

**DormCon Meeting
October 23, 2014
Location: Baker House**

Agenda:

1. **i3 Video**
2. **Maseeh**
3. **REX/CPW Committees**
4. **Move Out Day**
5. **Baker Housemaster**

Attendance

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

Start time: 19:32

1. i3 Meeting:

- Adri: Last year nobody had time to do the i3's and everyone panicked. We don't want that to happen this year, so I will be sending an email with all the dates. --pizza distracts everyone--
- Adri continues: Week of 2/9 there's gonna be a meeting with i3 chairs from every dorm which is like the 2nd week after IAP. Need to have i3 reps chosen by then. I will send this in an email. First draft of videos due March 20th. ResLife said they're going to get feedback to everyone by 4/3. 4/24 is final i3 deadline. Need i3 video and all text that goes with it.
- Sadun: Does that content need to change? Non-video content, I mean.
- Cosmos: Met with Jennifer from Housing. Guide to Residences (new website that they put up) replaces the physical booklet they used to send out. Response to wanting change was that they were just trying to make it happen first. What changes do we want to see for the format of the website? I'd like to get opinions from you, so if you have things you want to see changed then email me. At the next Dormcon meeting I can discuss specifically the changes. We want less junky text and more images/videos and a more engaging color scheme. Biggest things you see are cost and co-ed, but gym is way down the page... poor layout choices that we can give direction on how to correct.
 - Sadun: Do you think it'd be reasonable to email the i3 coordinators/presidents from last year to see if they have opinions?
 - Adri will send out email to i3 chairs and presidents to see their feedback.
 - Adri: Housing said individual dorms can't each have their own layout; general arrangement of pages for each dorm will be the same for the most part.
- Cosmos: We talked about censorship of i3 videos. Every year, ResLife gets back to us with changes on drafts, some get more than others as expected. Some people are disgruntled about these changes. They don't want obvious things like beer pong and fire violations. But they're censoring language, they censored a lot for EC, etc. that a lot of people were upset with. We tried to point out that though they have the right to request changes they don't have much power to do it, since we can publish what we want and put it in front of the freshmen anyway. The discussion ended with something that we would "work out a compromise".
 - Adri: Jen isn't opposed to a disclaimer on the website or anything, but she is concerned about how her higher ups would feel about it.
 - Rodrigo: If someone lower down is concerned, then someone higher up will also be concerned.
 - Cosmos: I think we should listen to them and adjust accordingly, it makes sense why they don't want some things in the video and we can be receptive

when they raise those concerns. I'm wary of them trying to show the dorm in their ideal image instead of the reality of how it is.

- Adri: She also pointed out that anything we publish on our own, that stuff normally goes to just the frosh. But many parents are overbearing and want to view the guide to residences, and get upset about that so Housing is trying to make them happy.
- Cosmos: We tried to take a stance that they can ask us to make changes but don't really have the power to force us. If we have a good collaborative process with them, then we might be able to get to put some stuff we really want in it. If you/i3 chairs have really strong thoughts on this, you can email me or Adri. We def let them know we weren't happy and were not going to be bullied.
- Adri: **Don't forget to elect your i3 chairs.**
- Sadun: That didn't really go anywhere?
 - Adri: I'm gonna email her that we should all meet again and talk so we can fix something, but no it didn't seem like it was going anywhere since we didn't really know her side/she didn't know our side.
 - Cosmos: We want to have this conversation with Jen's boss's boss's boss.
 - Adri: Nilam was acting under what Humphreys wanted us to do, so it was hard to go through her for things that we wanted done. We can include Jen and Humphreys in the meeting. I'll send you guys the emails with the dates after the meeting.

Maseeh:

- Chloe: I met with Maseeh president, asked what his plans were/interested in joining Dormcon. They said no because while they wanted the advocacy, they thought it was too large of a cost. They said they were interested in continuing attending Dormcon meetings, I told them it wasn't allowed but I could attend MHEC meetings if they wanted my input.
- Cosmos: They put wrong numbers in the Tech about how much it would cost them (in their article) and Austin seemed to know that they were wrong.

REX/CPW Committees:

- Allen: We had a meeting with Katie Kelley and someone else, and a bunch of people representing IFC, ASA, Panhel, Maseeh, ESP, and EMT. We talked about what Admissions wants to do in the future. There will be a big stakeholders meeting in the future including everyone on campus sometime in January (with like everyone on campus) and a smaller group of ~5 people who decide things about CPW, which we're going to try to get onto. Kelley asked us about the 1am rule, students said this

is bad and shouldn't be a thing. She doesn't get to make the decisions but she is on our side and listening to us. That was the CPW meeting.

