

**DormCon Meeting
September 11, 2014
Location: Random Hall**

Agenda:

- 1) Gender Inclusive Housing**
- 2) Summer Letter**
- 3) REX**
- 4) Budget Approval**
- 5) Event Funding (Baker/McCormick/Maseeh Carnival)**
- 6) Apple Picking Event**
- 7) Security**
- 8) Senior House**
- 9) GRTs**
- 10) Mind & Hand Book Changes**

Attendance

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Sean Corcoran	
Burton-Conner	Victoria Stivanello	Proxy: Helen Hu
East Campus	Jessica Parker	
MacGregor	Walter Menendez	
McCormick	Chloe Orphanides	
New House	Matthew Davis	Proxy: Sarah Wharton
Next House	Ryan McDermott	
Random Hall	Guarav Singh	Proxy: Eric Mannes
Senior House	Rodrigo Lopez Uricoechea	
Simmons Hall	Lars Johnson	
Secretary	Jasmeet Arora	
Treasurer	Caitlin Heber	

Start time: 19:05

0. Meeting time--Are there any permanent conflicts?

- Sean may be late.
- Adri has a conflict 6:30-8pm Thursday nights. Some people are okay coming at 8 but that seems a little late. We can change it to 7:30.
- New meeting time 7:30pm Thursdays.

1. Introductions.

- Exec team and presidents introduced themselves.

2. Gender Inclusive Housing:

- Phoebe: Had a meeting at end of the school year and found out over summer that GIH will be included Spring 2015. Next steps are to meet with Humphreys & housing to see what they think it means, and then meet/check-in with all dorm presidents and probably RACs too.

3. Letter from summer:

- Walter: We were trying to write a letter to address the recurring problem of administration dropping major changes to dorm life near the end of the year. Included examples of incidents where we thought this was a problem. Wrote several drafts but seemed like over the summer most people haven't had a chance to look at it so we haven't sent it, but we want to have a group of a few individuals to help create a draft which we can send to Humphreys and then set up a meeting with Humphreys to talk about the letter.
- Chloe: We brought the idea up with exec yesterday to have ~4 people from different parts of campus to draft a letter, Gaurav is in charge and Allen is interested but it would be good to have some presidents involved.

4. REX:

- Chloe: how did REX go for everyone?
- Sean: Went fine, signed up for police escort for Skyline but they didn't show up, that was the only problem. (EC had the same issue)
- Ryan: Did AB/Security change REX at all?
 - Walter: MacG didn't seem to have much of a problem, AB didn't really know what was going on.
 - New House: Wouldn't let many frosh come in for pre-REX events unless they were picked up.
 - BC had the same problem.
- Helen: Some of the FPOPs conflicted with REX, which was annoying. Also one floor had a couple of events (pole dancing and jello wrestling) which were deemed

inappropriate by Humphreys so they had to meet with people and make them dress appropriately in gym attire for the events. Meeting consisted of REX chairs, Victoria, housemasters, Humphreys, and RLAD. Email Victoria for more info.

- Suggestion from freshman: REX chairs should know when events are and then schedule dorm events around them.
 - What happened was that Housing didn't give us final dates until after event submission deadline, so sometimes there were some orientation events during REX events. Some REX food events happened during orientation dinners.
- Adri: Did they forget about the Water War?
 - Antonio: At the beginning of July they said we couldn't use Kresge because they were putting a tent on Kresge and were kicking us out. They made us find a different location for Water War and that didn't happen until the end of July.
 - Allen thought advisor meetings would mostly be short, so he didn't realize rescheduling the Water War would interfere with that.
- How did the WW go?
 - There was a pretty good turnout, a lot of dorms showed up considering it was super far away. Simmons recruited people from West Campus.
- **Dean Columbo rode the EC rollercoaster!!**
- Opinions on booklet distribution:
 - Chloe: Ran into a few freshmen who just didn't have booklets for some reason.
 - Allen: Advertisement was the biggest problem.
 - Caitlin: For Simmons, basket with booklets wasn't very visible.
 - Some dorms (Mcc, Next) walked around and put it at everyone's door.
 - Yo: This was last minute/rushed, so it wasn't coordinated properly.
 - Antonio: Liz Young had a very strict policy about no profanity, sexual innuendos, etc. They would only distribute if we removed all that. Otherwise we would have to distribute it themselves.
 - We didn't print out the books until after FOPs so that's probably why a lot of people didn't get them.
 - Ryan: It's not very pretty... the format of the booklet is pretty ugly.
 - General consensus that our booklets are ugly.
 - We spent \$1932 printing booklets.
- Caitlin: Did anyone else have an issue with frat brothers trying to take people away from dorm events?
 - Ryan: AB shouldn't be letting this happen

