

**DormCon Meeting Minutes**  
**March 20, 2014**  
**Location: East Campus**

**Agenda**

- 1) Security Updates
- 2) Burton-Conner Construction Letter
- 3) ISTAB and CAC Updates
- 4) Funding Proposals
  - East Campus vs. Senior Haus Water War (CPW)
  - Baker vs. Burton-Conner Grill-Out & Athletics Competition (CPW)
  - East Campus, Burton-Conner, + Senior Haus Jam Session (CPW)
  - Puzzle Scavenger Hunt (CPW)
  - Picnic (CPW)
- 5) Open Discussion

**Attendance**

<b>Dorm</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Baker	Sean Corcoran	Absent
Burton-Conner	Victoria Stivanello	
East Campus	Jessica Parker	
MacGregor	Walter Menendez	Proxy: Rob Leasrch
McCormick	Chloe Orphanides	
New House	Matthew Davis	Proxy: Sarah Wharton
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: 7:05**  
**End: 8:54**

## 1) Security Updates

- Eli: New House, Random Hall, Burton-Conner had their security meetings.
- Gaurav: Two years ago there was report on security at Random; Random was the only dorm the security consultant couldn't gain access to. At that time, previous Random presidents were assured there weren't going to be any security changes. Now, among other things, an Allied Barton(AB) worker will be placed at desk. Everyone is very unhappy about this and other upgrades. During this meeting, we weren't allowed to change the things we want changed, and it felt like they weren't taking any of our input. Additionally, the presenters were condescending, especially the consultants; other than Dean Humphreys, it seemed that no one listened to us. Random feels that this new system will be less secure than the current system. We also dislike that control is being taken away from the residents, for we don't think AB will be as good as the student desk workers. The second entrance policy would be the same as Simmons (tap ID, AB worker looks at you on camera, and then buzzes you in).
- Eli: I'm playing devil's advocate here – the card readers, AB worker and cameras are the basic infrastructure of this new system. The real concern is when you're with a resident signing you in, why you need to show ID. Someone is there with you and vouching for you.
- Sarah: Main take away from our meeting is that the AB worker is held now liable.
- Eli: What is the student role in Random? Gaurav: We will still have student desk workers. Eli: That's good to know. We know you have plenty of reason for being upset, but please watch the information that gets sent out, particularly via email.
- Eli: For significant concerns over the new security changes, all appeals have to be made to the Chancellor. Please start keeping a list of your concerns and following up on them.
- Ryan: Will you have 24/7 AB workers? Gaurav: No, night watch will work at night.
- Rodrigo: After speaking with our residents, people still very unhappy. Surprisingly, Senior Haus is more resistant to the AB worker than the security cameras. Residents feel that they should choose the AB worker. Do AB workers receive "sensitivity training"? Ryan: They have some sort of MIT culture training. Rodrigo: How many AB workers do you have and how many come in addition and how often? Becky: Everyone has about 4 or 5 permanent AB workers that relieved by a supervisor a couple times a day – between 4 to 10 workers in total.
- Victoria: At our meeting, we discussed event policy because of DTYD; we plan on having a steer roast like policy. The consultants discussed a plan to develop alternative pathway for the Porter Room. They suggested renovating the actual structure of the building. Overall, Burton-Conner residents don't like the security upgrades. It's common for desk workers to know guests. Lot of people dislike the AB worker having the spare keys, but their argument is lessened by recent theft

in the building. Residents are also aggravated by the Burton side door tap policy because people have to wait a long time in the cold to be let in.

- Eli: We need to be concerned with follow through and documentation. By keeping really close records and holding both them and us accountable is how we change this system. If we're not persistent, this May they're going to make decisions without us. Random do you have a game plan?
- Gaurav: We're going to make a plan and talk to Humphreys. We're hoping to have a dorm wide meeting right after break.
- Sarah: New House has a security committee to come up with a plan and an advocacy committee. We're turning our frustration into productive measures.

## **2) Burton-Conner Construction Letter**

- Katherine: Everyone has reviewed the draft.
- Eli: How do you want to proceed? Akashar: We will have a meeting with the Chancellor and will provide Dean Humphreys with this letter before that meeting.

## **3) ISTAB and CAC Updates**

- Ben Horkley: IS&T Student Technology Advisory Board updates. I will be sending out an email about getting feedback on cluster renovations and what people want to see in their Athena clusters. The student cluster recently got renovated. A couple more clusters will be closed over the summer. Building 4's cluster is being closed as early as the end of April (it's getting a new ceiling, window, and computers). Building 12 is being demolished, so obviously that cluster is going away. Building 66 basement cluster is closed for the entire summer.
- Caitlin Heber: Campus Activities Complex updates. Capital renewal projects are proceeding through campus. You may have noticed some work done on Walker recently to remove loose concrete and improve the façade. Next semester (Fall 2014) Kresge and the Chapel will be having renovations. The Chapel will be closed starting in September 2014, until February 2015. CAC is looking for feedback on the hours for needing a valid MIT ID to access the student center. The proposed change is moving the hour back from 1am to 11pm. Visioning work for the next generation student center is under way. If you wish to be involved or having any ideas for what you would like to see in the student center, please contact me.

