

DormCon Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2014
Location: Simmons Hall

Agenda

- 1) Welcome/Introductions
- 2) i3 and REX Chairs Election
- 3) Budget Review + Retreat Food Funding
- 4) Event Funding Guidelines
- 5) Gender-Inclusive Housing
- 6) CPW (following up from the discussion at the UA on Tuesday)

Attendance

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Andrea Gutierrez Marty	
Burton-Conner	Victoria Stivanello	
East Campus	Jessica Parker	
MacGregor	Walter Menendez	
McCormick	Chloe Orphanides	
New House	Matthew Davis	
Next House	Ryan McDermott	
Random Hall	Gaurav Singh	
Senior Haus	Rodrigo Lopez Uricoechea	
Simmons Hall	Lars Johnson	
President	Eli Ross	
Vice President	Katherine Silvestre	
Secretary	Caitlin Heber	
Treasurer	Phoebe Whitwell	

Begin: 6:05
End: 7:30

1) Welcome/Introductions

- Eli welcomed everyone to the meeting and had the newly elected presidents and exec introduce themselves.

2) i3 and REX Chairs Election

- **i3 Chair** is the DormCon point person for all aspects of the i3 project. This officer is responsible for meeting with and communicating project parameters and deadlines to individual dormitory i3 coordinators, assisting dorms with video editing, and coordinating with the administrators/offices about the i3 videos and related content.
- I3 Chair Candidate: Adrianna Rodriguez
- Adrianna Rodriguez:
 - **Qualifications:** was the i3 chair last year, worked with the previous i3 chair (a senior who graduated), knows that the DormCon i3 chair coordinates with the other dorms teaching them how to do stuff and ensuring deadlines are made. Adrianna acknowledges that not only does the i3 chair coordinate with dorms and admissions, but in the past the i3 has made their own video as an intro for the i3 materials and she hopes to bring it back.

Adriana elected as the new i3 Chair.

- **REX Chair:** is responsible for coordinating and overseeing all of DormCon's REX and Orientation activities (including jointly-run dorm events held during Orientation Week and CPW and other communication/interaction between incoming students and dorm communities for the purpose of residence selection). This officer is DormCon's primary liaison to any group involved in REX and is the primary contact for REX officers from individual DormCon represented dorms. The REX Chair is responsible for creating the REX event guide, as well as event allocation.
- REX Chair Candidates: Allen Park, Antonio Mareno, Yo Shavit
- Allen Park:
 - **Qualifications:** has been involved in Simmons Hall's REX/CPW for the past two and half years and is now Simmons Hall's official REX/CPW chair. He knows how the system works and how to run events smoothly. Allen thinks it would be awesome if dorms cooperated more with events; Random and Simmons have had joint events in the past, but he is interested in making this happen more and possibly campus wide.
 - **Favorite Event to Run:** "Grill, Fill, Chill" – barbecue; it's a super simple but very fun, great way to meet people and a very popular event.
 - **One Thing You Would Change:** Last REX, official events run by the administration went over their allotted time and we didn't plan for that. The event was scheduled for the timeslot after the official event has been very successful in the past but got ruined due to general confusion. To fix this, I would promote and follow through with talks with administrators.

- Antonio Mareno:
 - **Qualifications:** is Next House's REX Chair and has learned about what needs to be completed during REX with the limits placed on dorms by housing such as deadlines and approving events. He thinks it would be great to have better planning and communication across dorms and with the administration. Antonio agrees that interdorm events should occur more; Next and McCormick have an annual joint formal, and he thinks interdorm events could feasibly happen during REX.
 - **Favorite Event to Run:** Large wooden swing Next Make built; planned events to incorporate the swing, and having a theme was great.
 - **One Thing You Would Change:** Next House also had events scheduled right after the convocation and the events were meant to appeal to different people. We encountered same problems Allen mentioned, and our event timing got screwed up trying to accommodate prefrish coming in late. Therefore, I would also work to improve communication with administration.
- Yo Shavit:
 - **Qualifications:** is East Campus's CPW Chair and wants to do it on a larger scale. He thinks that there are many things DormCon's REX chair could do to improve the experience the prefrish have and make REX/CPW the way we want MIT to be. Like the previous candidates, Yo wants to have a joint events and believes all dorms could benefit from them.
 - **Favorite Event to Run:** Capture the flag combined with Adventure tours; it's super cool to have events that draw people and allow you to connect with them (this could possibly be campus wide super fun time).
 - **One Thing You Would Change:** I agree with the previous candidates, lack of communication is truly the biggest issue we face. We could also coordinate events more to allow for prefrish to make it more events.

Antonio elected as the Vice-President for Resident Exploration.

Allen and Yo elected as REX Chairs.

3) Budget Review + Retreat Food Funding

- Link to the spring budget will be posted in the [documents section](#) of the website.
- Phoebe: Retreat spending has been cut by a factor of ten compared to last year; we're hopefully allocating \$500 for food for retreat.

