

**DormCon Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2013
Location: Baker**

Agenda

1) CPW Information

Guest: Katie Kelley (Assistant Director of Admissions)

2) Funding Proposal: Bad Ideas

3) Updates on Drug/Alcohol Policies

**Guests: Judy Robinson (Associate Dean, Student Outreach and Support)
Kevin Kraft (Director of Student Citizenship)**

4) Student Representation to DSL Policy-Making

5) Treasurer End of Term Updates

6) End of Term Updates/Remarks

Attendance

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Andrea Gutierrez Marty	
Burton-Conner	Akhil Raju	
East Campus	Kelly Snyder	
MacGregor	Walter Menendez	
McCormick	Henna Jethani	
New House	Anna Ho	
Next House	Linda Seymour	
Random Hall	Jacob Hurwitz	
Senior Haus	Alina Kononov	
Simmons Hall	Cosmos Darwin	Proxy: Lars Johnson
President	Eli Ross	
Vice President	Katherine Silvestre	Absent
Secretary	Caitlin Heber	
Treasurer	Phoebe Whitwell	

**Begin: 6:05
End: 7:30**

1) Campus Preview Weekend [Katie Kelley]

- Katie: There will be 175 events total this year (not counting Maseeh). Last CPW there were less complaints than in past years (yay!). The biggest change occurring this CPW is that the admissions office will be holding to the 1 o'clock curfew. In the past exceptions were made, but this year none will be. There will be a committee formed to discuss this for future CPWs, but currently we're unsure of who will be on this committee. The earliest events can start is 6 am.
- Eli: DormCon will stay in touch about these issues. We'll definitely work with this committee because we all want to run events past 1 am.
- Walter: The curfew is for *registered* events, the ones that go in the pamphlet, correct? Katie: Yes; however, prefrash are wedded to what's in the pamphlet, and we don't want you putting in the effort planning and hosting events that they won't know to attend.
- Katie: Please add important descriptions, especially details about safety, when registering events. Also, please coordinate dorm tours at different and multiple times so that prefrash and parents can see all dorms they want. On a different note, online host training will be happening again. You can start planning now if you want!
- Eli: DormCon's I3 video chairman will be elected at first spring meeting.

If you are interested in becoming I3 chairman, please attend our first meeting of the spring semester; please view our [homepage](#) for further details on the meeting's time and location.

2) Funding Proposal: Bad Ideas Committee [Marvin Romero]

- Marvin Romero: \$2500 is our final request. We need money for food (last year we spent \$1400). Projects- making ice rink (\$448), Space Trainer (3 rings that rotate independently, \$220), Dominos (\$200), and we're still getting more proposals.
- Eli: what's your overall estimated budget? Marvin: \$7500 (~expecting 3000 to 4000 from LEF fund and ~\$2500 from EC funds).

Vote passes unanimously for \$2500

3) Updates on Drug/Alcohol Policies [Judy Robinson and Kevin Kraft]

- Eli: Judy and Kevin are here to explain the changes made to the drug and alcohol part of the policy.
- Judy: We have continued and are continuing to collect feedback. So far, we've received great feedback from student groups, staff, etc. and are in the process of looking at all the feedback. Currently, we're working on big picture edits and taking this opportunity to answer your questions.
- Jacob: Our concerns this time around are quite similar to the last time you visited. The Good Samaritan policy still doesn't apply to drugs. Students in the presence drug use remains prohibited. Also, MIT continues to prohibit both illegal and some legal substances. I did research on other policies at the Ivy League schools, and MIT will be unique and very different from these schools. What's the motivation behind these changes? Judy: The Good Samaritan should include

other drugs, but we're not in charge of changing this. We could look at it in the future, but it was changed last year, which is why it not getting looking at it again this year.