## **4) Funding Proposals**

### **a) East Campus vs. Senior Haus Water War (CPW)**

- Jes: This is always an event and would probably still happen with or without funding. Rodrigo: I propose funding 1/3 the budget, or \$80, toward the war water.

*Vote passes unanimously for \$80.*

**b) Baker vs. Burton-Conner Grill-Out & Athletics Competition (CPW)**

- Burton Conner and Baker will host a grill and games out on Briggs Field. This is a fun way to combine dorms and introduce prefrash to dorm life.
- Phoebe: We need the total event breakdown. \$400 is as much as we could fund, and because this looks like your total budget. Also, just as a reminder, we have \$5660 available for allocation.
- Alina: This budget's numbers don't really add up. I'm concerned with the expected attendance and amount of food – either your attendance is too low or you don't have enough food. Ryan & Gaurav: ensure you have veggie burgers.

*Vote passes unanimously for \$400.*

**c) East Campus, Burton-Conner, + Senior Haus Jam Session (CPW)**

- Asking for \$115 out of a \$230 budget. Ryan: Who keeps the capital? I suggest that you give whatever is left over (drum sticks, guitar picks, etc.) to the prefrash.
- Victoria: Can we fix this budget? It's not descriptive enough. Ryan: I'm ok voting on this because it's a small amount. Lars: We don't have to fund the half, we can lower the amount.
- Alina: Other snacks? Ryan: You seem extremely unprepared; your budget is not very descriptive, and it doesn't reflect effort you put into your events. Let's not spend time nitpicking, but instead make sure this doesn't happen again.

*Vote passes unanimously for \$115.*

**d) Puzzle Scavenger Hunt (CPW)**

- Yo: The idea to encourage prefrash to visit each dorm. Each dorm will have a puzzle, and the puzzles build to lead them somewhere. We'll need volunteers to make the puzzles, but we might decide answers for you. Prizes could include laptop stickers or wristbands. We should have a concrete plan by Saturday. Also, we'll need volunteers for manning booths and handing stuff out.
- Phoebe: Can we get a piece of paper in the admissions packet? Allen: They're getting rid of the packet and putting it on a lanyard.
- Lars: How much do we care about preforsh going to the dorms vs. solving the puzzle? Ben: They could bring tokens from every dorm they visited. Rodrigo: You could have an equation with 10 variables and you need all ten to get the answer.
- Ben: Who's responsible for writing the puzzles? Yo: Each dorm. Ben: Does the puzzle require them to go in the dorm? Yo: Depends on what the dorm wants.
- Allen: We're requesting \$250 for prizes.

*Vote passes unanimously for \$250.*

### e) Picnic (CPW)

- Allen: Picnic is a way for us to give prefrosh information about DormCon and the scavenger hunt during check in.
- Gaurav: You may want to investigate cheaper food options.
- Phoebe: How many people do you anticipate attending? Antonio: We were going for 500 people. All the prefrosh are checking in and have nothing to do. We're filling in this gap and introducing the scavenger hunt.
- Eli: Because this is a DormCon event, we are voting to fund it in its entirety. We have Kresge reserved for this event. Chloe: what if it rains? Antonio: We'll be talking to DAPER to get the Johnson overhang. Admissions supports us in this request. Additionally, Katie Kelly is looking for funding for us, but no promises.
- Phoebe: What happens if we don't fund all of this? Antonio: We have to buy less stuff. Eli: I think it's reasonable to fund \$2000 right now, go to admissions for money, then come back after spring break and maybe allocate this more money.
- Antonio: To get volunteers, we'll be asking the CPW chairs from each dorm. We'd love all of you (referring to the presidents) would be there. Date and time is April 10<sup>th</sup>, 12-3 in front of Kresge.
- Phoebe: If we fund this for the full \$3000, we won't be able to fund piano drop.

*Vote passes unanimously for \$2,000.*

### 5) Open Discussion

- Alina: I'm looking for feedback on how prefrosh have previously been let into dorms. Gaurav: At Random, you say you're a prefrosh or prefrosh parent and you're let in. Ryan: At Next House, prefrosh don't sign in, desk workers know when event hours were, wouldn't let people roam on off event hours without a tour guide.
- Eli: What do people want? Caitlin: No prefrosh left behind. Alina: It would be good to have a unified policy. Lars: Prefrosh should all have card access to their buildings. If there's an event, they shouldn't be turned away or required to sign in. Victoria: Parents of prefrosh should sign in and show government ID. Ryan: I would like them to have a blatant prefrosh ID and parent ID so that neither prefrosh nor prefrosh parent have to sign in. Also, we should have a system where prefrosh vouch for each other, in the case of lost access cards.
- Ryan: Protip – Get the friendly Allied Barton workers working during CPW. Personally, I'm wary of the prefrosh disliking a dorm because of the security.
- Eli: On an unrelated note, Dean Humphreys just got back to me. He apologized for the incorrect statement in The Tech. However, what was written in that article is now correct; all information regarding security can and should be shared with everyone. The error will be noted in the next newsletter.