- About a week ago we had a meeting with Humphreys, Norman, and Robinson (Title IX). Apparently we got a Title IX complaint about the REX booklet (not sure about what yet): the complaint was filed, but Matthew looked into it and it wasn't followed up on. They want to have a committee to write some guidelines about how the REX events descriptions are written in the book. The guidelines will be more concrete. Humphreys was hung up about the word "bitches" in the description about giving out freeze pops, and we could've taken it out and made him happier. We don't mind mildly censoring ourselves a little if that'll make them much happier. We're concerned that they might use this against us for things we write in the booklet later since we wrote them. We should think about how strict we want them to be and whether we want to write them at all. I think it's a good idea, and I have a lot of respect for Julie. She said if there is a complaint from a parent for example, we can show the parent these guidelines.
- Jes: It's going to be hard to come up with reasonable guidelines; EC would throw a fit if "bitches" wasn't allowed.
 - Allen: Cursing shouldn't be banned, but used when appropriate, right?
 - Yo: Is your question about guidelines at all, or about which guidelines?
 - Jes: I can see EC getting behind guidelines that don't want us to haze people or hurt people, but censoring the way we talk about things we do, it's not going to fly.
 - Cosmos: You don't want an event description that sounds like it's for an event that's going to haze people (even if it isn't). Parents read these but don't go to the events. This is motivated by DSL getting complaints from parents.
 - Yo: Humphreys clarified that any discussions we have and guidelines we make are not about the content of the events, but about the descriptions in the booklet. Their point is that every incoming freshman class member is going to see this book. If some frosh actually felt harassed about the descriptions in the booklet, we should take it seriously. We should follow up on what it was complaining about and get some sense of who filed it. If someone actually felt harassed then if something we can change can change that, we should do it.
 - Jes: I agree that we shouldn't be making people feel uncomfortable. But it's going to be hard to write this.
 - MacGregor: If an event is labeled as more friendly than it actually is (ex. Orgy at Senior House is labeled Gathering of

Friends at Senior House) then people will choose to go to events they might not otherwise go to.

- Ryan: We should get a timeline on this, and figure out exactly what their problem is. I as a dorm president kind of feel responsible for this Title IX complaint.
 - Allen: They're using this one complaint to make it into a reason to create these guidelines.
 - Adri: I don't think they're allowed to tell you who filed it, but they should tell you why.
 - Allen: Apparently it says the complaint said "the guidelines were written for a masculine white community, and humor that objectified women"
 - Yo: We want to talk to Judy about the complaint itself, and start talking to Julie about how we can start moving forward with this, and it'd be great to have the input from the dorms about the complaint and how to react to it.
- Ryan: We all used our best judgement on this, so I don't know how useful our guidelines that we create would be. We should ask Title IX to look it over because they're more knowledgeable in this area. I think the people in Title IX will know for sure what's a problem and what's not.
 - Victoria: I completely agree, I think it'll target stuff that actually matters and make sure freshmen don't feel actually harassed.
 - Yo: They want to create guidelines so that Title IX coordinator won't have to look at it.
- Caitlin: Matt said that the deans notifying Yo of this was unprofessional, and Sarah Rankin should've contacted Chloe. We don't even know if this is valid/legitimate.
 - Cosmos: We should bypass DSL in this, as long as we aren't actually violating Title IX. We will have a conversation with Title IX about this, but we aren't doing any negotiating with you.

So far only Matthew has talked to Sarah Rankin about this; nobody else has been in contact with her.

- Yo: Maybe they were going to file a Title IX complaint, but then they gave it to DSL and DSL told them not to?
- Adri: If there's any sort of Title IX complaint, it needs to be investigated in a certain time period. Someone needs to investigate within like a week.
- Victoria: Why aren't we going straight to Sarah Rankin and trying to figure out the truth?
- Jes: Someone talked to DSL and said I have this Title IX type complaint, then DSL told them not to file it. That's what looks like what happened if Sarah Rankin doesn't have it, because that means it wasn't filed.
- Caitlin: It looks like we have no idea what's happening and we should wait for more information before we have an action plan.

