-Conner	600
East Campus	1500*

MacGregor	1500*
Masseh Hall	1400
McCormick	1200
New House	2500*
Next House	1375
Random Hall	1500
Senior Haus	250
Simmons Hall	0
Total	14,025

\*Dorms that will receive \$500 additional dollars if they do not receive alternate funding.

*The above proposal was passed unanimously.*

### 3. "Dorm Life Straight Talk" CPW panel

- Ellen – I'd like a CPW panel for different living options: dorms, Panhel and the IFC. Each group sends one representative. I wanted to ask: for the past 2 years, we've had our own DormCon panel, which worked well in 2010 but not in 2011.
- Ducky – I think that's a great idea. I have time.
- Ellen – For our own DormCon panel, it would be prefrash only, no parents, and the dorm president would be there.
- Alicia – This event is helpful because the MIT dorm system is different from other schools'. I got to talk to many presidents. They cared about dorms. Last year it was similar but it devolved into silliness quickly. We could do this event if people care. It's not necessary for the representative to be a dorm president.
- Ellen – I'll put in the event description and request. I'll find a time.

### 4. DormCon t-shirts for CPW

- Ellen – No one on DormCon has a DormCon shirt. We could use the same design from before?
- Alicia – I think it's dumb and the shirts are ugly.
- Ellen – Different shirts? Or no shirts?
- Alicia – I have a lot of free ugly shirts. I don't care.
- Michael: I don't think it's an appropriate use of money.
- Ducky – I'm the risk manager. Talk to me about questionable things. Please use me.
- Leonid – An update on the 3 AM cutoff. You no longer need a cab, but you do need a safety plan. Admissions doesn't want kids wandering around alone.
- Alicia – We're looking into taxi system. Pass this on to your CPW chairs: Admissions cares about kids having a safe way to get home. You don't have to kick people out.

### 5. Steer Roast funding requests

- Roast VPs (Zach, Julian) – We ask for \$6,500 from DormCon. The haus is fronting \$19,000. A lot of money goes to the campus police, over \$5,000. Other money is for bands. We want to use what we get to the parts that are open to the MIT community like the bands and the feast.

- Leonid- What is the attendance policy?
- Zach – The courtyard has a 500 person capacity. The exception is during the pit lighting when the limit's 300, then it opens up again. Attendance last year was 800 people.
- Julian – The courtyard is open to the MIT community members who register online. There are 3 tiers to registration. Inside the house is art, which was paid for by applying for art grants. To go inside house and stay past 1 PM, you need a resident invite. Residents are allowed 4 invites. For the courtyard, any MIT students can go. The bands cost \$8,500, the feast costs \$3,500. The courtyard event hours are from 5 PM Friday to 1 AM Saturday morning. The next day is the feast.
- The Band VP is handling all band-related things.
- Leonid – Last year, DormCon paid \$10,000.

*The vote passed with 9 for, 2 against.*

#### 6. Student government group relations (IFC and Panhel)

- Ducky – I was talking to an ex-IFC member. IFC doesn't remember what it's like to live in dorms. We don't understand each other's problems. I suggest we have a meeting to find out how each other work. It would reduce conflicts.
- Michael – The UA council has everyone for communication.
- Alex – IFC and Panhel don't show up to UA meetings because they think it's stupid. If everyone thinks it's stupid, there's no communication.
- Ducky – A portion of my own job was negotiating the REX-Rush agreement. IFC refuses to talk. If DormCon approaches IFC, they might.
- Edward – Is it a good idea to invite them to retreat?
- Ducky – Retreat is for DormCon to take care of its own issues.
- Ellen – I'm open to us meeting, but I don't think the retreat is the right venue.
- Ducky – I don't suggest every president show up to this meeting.
- Edward – I support this idea. I have friends who are fraternity members.
- Katy – I think if people are interested, they should volunteer.
- Ducky – I will send an email.

#### 7. Announcing DormCon retreat time

- Ellen – It will be April 6-7 overnight. We will plan more.
- Virginia – i3 chair videos are due March 10.