4) Event Funding Guidelines

- Phoebe: These were drafted last spring to avoid conflict over funding policies and allow for interdorm events without argument over the inner workings of DormCon's funding procedure. These guidelines worked last spring and fall, and would like to put this forward for a vote to formally adopt these guidelines.
- Eli: They were super helpful to making more events happen and they greatly streamlined the process.
- Phoebe: There is also a funding application on our [funding page](#).

Vote passes unanimously to approve the funding guidelines and allocate both \$500 for retreat food and \$5000 toward CPW.

5) Gender-Inclusive Housing

- Eli: Senior Haus piloted gender-inclusive housing program this past fall, meaning people can live together regardless of sexual identity or gender identity. MIT is alone among elite institutions because we do not have a campus wide gender-inclusive housing option. I hope to take a vote this evening on whether or not we are interested in looking into expanding this program.
- Andrea: I think it's a good idea, but people might misuse it. One possible way to prevent misuse is to meet with the RLAD to evaluate the situation.
- Eli: Tonight we shouldn't be concerned with logistics, but whether or not we think this program has value and is worth looking into.
- Ryan: I asked Next House residents about the program. General consensus was that it should be implemented dorm to dorm, but a concern raised was what if it drives people away from a dorm or concerns parents. However, I would like to point out that we didn't hear "I would be uncomfortable with people around me living in this situation." One personal opinion I have is that we definitely shouldn't ask people why they want to live in this situation; that is just too invasive and defeats the purpose of the program.
- Walter: Personally, I'm of the opinion that if a couple chooses to take up the option of gender-inclusive housing and they break up, then that's on them.
- Jess: One comment I'd like to add is that the current situation discriminates against straight couples.
- Victoria: I think this would be a great thing for Burton-Connor and a terrific idea for MIT. Campus wide scale would be most preferable to make it anonymous and not discriminatory.
- Gaurav: Random might object to this because of single sex floors.
- Jess: This certainly doesn't rule out the possibility of single gender or single sex floors.
- Statement written by Corey Hernandez, edited by Eli Ross:

"DormCon resolves that gender-inclusive housing should be further explored as an option for all interested and willing residents in a dorm that opts to have it. Each dorm should decide for itself if it would like to have this option, or to what extent it would like to have this option. Gender-inclusive housing is the ability for residents to choose to have their rooming assignments be gender-inclusive. That is, if a resident is living in a multi-occupancy room they have the option to choose their roommate, regardless of sex or gender identity."

Vote passes unanimously to supporting this statement.

6) CPW (following up from the discussion at the UA on Tuesday)

- Eli: Admissions came to our last meeting in December and told us events have to end by 1am; this has been an official MIT policy, but has never actually been enforced. Last year if event went past 3am, the hosting group had to have a special safety plan prepared. In meeting with the administration, it has been made clear that student feedback was not taken into account with this decision, and that events past 1am are not a safety issue or due to feedback from prefrish and their parents. So far no one has been willing to compromise or truly discuss the issue. The UA also tried to engage and didn't get anywhere. At this point, we've engaged administrators in a polite, helpful way but we are receiving a resounding "no" from the administration. Therefore, the option of creating our own booklet and "boycotting" Admissions' booklet has been presented.
- Walter: Sid and Devin formally proposed at UA Council a boycott Admissions' CPW guide. The UA would provide an alternative information structure distributed to prefrish. It was also stated that the ASA as an organization would stand behind the proposal (however, ASA groups are not held to this statement). We'd give Admissions 48 hours to change the 1am curfew, or everyone on campus would not submit events to the Admissions Guide. Straw poll was taken; everyone was on board. However, when an official vote was taken, fraternities and sororities abstained on the premise that they would be penalized because Admissions is in charge of room reservations. Sid is engaging MIT's council.
- Eli: In a meeting yesterday with Sid, Devin, IFC, PanHel president, everyone was concerned. IFC and PanHel want to support the boycott but had to check with their constituents. Further details involve major issues such as room reservations (will they get space from the administration, will they get space in dorms) and if the administration will be upset enough that they send police around shutting down unregistered events running during CPW.
- Victoria: No one has mentioned the distribution of prefrish. Have we considered how the IFC and Panhel could benefit from our boycott? Hold out is an issue.
Ryan: Are we worried about this hold out? Won't prefrish want to come to our events no matter what?
- Yo: I don't see how admissions has any leverage. Eli: They have leverage because if we do this, our events aren't registered and they could shut us down.
- Victoria: Could you we approach our housemasters about this? Gaurav: If you do, your Housemasters don't have plausible deniability. Personally, I think we should support the UA in the decision they make and work with IFC and Panhel to allocate them space.
- Lars: We certainly don't ruin CPW by refusing events or hosting. Currently, we're just moving things to a new book. So we have more power than we think, but we don't want to destroy CPW, i.e. we have the "nuclear option."
- Ryan: The UA would keep all the effective rules from last year. I think this is a good way of making a statement.
- Eli: I wanted to get a handle on what everyone thought; we'll talk about it more at the retreat this Sunday.