

## DORMCON MEETING MINUTES – November 8, 2012

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Michael Plasmeier	
Burton-Conner	Janille Maragh	
East Campus	Robert Johnson	
MacGregor	Edward Mugica	
Maseeh Hall	Regina Cho	proxy: Demi Shoyombo
McCormick	Sheila Lee	proxy: Katherine Silvestre
New House	Benjamin Shaibu	
Next House	Austin Brinson	
Random Hall	Alexandra Westbrook	absent
Senior Haus	Katy Gero	
Simmons Hall	Eli Ross	absent
President	Edward Mugica	
Vice President	Janille Maragh	
Secretary	Phoebe Whitwell	
Treasurer	Yukino Nagai	
Dining Chair	Katherine Silvestre	
	Michael Plasmeier	
Housing Chair	Alina Kononov	absent
Advisor	Becky Kjaerbye	

### 1. Halloween event

- Yukino: Feedback?
- Austin: It was mostly people within Next House.
- Edward: How many groups from multiple dorms went around? In the future, we should brand events like these as done by Dormcon. Maybe signs? We should increase communication within dorm presidents.
- Austin: Also people were confused when it wasn't on Halloween.
- Katy: There probably could have been more advertising.

### 2. GRT evaluations

- Edward: This showed up on the mailing list a week and a half ago, Exec decided to brand it as a "satisfaction survey". Students should fill it out about what their GRT has done, and the dorm presidents could have this information. They could send it to housemasters or GRTs, or whoever else they wanted like ADs or Housing.
- Katy: It should be web-based and certificate secured.
- Austin: The information should stay within the dorm.
- Becky: You could have a GRT satisfaction survey with supplemental questions at each house. It would be kept by the presidents and would be useful to share with the housemasters.
- Benjamin: Are we letting the housemasters and GRTs know that we're working on this?

- Edward: Affi and Rob have started working on it. They're developing questions that would be standard for all of the dorms in case we wanted to cross compare. I hope that all of the houses would be interested in this. The next step is to talk to the housemasters and GRTs.
- Katy: I think housemasters and GRTs would be interested, they probably have ideas about what would be useful to them.
- Laura: McCormick has done a survey like this at the end of last year.
- Edward: People can start talking to their housemasters and GRTs now so that we can be done by the end of the year.
- Rob: What facilities does Dormcon have for surveys? For instance, the UA has a server.
- Edward: I'll ask Ellen. It sounds like everyone is on board with this idea.
- Katy: Should we check with the presidents that aren't here?
- Edward: We're not voting right now, so that can wait. Are we willing to run the survey in some houses but not others?
- Austin: Every house should be able to decide. (General agreement.)

### 3. RBA dorms and FYRE

- Edward: I was asked why RBA dorms don't participate in FYRE. Note that there is a distinction between FYRE and in-house rush, so a dorm can participate in FYRE without participating in internal rush. The main reason RBA dorms don't participate is because the UAAP already sets advising groups by the time FYRE closes, and they don't want to cause trouble for themselves. Does anyone have
- Laura: I was on the orientation committee. Charles, the McCormick housemaster, did a study that showed that REX is stressful for freshmen, so he is personally against FYRE.
- Katherine: McCormick exec discussed how short-term stress compares to the stress of being stuck somewhere you don't want to be.
- Edward: If a dorm has FYRE but not in-house rush, they could avoid stress by simply not participating in FYRE.
- Laura: I haven't talked to anyone in McCormick who sees a downside to FYRE.
- Becky: Students in Maseeh went to the housemasters, who went to UAAP asking to get a percentage of their students moved like Next House, but they said no.
- Katy: I'm confused how RBA works. Why is it that difficult to change after FYRE closes?
- Austin: Everyone who moves into Next House cannot get into an advising seminar; they are advised to Dean Colombo. Students who move out just shrink their seminar by one.
- Becky: The fear is, what if one year many people from an RBA dorm decide to move? This will cause issues for UAAP.
- Katy: If it's all online, maybe it wouldn't take that long.
- Edward: Does Dormcon want to push to get RBA dorms into FYRE?

- Becky: How will you do that?
- Edward: That's a good question. Probably we should start by doing research.
- Laura: I talked to housing, and they didn't have a conclusive answer about how McCormick would enter the FYRE dorms.
- Edward: I'll talk to administrators. Can people from RBA dorms talk to their housemasters about what their reservations are?
- Laura: Can this move forward even if the housemasters don't get on-board?
- Becky: Probably not, you will need overwhelming data or an administrator working for it.
- Michael: If Dormcon and the residents of the dorms all agree that FYRE is the best way, that should be convincing.
- Benjamin: The cultural houses are different and might not participate in FYRE.
- Edward: The thing is that FYRE is completely voluntary and people don't have to participate. Giving people the option seems to have only positives. Dormcon will start looking into this and collecting data.

#### 4. JudComm

- Sweet Tea: Should JudComms resolve interpersonal disputes? Roommate problems, vandalism problems.
- Edward: JudComm should take them if they're brought to them but not seek them out.
- Michael: If only one party brings them to JudComm, is the other party obligated to participate?
- Benjamin: If the person doesn't want to work with JudComm, it can go to administration.
- Sweet Tea: Do JudComms get sufficient training and support?
- Katy: Senior House says yes.
- Rob: EC has no JudComm and no problems.
- Katherine: What if people aren't willing to come forward? Or they don't know the option is available? There is not enough awareness about JudComms.
- Edward: You could inform them about JudComm but not inform JudComm about them.
- There should be more training, advising, and support for JudComms.
- Laura: The most important part is support and awareness.
- Becky: Are you trained in mediation? No. That would be beneficial for JudComms to prevent bias, etc.
- Katy: I know a lot of people who go to trainings that are Institute or dorm wide that they don't think is relevant. For instance, the Party Safe training.
- Austin: Current JudComms should decide what the training is.
- Becky: The ADs could help.