- This could also happen outside the dorm or people's frat brother friends.
- MCC: There were definitely frat guys trying to recruit people.
- Yo: REX-rush agreement hasn't been enforced for the past couple years but the frats themselves have tight guidelines because they don't want other frats doing it. They're technically allowed to wear letters.
 - Allen: As long as what they're wearing doesn't explicitly say "rush". We could go to frats and tell them to come to the dorms.
 - Walter: Problem with REX-Rush agreement is that IFC, Panhel, & Dormcon hasn't come to an agreement on what it should actually be but now that we're in DPIFCO it should be better next year.
 - Yo: Willing to help take care of this.

5. Budget Approval:

- Caitlin explains the budget (on handout).
- If Maseeh ends up joining they aren't considered full members until they pay their taxes.

Vote passes unanimously for budget approval.

6. Baker-McCormick-Maseeh Carnival:

- Mary (McCormick Social Chair): Moved date to 9/27 2-5 MCC front lawn. Open to entire MIT community, idea is to have everyone come together/give frosh another opportunity to meet people from other dorms.
- Every spring, MCC, Next, and BC host Spring Picnic, and have ~500 people attend. Want to replicate this. Spring picnic is still happening.
- Funding requested: \$1750 (total \$4000)
- All purchases will go through MCC so Caitlin will be reimbursing MCC.
- Max that Dormcon can fund is exactly half the budget.
- Ryan goes through a lot of math that somehow excludes Maseeh from the budget so that the amount that Dormcon funds is slightly less. (\$1333)
- Mary makes the point that if Maseeh weren't part of this event it would still cost the same because a lot of non-Maseeh, non-McCormick, non-Baker residents will be at it. We will be reimbursing MCC only anyway.

Vote to approve \$1750 for event passes unanimously.

7. Apple Picking Event:

- Chloe: we had this last year, Dormcon funded buses and dorms decided how people would pay for the actual event.
- Cost to dorms depends on the package that is purchased.

- Chloe: we haven't submitted any event funding requests for it yet so we aren't going to approve it now, but we will work on getting it done if everyone likes the idea.
- Victoria: Can we do it the weekend before Apple Bake (Burton Conner event, 11/2)
- Becky: We were planning for Columbus Day, we don't get the next day off anymore but that still seems like the best option (10/13)
- Victoria: BC can just move Apple Bake...
- 10/13 seems to sound good for everyone. Yay.

4.5 (?). REX Issues:

- Victoria: This year BC had an event called Pole Dancing which is a real exercise event. Also Jello Wrestling which had been going on for countless years and nobody has ever gotten hurt or anything. Basically Ann (housemaster) insisted on a meeting with Humphreys, REX chairs, Bill (other housemaster) and Victoria. Victoria suggested adding something to the booklet explaining that these events were reasonable, frosh should bring gym clothes, etc. and that it was exercise related. Humphreys was okay with this, Ann seemed to want to keep the gym theme going on/still wasn't really okay with this. They posted guidelines at desk about what should be worn and had a REX chair there to make sure that it was all legitimate, actually exercise moves, etc. Seemed like it was mostly Ann who deemed this so inappropriate, but Humphreys seemed to be on BC's side throughout the whole thing once Victoria suggested that one change.
- They apparently also tried to target floor rush (Burton 3rd).
- Victoria had asked RLAD for agenda for this pre-REX meeting ahead of time, RLAD couldn't give one but made a point that they shouldn't invite anyone else.
- Sean: Apparently Ann wants to get rid of floor rush across campus. Apparently it's because people are told they can't live on a certain floor, etc.
 - Victoria: This only happens in EC?
 - Jess: We're looking at that (Chancellor also wants to look at it)... it's functional and a little more of a mutual selection process. There are guidelines about what you should say to frosh during house rush but the fact that those are necessary makes me think that we need to rethink the process.
 - Ryan: Does anyone know how in-house rush works for every dorm?
 - Walter: We have a committee in MacGregor to talk to other dorms about this
 - Chloe: Maybe REX chairs can work on this
 - Adri: RAC meeting in which Nilam will probably ask about this. She has the information but she's confused because it works differently for different dorms.