- Jacob: Increasing the scope of the definition of drugs when we don't know if the Good Samaritan policy could cover drugs is disheartening. I would feel much more at ease if both changed simultaneously. Judy: Our policies are an educational tool, and this is the motivation behind increasing the scope. The "other drugs" category has been a contentious issue. We have heard sides both for and against the changes made. Our goal is to discourage use of drugs and alcohol, but we also want to help students and concerned about their safety. We would appreciate feedback on the wording of this section.
- Jacob: Since you have educational goals, could you explore an educational program to further these goals. Is this policy or an educational issue?
- Eli: We know, because you're here speaking with us, that you want this to come from an educational, proactive perspective, but the writing does not come off this way. Students read this and interpret it to mean that they need to be more secretive about drug use, which isn't safe.
- Leonid: One possible rewording is to change "permitting" to "providing." Students don't really get to permit something outside their room.
- Kelly: Exactly. People aren't in the position to allow or not allow other people to do things. The most important thing anyone can do is to make sure that person is safe when they make decisions.
- Leonid & Jacob: This policy doesn't prevent people from doing things they're going to do; people make decisions they want to make. All we can do is ensure the safest possible environment for when they make those decisions.
- Judy: I understand and agree with all your points, but how do we find the balance between creating an environment where students are safe and not condoning drug use? Other schools' common thinking behind their policies is that students don't call for help because they don't know the signs.
- Eli: The issue is that people don't talk about drugs. Working on this, in addition to policy, would be much more helpful.
- Judy: This policy document is about community standards, what you are mentioning is available elsewhere. Policy is part of an educational document regarding community standards.
- Matthew: But you are attempting to make a supererogatory actions a policy, which policy should not be. Chemical substances' and illegal drugs' definitions are constantly changing. You are attempting to address this, but you could be taking on way more than you can handle. Vitamin substances are one example. Caffeine is another. You should just stick with the definition of the illegal drugs and not "other drugs."
- Judy: A person's intent is different when taking vitamin than taking a drug. You are not taking vitamins to alter your state of consciousness.
- Alina et al.: please write that language down!
- Alina: On a different note, I asked about this last time on page 9, "repeated use of the Good Samaritan practice... [will entail] administrative follow up." I asked for

clarification on what this means exactly and expected it to be clarified in the actual document.

- Judy: Repeated offenses incur follow ups – intensive interventions to deal with the substance abuse. In egregious situations, the Good Samaritan sometimes does not apply.
- Eli & Alina: We would appreciate it if you could please give examples of those situations to set a tone.
- Judy: Thank you again for your feedback. We are trying very hard to keep people in the loop, and we'll work on staying in contact.

4) Student Representation to DSL Policy-Making [Leonid Grinberg]

- Leonid: It seems to me that the student engagement process is not as satisfying as it could be. It would be helpful if we had a process like the faculty committees with students on them. At first, I assumed that this was a pipe dream, but now that I've spoken with people in DSL, they seem surprised that we care. Policy making needs to happen and they're welcoming toward students. I'd like to propose that we write a formal request to have students on these committees. If we can't find people to serve on them, that's too bad but let's try our hardest to have people represent students' opinions to DSL committees.
- Walter: Could you explain the similarities to the UA's system. Leonid: The UA gets to put members (students) on every faculty committee. If they can't find people for them, the faculty committee proceeds without them. We want to do this for DSL; however, DSL doesn't want their processes stalled by an inefficient, ineffective, or obstinate student. Just like how faculty committees can reject people, we could offer DSL a backup plan in case they get a person that they believe cannot adequately fulfill the job.
- Anna: The fear is that students don't do their part on committees. We should not give them excuse to ignore students' opinions because of bad representation.
- Eli: I've talked with Dean Colombo about this, and he wanted to ensure this wasn't in conflict with DSL's policies before proceeding.

5) Treasurer End of Term Updates [Phoebe Whitwell]

- Phoebe: Funding guidelines were updated last semester, but we need to and will be talking about them over IAP.
- Eli: Please consistently check your email. We'll be adding new people to mailing lists. Spring semester has more event allocations. We could do a DormCon event during CPW, like the IFC/PanHel Greek grill. Whatever we end up doing, we should spend money making dorms seem awesome too.
- Walter: Gamma epsilon chi shirts could be cool (looks like REX). Fraternities and sororities have an unfair advantage recruiting prefrosh.

6) End of Term Updates/Remarks [Eli Ross]

- Eli: Thank you for your amazing work!