- Should JudComms deal with Institute regulation violations, like noise or community well-being violations?
- Laura: I don't think a dorm would persecute itself if a party got out of hand, for instance.
- Rob: I disagree about that.
- Edward: There was a girl who had her acceptance to MIT rescinded because she got drunk at CPW, but nothing happened to the dorm.
- Todd: I thought the point of JudComms was to get Institute violations justifiably resolved.
- Rob: The point is to take care of these things in the community. EC should care about EC conducting its parties properly. We have lots of parties and very few instances. Everyone is interested in how their decisions affect the community, which is hard to achieve via a top-down method.
- Edward: The JudComm should be able to handle these violations, and bring them to the administration as needed; but that should not be the default.
- Katy: Do you have to register your party?
- Ducky: Don't hold unregistered parties.
- Becky: Having alcohol or over 100 people, automatically register. If you don't register and get caught, it will get shut down. If it is registered and it gets a noise complaint, it will probably not get shut down unless it is after 1 am.
- Sweet Tea: I am evaluating what sort of Institute violations JudComms should be able to deal with.
- Katy: Why would these go to JudComms and not a higher level?
- Sweet Tea: The higher level defers to the dorm's JudComm.
- Sweet Tea: Should JudComms be able to regulate community well-being, i.e. personal attacks on email lists? (This is unclear).
- Sweet Tea: Are you comfortable with JudComms referring these issues to COD?
- Austin: They should refer to Housemasters.
- Rob: Or another lower level administrative office, like Office of Student Citizenship.
- Sweet Tea: COD has students on it, why shouldn't JudComms refer to them?
- Katherine: If something goes to COD, there will probably be a paper trail and marks in someone's permanent record.
- Sweet Tea: Basically, JudComms can refer to anyone they feel is appropriate.
- Sweet Tea: Should JudComm be able to fine? Individuals or dorms.
- Austin: In Next House, JudComm can push you to the end of the Housing lottery and that is sufficient.
- Michael: Are fines only if there is monetary damage?

- Edward: This is what I would support. I think fines are okay because I don't think corruption will develop without being checked.
- Michael: The dorm could vote on the fine schedule.
- Todd: Does "community wellbeing" include hazing? Hazing should be included.
- Edward: I think JudComm should be able to ban residents from holding office in dorms.
- Michael: This could open it up to political maneuvering. You could put a note about their violation on the ballot.
- Sweet Tea: In Random, elections happen but are "suggestions" and they have to also be appointed.
- Michael: Dorms could have this as an option but don't have to have it (agreement.)
- Edward: Is each dorm willing to take JudComm powers on a house-by-house basis?
- Katherine: Can JudComm ban someone from living there?
- Becky: Housemasters can do that if it's needed.
- Sweet Tea: What other outcomes should Judcomms be able to affect?
- Edward: They should be able to request to ban people from housing.
- Todd: They should be able to make lots of requests and pass cases to the housemasters.
- Edward: JudComms should be able to pass cases to housemasters and administrators. Should they also be able to make requests for sentences? (Yes.)
- Sweet Tea: Should JudComm assign essays, community service, etc? (Yes.) JudComms don't do this now, but they used to.
- Rob: Over the past two years, people have been assigned community service from other people.
- Sweet Tea: What about probation, where if they continue to behave inappropriately they will be sanctioned? Sanctions could be disciplinary warnings. This is just a warning.
- Rob: Is this the same as your dorm's probation?
- Sweet Tea: JudComms used to be able to make a notation on your transcript. (No.)
- Sweet Tea: Restitution as opposed to fines? (Yes.) Punitive fines? (Yes.) Referral to counseling or educational programming? (JudComms could make recommendations.)
- Becky: Referral does not mean mandatory.
- Sweet Tea: Other punishments?
- Edward: People should lose the ability to reserve dorm spaces, lose the use of dorm facilities (i.e. weight room), and be prevented from registering parties.
- Sweet Tea: If increased authority is given to JudComms, would your JudComm get more advising and support, and would they be alright

providing documentation to an administrator is the Office of Student Citizenship. This would be confidential(?).

- Katy: I don't think that is confidential.
- Becky: You will have to tell an administrator regardless if you fine a student.
- Katy: I would have to bring this up with my house team; Senior House already does these things effectively and doesn't need administrative help.
- Edward: Some people are okay with revealing administration if they need help but don't think they need help.
- Rob: If someone gets sent to the hospital and there are disciplinary questions which are deferred down to JudComm, won't people be looking for follow-up?
- Edward: This is talking more for cases where the administration isn't already in play.
- Sweet Tea: If something is deferred down to JudComm, we will provide documentation back. If it is insufficient, everyone is unhappy.
- Edward: There are already dorms that do fines without fine requests, and JudComms can use that existing infrastructure. Some housemasters won't do that.

5. The Next House party is on Sunday, 10-1.

*The next Dormcon meeting will be November 29, 2012 at McCormick.*