- Random: Housing has a document with all dorms' processes, description for EC was a little vague. Housing seems to think there's a floor on EC where all the people go where nobody wants.
- Victoria: This year for BC Ann & RLAD insisted that each floor submit a plan for floor rush and she made two floors rework their plans. First floor does a dart paint balloon thing that they didn't want the floor doing this year because of safety reasons. Burton 3rd talent show also had a lot of changes because of things that could be considered hazing. I agree with some of these changes though. People were forced to go to every floor during rush so these changes make sense.

8. Security:

- Chloe: A lot of phase 2 dorms had security just put in, any issues or concerns? Or positive things?
- Ryan: As a phase 1 dorm who has gone into phase 2 dorms, there's def a difference between ours and phase 2 desk workers. Ours have more experience so they're nicer and a little more accustomed to this work.
- Sean: Now if you lose your key once they replace the entire lock on the door and charge you \$180. You can borrow a spare key but you need to return it within 30 minutes. This is not AB policy this is Housing policy and the housemaster is pretty upset with this policy as well.
 - Ryan: That's something that not a lot of students know.
 - Rodrigo: Policy before varied per dorm, but now they want to standardize it so this policy goes for all dorms. The rules are set by Housing.
 - Caitlin: AB looks at the time you took the key and if it's half an hour later, they tell the house manager and then the house manager bills you for the fine.
 - Victoria: Apparently in after 30 minutes they just change the lock.
 - Rodrigo: Our desk workers don't even tell people they have 30 minutes for the key.
 - Sean: This depends on how much the house manager enforces it.
 - Rodrigo: Key logs are kept up to 2 years and audited randomly.
 - Sean: For Baker if you state your key is lost then you'll get charged, otherwise you won't.
 - Caitlin: Numbers haven't changed, it's just that Housing wants it enforced more. It always called \$180 to change the lock, but now they're changing the lock more as opposed to just fining you for the key.
 - Becky: A lot of keys already go missing, so this is just a tightening of a policy that already existed.

- Caitlin: Part of AB's policy is that if someone walks in and says they're here to visit a GRT, they're allowed in.
 - Rodrigo: In Senior House, we changed the policy so that live-in staff have an infinite guest list. They can add anyone they want but if the person isn't on the guest list they can't go in.
 - Caitlin: For most dorms they don't check the list at all.
 - Becky: If someone says they're a guest, they're supposed to come in and be recorded before they go in.
 - Sean: If students know about this policy, everyone can get in everywhere.
 - There seems to be a general consensus that the infinite guest list is a good plan. Also, this security system does not make anything secure.
- Adri: They're trying to hold an outside company accountable for when things go wrong because when it's a student, things get more complicated. But I don't understand that because their policies have actually made dorms way less secure.
- Victoria: Can we implement the infinite guest list throughout all of MIT?
 - Antonio: Just start using it as an excuse to let people into dorms?
 - Rodrigo: We did this the way we implemented the normal guest list.
 - Another general consensus that this should be dorm-to-dorm, not try to implement it for every dorm.
- New House: If you go to remote access door, security guard asks for your name and room number?
 - Victoria: this is an IT issue. They need another way to verify you're a resident, if the system doesn't show your information. Sometimes they ask for your home address, which is sketchy to say through the intercom. We should find a less invasive question to ask to verify that you are you.
 - Chloe: This is a very dorm-specific thing.
 - Rodrigo: If there's no wifi the security system doesn't work. Our wifi turns off randomly and when it happens our ABs get confused.
- Ryan: Someone had an issue getting into MacGregor for MacCon because of their shortened hours, but they expanded back to normal hours--this wasn't communicated to security so there was an issue. But now it's fixed. If there's an issue, send an email to dormsecurity@mit.edu
- Victoria: Connie was very open to student input and very flexible.
- Chloe: We should bring up security issues sooner rather than later.