- Yo: How against/for a set of guidelines would we be, and what would the committee look like? They were pushing really hard for this committee on the meeting and wanted it to be something we were okay with.
- Cosmos: I want to keep DSL out of this, and keep it as focused on Title IX (if that was the issue at hand) as possible, ex: The REX booklet must be in compliance with Title IX.
- Chloe: Maybe we should have the Title IX coordinator involved in this committee.
- Allen: Matthew asked if the complaint was filed, and she deferred to Robinson. It seems that the complaints go to Robinson, and Rankin acts on them since she's the one who investigates.
- Adri: If something was filed, then one of the investigators should've approached Dormcon.
 - Allen: It seems that Robinson did what Rankin should've done, and asked us to negotiate. She told us (the REX chairs) there was a problem.
 - Rodrigo: It's hard to know what the problem is.
- Caitlin: I would appreciate a conversation to have a committee to write policy, have it run by Sarah Rankin, and then go through channels with those policies. I don't love the idea of putting housemasters on this committee.
- Gaurav: Title IX complaint is different from a violation; anyone can complain, doesn't mean it's legitimate. We should decline the offer of a committee and say we aren't interested. They ultimately have little real power over us. If we decide not to publish a Dormcon booklet, are they going to do it?
 - Allen: Housing said they don't have the power to stop us from doing anything. What they're trying to stop is the risk of a Title IX violation and it's upon us whether or not we want to take this risk.
 - Gaurav: This advisory committee will give us guidelines, and I see them giving us guidelines we don't want to follow even if there's many students on it. I don't want guidelines that we're going to break.
 - Allen: I was thinking that we write our own guidelines as students and then bring it to whoever should review it.
 - Adri: What are the repercussions of writing a policy and then not following it? I feel like we're trying to put something in writing that doesn't need to be in writing; individual presidents are already doing it themselves.
 - Ryan: It's writing for us.
 - Gaurav: It's already binding upon us.
 - Allen: We can write it so it's not binding. These guidelines are just guidelines, not meant to be that strict.

- Adri: There's a lot of things that administrators think isn't appropriate that we do, and there's a difference in opinion. I also don't know how this can be seen as targeted towards white males.
- Cosmos: It isn't clear to me at all that they didn't file this complaint themselves, because it's totally possible.
- Yo: we can't operate under that, while it may be true.
- Victoria: We should take it seriously, but with the Title IX officer. We should get more information on this and approach her, ask her if she can check our booklet and make sure it's all good. We can tell the DSL it's Title IX approved.
 - Cosmos: There's no way it's going to go through in its current state though.
- Adri: Can we ask her to revise this year's booklet?
 - Sean: Can we email Rankin and ask her about this?

--We should email her about last year's booklet and ask her to go through it--

- Yo: They expressed that what they think are "in bad taste" and "unpublishable" are different things. I don't know if Rankin will exercise that line.
 - Sadun: We should ask her what things are unpublishable.
 - Adri: That's why we should ask her about last year's booklet, because she can't really change anything and we can get an idea about what she thinks.
 - Chloe: Me, REX Chairs, Sarah, and Judy can have a meeting about this.
 - Victoria: It's Sarah's job to say "you can't do that" not "this is in bad taste"
- Lars: Title IX is that if it's deemed by any reasonable adult that it's offensive, then it is. So it'll be difficult for her to go through and say this is good or this is bad, because Title IX approval/violation are circumstantial.
 - Adri: Talking about sex and being sexually violent are different things, and that's the biggest generational gap.
 - Sadun: Do we know if Sarah Rankin thinks like that?
 - Yo: Humphreys mentioned "sex-positivity" multiple times.
 - Adri: When he talked about it to me, it seemed like he was saying it because he was being told to say it.
- Caitlin: We need to phrase our asking of Rankin to look at this booklet very carefully.
- Phoebe: We should push the deadline for the question about whether we need to create this committee.
 - Yo: They said you should bring this to Dormcon, and then get back to us.
- Jes: Apparently the Title IX working group is looking for reps from various groups, and Dormcon isn't represented. Who wants to?
 - Victoria and Adrianna both volunteered. Jes will send both names.

Move Out Day:

- Ryan: For the past couple years move out day is Saturday by noon, which means if you have a Friday final you only have that evening to quickly pack up and move out and it's a lot of extra stress. Humphreys sounded hesitantly on board, it was confusing, but he wanted some Dormcon opinion on whether or not this was a good idea. What are people's thoughts about pushing it to Sunday at noon? This depends on facilities and whether or not they can handle that change or not, if they can afford it, or whatever. Assuming it's totally possible, what are thoughts?

--Everyone seems to really like this idea--

- Victoria: What about people moving in for summer housing? Are we expecting them to move between Sunday at noon and whenever their job starts on Monday?
 - Rodrigo: You usually move in the Wednesday or Thursday the week after exams end, and you get to stay in your own dorm until then.

Chloe: I can meet with Dean Humphreys about that and go forward with it.

Baker Housemaster:

- Cosmos: Housemaster was nominated to be second in command at NASA, they plan to come back after 1-2 years but in the meantime we're trying to get the housemasters we had my freshman year when they were on sabbatical, so I don't think it'll be something to worry about but just wanted to let you all know.

Other things:

- Caitlin: If you haven't given us REX budgets, give it to me!
- Chloe: What are check-in policies for every dorm (like for moving in)?
 - Rodrigo: You fill out the yellow form, then the white form (for house manager), and then you get your key.
 - Sean: we did that white form thing using a Google form.
 - Adri: Ken wants the white forms because he can't use the Google form.
 - Ryan: Next doesn't have the white form, there's just an online form.
 - Chloe: is that generally what happens in every dorm?
-basically yes-
 - Chloe: That was just a question I had from Jennifer in Housing.

End: 20:30

