

**DormCon Meeting Minutes
16 May 2013**

Agenda

- (1) Exec transition/thoughts for future/updates on Bexley**
- (2) JudComm Update**
- (3) REX Early Returns**
- (4) Funding Report**
- (5) Discussion of Budget / Preliminary Fall 2013 Budget**
- (6) 'Quick' Round Table Discussion**

Attendance

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Andrea Gutierrez Marty	Proxy: Paula Gonzalez
Burton-Conner	Akhil Raju	
East Campus	Kelly Snyder	
MacGregor	Walter Menendez	
Maseeh Hall	Clay Goggil	Proxy: Sydney Hodges
McCormick	Henna Jethani	
New House	Anna Ho	
Next House	Linda Seymour	
Random Hall	Jacob Hurwitz	
Senior Haus		Proxy: Rodrigo Lopez Uricoechea
Simmons Hall	Cosmos Darwin	
President	Eli Ross	
Vice President	Katherine Silvestre	Absent
Secretary	Jacobi Vaughn	
Treasurer	Phoebe Whitwell	

1) Exec transition/thoughts for future/updates on Bexley

- Next term: Send out agendas sooner. Update website to show how to apply for DormCon event money. Spend some time at the end of each meeting to have an open table discussion (share ideas, best practices, etc).
- Update on the Bexley situation: Dorms gave out their blocks, Bexley is going to work out where its members are living tomorrow. Admins are looking into some place to keep Bexley together (40-60 people), but we have no idea how feasible that is. They also allocated some space in Pritchett dining as Bexley community space.

2) JudComm Update

- JudComm has a rather lengthy document describing how it is supposed to operate, written in 2004. It is woefully out of date, and something that the new JudComm chairs would like to fix for the fall. They want to make DormCon JudComm a useful body.

- There are two JudComm chairs, but it is supposed to be a board of JudComms from each of the dorms. This could work to fix problems that cannot be handled by a dorm-specific JudComm. It would primarily be for inter-dorm conflicts, things involving people from multiple dorms, or as another body of peers when a dorm cannot resolve its own issues (at the discretion of the dorm in question).
- Most dorms have their own JudComm, with varying usage depending on the dorm.
- There have been cases in the past in which a DormCon JudComm would have been helpful. This won't be a hugely active body, but it will be useful in the rare cases where it is required.
- The JudComm chairs will be doing a lot of work over the summer to create a document explaining what DormCon's JudComm will be, what it can do, etc.
- This could also be useful as leverage in the REX-Rush agreement.
- We are also looking at some fixes in the DormCon constitution, nothing major. If there is something major that you think should change, you should send them along.

3) Early Returns

- Meeting with Humphries on Monday about having all upperclassmen on campus before rush. What kind of sacrifices would people be willing to make to see this happen?
 - Option: Lower the amount of early returns (before the beginning of REX).
- Why does the artificial restraint on early returns exist? We should understand the reason first before trying to change things. We might be able to find a smart solution that is more of a win-win (for instance, asking when people want to come back in a binding form).
- One reason might be that the administration wants freshmen to meet each other without large amounts of upperclassmen being around. They are also worried about upperclassmen not having anything to do, and thus get into trouble. Also money.
- When would we see the actual numbers for early returns for each dorm? The names for early returns are due by June 14th.
- How many early returns are we willing to lose for this compromise? We have 261 right now. August 15th is the earliest date, with 50 people. People are not willing to lose the 50 earliest returns, but otherwise are fairly flexible.
- We could also try having a lot of upperclassman near the end of REX (ie in time for floor rush), but only if this means not sacrificing other slots.

- Will Maseeh get any early returns from DormCon? No, as they seceded. The administration is aware that Maseeh has left, so it is up to them to decide how many early returns Maseeh will receive.

4) Funding Report

- There have been a number of meetings over the past several weeks. There are things that are going to be changing. For one thing, we will be focusing more on inter-dorm events. We should really encourage these events, both old and new ones.
- This summer we want to move forward with three types of inter-dorm events:
 - Large events held by one dorm, and open to everyone
 - Held by multiple dorms, and open to everyone
 - Held by multiple dorms, and open to those dorms
- Also discussed REX/CPW funding, but have not come to a consensus.
- We need to have more concrete guidelines for what types of events we fund, with very clear policies on our website. This will hopefully be approved in our first meeting in the fall.
- If we see that we are taking in more money than we can spend then DormCon will lower to tax.
- The funding committee should also consider other ways that it can support dorms beyond just inter-dorm events.
- If you still have questions or comments, email dormcon-funding@mit.edu, or talk to your local representative.

5) Discussion of Budget / Preliminary Fall 2013 Budget

- There is some confusion of how certain line items were spent from last semester's budget.
- We allocated money for food, CPW, misc., and the retreat. The only thing that was higher than what was anticipated was the retreat. Endicott House gave us a receipt; it has the items that you would suspect (no 'the house was destroyed fine').
- Ed: I made a mistake on the math for the retreat, and ordered too many rooms. I thought that we wouldn't need all of them such that the price would go down, but that didn't happen. This lead us to going over-budget. We should not use Endicott House in the future, not that that seems like an option anyway.
- Would there be a way to put the budget online and show how it is being spent? This is something that could be added to the constitution.

- In the future, we should certainly have our line item budget online. It should include the budget expense, the actual expenditure, and reimbursement for each line item. We need to be as transparent as possible for how we spend dorm resident's money.
- There should be a clear plan for what happens if something goes over-budget. We are going to require people to have a very good explanation if they want to re-imburse over their budget.
- There is an issue with the way we vote on budgets. Some money needs to be spent before it is allocated in the Spring, and we should try to change things such that there is always a budget before money is being spent. This is something that could be added as a constitution edit.

6) Rex Allocation

- Current estimate is about 3000 dollars in the fall budget. How do people feel about this number?
- We also need to figure out how we are defining need, how we are splitting it between dorms, etc before coming up with a final number.
- The funding committee wants to take 75% of this allocation and return it to dorms based on population, and to give up the remaining 25% based on need. They did not come up with a definition for need.
- 100% based on population would be easier, and would not be much of a change.
- We could also split the 3000 evenly over the ten dorms.
- People are generally opposed to need. Is this because of philosophy, or because there is lack of a method for defining need?
 - No one gave an answer.
- Are people okay with splitting the budget evenly?
- EC does not want to be considered for DormCon money (they claim that they do not need it for REX).
- Vote: Are you okay with splitting the money evenly between the 9 dorms (not EC, Maseeh, or Bexley)?
Vote passes for an even split.
- Vote: Do people want \$0, \$3000, or \$4000 for total REX expenditures?
- Burton Connor and EC are in favor of \$4000.
Vote passes for 4000.

Stay tuned for next semester! Good luck with finals!