9.Senior House:

- Rodrigo: This past summer, Adri, Blake, and I met with Humphreys and Libby 4-5 times to talk about AD situation in Haus. Plan was to have AD search this semester. Then Housemaster told us he's leaving at the end of this semester, so we're having a Housemaster search this semester. Meeting with Humphreys later this week to figure out who's leading Housemaster search. Laura, Rodrigo, and Adri met with Cindy last week. She wants two things:
 - Steer Roast committee: 10 people, 4 students (3 SH residents and a student from outside of the House who will likely be Phoebe) also Paula Hammond, Jack from Provost office, and a Senior House alum and some other people
 - Wants to meet with a group of residents regularly to discuss how to improve relationships between Senior House and administration.
- Chloe: How does Haus feel about all this stuff going on?
 - Rodrigo: It's understandable that housemaster is leaving, but we're not really sure who we want or who we'll get. Meeting with her regularly doesn't seem like a bad idea, she seems open to discussion and wants to have "initiatives" to help improve our relationship. Unclear what she wants from Steer Roast committee but seems like she wants to better define how to reduce risk at the event.
 - Adri: Seems like she's trying to get a well-rounded group of people from MIT community (rather than admins) to see what they think goes on at Steer Roast and how they feel about it.
 - Rodrigo: She seems to have a pretty balanced group on the Roast committee (eg Ed Moriarity, came to Roast every year) so that there aren't a bunch of people unfamiliar with or biased against Roast. First meeting with Cindy is on Monday, don't know when Roast committee is going to start meeting or when housemaster search is going to get moving or when/if RLAD search is happening this semester.
- Adri: We're really confused about the housemaster position, since none of us seem to be very familiar with any faculty that would be a fit for SH housemaster, does anyone know a way of finding someone.
 - Yo: Try asking EC people, there are a lot of people who wanted to nominate someone for EC housemaster but ended up not doing it.
 - Jess: I can send you the EC list, also talk to residents and get them to talk about any professors.
 - Antonio: Alum faculty members?
 - Chloe: Ask Ed Moriarity? Rodrigo: No, he's not tenured.
 - Jess: Go to faculty meeting and make an announcement
 - Rodrigo: Doesn't know if there's a contingency plan for if this plan doesn't work out?

- Random: How does EC feel about the amount of input they had on the housemaster search process?
 - Jess: we only had two students on the committee :(but the faculty on the committee did a great job of listening to us so it wasn't actually very stacked against us at all. Interviews were on campus with the housemasters then we had meetings afterwards where people gave opinions. We were definitely represented.
 - Caitlin: Did you feel that your input was taken into account in the final selection?
 - Jess: yes, we actually had a phone call with the chancellor before the announcement in which she talked us through why the decision had fallen the way it did. The majority voice of EC really didn't like the choice, but the reasons they didn't like him were outweighed by the fact that he was the only one we could take and was qualified for the position. Chancellor wanted to ask if all would be well/if it would be okay, and we told her yes. Everyone was mature about it. Our input was definitely taken into account.
- Chloe: You guys should talk to EC people since they have a lot of experience in dealing with this.

10. GRTs:

- Chloe: GRT contracts changed this year, feelings on that?
- Adri: There was more changes in rewording of contracts rather than in the actual language of the contracts.
- Caitlin: I saw a sheet of paper that had a list of situations and responses.
 - This is the GRT manual which they should follow otherwise they may be held liable.
- GRTs must report sexual violence, or harm to self or others.
 - Sadun: Seems like drugs & alcohol are falling into mandatory reporting.
- Victoria: Admin told our GRTs they weren't following contract for this year (last year) for not reporting unregistered parties and couldn't say why they were leaving until they'd already moved out. Housemaster also apparently has a new "pilot program" for unregistered parties. 1st offense: housemaster & RLAD makes decision of what happens to you. 2nd offense: group of people goes straight to office of student citizenship.
- Rodrigo: Is a suite being public/private a dorm-by-dorm thing? Yes.
- Sean: Would I have to register an exec meeting as a party?
 - Victoria: Anything registered by a house team does not need to be event registered. 15 with alcohol is an event.

11. Mind & Hand Book changes:

- Sean: was concerned about the change to the drug policy and hazing policy, why don't we use just the MA state policy now? It's so broad now and everything is considered hazing.
- Becky: You all gave opinions and they incorporated them very well.
- Sean: Why don't we have the same type of policy for drug offenses as alcohol offenses?
 - Caitlin: we did, but then they got removed and the Institute is not reconsidering adding them back.
 - Becky: The way that drug use and alcohol use is viewed on a national scale is different.
 - Rodrigo: Any social sharing of drugs is considered dealing.
 - Caitlin: Because marijuana is a federal offense and we are very federally funded.
- Chloe: we should ask Judy to come in and answer questions about the policies
 - Becky: we should ask about how people will be held accountable for these violations. There's tons of variables that influence how this is dealt with.
- Sean: Now people might be scared of reporting their friends' health, that's my concern
 - Caitlin: They're probably aware of our concerns but we should definitely ask them questions

Meeting end: 20:29