

**DormCon Meeting
February 4th, 2016
Location: Random Hall**

Agenda:

- 1. Welcome to DormCon!**
- 2. Retreat Info**
- 3. Officer Updates**
- 4. President's Updates**
- 5. Budget**

Attendance:

Dorm	Representative	Absent
Baker	Elizabeth Cox	
Burton-Conner	Flora Liu	
East Campus	Piper Lim	
MacGregor	Ki-Jana Carter	
Maseeh Hall	Billy Moses	
McCormick	Susan Mullen	
New House	Sarah Wharton	
Next House	Kyle Saleeby	x
Random Hall	Issac Grosf	
Senior House	Sarah Melvin	
Simmons Hall	Yuge Ji	
President	Yonadav Shavit	
Vice President	Caitlin Heber	
Secretary	Sabrina Madera	
Treasurer	Jacqueline Liu	

Start Time: 19:37

0. Introductions

1. Welcome to DormCon!

- Yo: For all of the new dorm presidents, welcome, and for everyone else, thanks for coming. There are 3 reasons DormCon exists, to advocate on behalf of all dorm residents, and for things that concern individual dorms. The second is that

DormCon is a mechanism for outside communities to communicate to dorm residents; policy discussions are started and your role is to represent your dormitories. And lastly, the reason we're all here, DormCon is an opportunity for all the dorm presidents to communicate about things happening in their dorms. Great communication and collaboration will go a long distance to helping you facilitate change and make things go well. Think about what you want us to advocate for, what things we're telling you that you need to inform your residents on, and lastly, be friends. A few basic logistics, DormCon has the officers, the "exec branch", and the presidents who represent all the dormitories.

2. Retreat Info

- Yo: The DormCon retreat is in a week and a half, it's in W98, way off in the middle of nowhere, for presidents and officers, and it'll be a great time. We're going to try and get everyone up to speed. We're planning on having a couple of trainings: crisis management and conflict mitigation training, both come in handy for presidents. Now, we only have six hours to be there, and it turns out each of these trainings take a while, so we won't do the full version. I was wondering if the presidents would prefer crisis management or conflict mediation.
 - Issac: Conflict mediation sounds cool; it would come up more.
- Yo: For a crisis, there are a number of events that can happen, like an injury or transport.
- Caitlin: It can also deal with a student death.
- Yo: It just so happens that you guys are in a position of authority, so to some extent, people look to you when something goes wrong. Anyway, more thoughts?
 - Sarah: I would prefer crisis management, at least in Senior Haus, JudComms are the ones who step in in internal conflicts.
 - Yuge: Is this focused on presidents and execs? For example, I think for exec it'd be more useful to go through conflict mediation.
- Piper: Who's teaching the training?
 - Yo: We're working with Julie Rothards, the qualified person will only be leading one, but we will definitely spend time on both.
- Susan: I have a preference with the crisis management, I think it's more unique to the role of president.
- Caitlin: Most of you have gotten into this role because you're good conflict mediators, and I'd rather do crisis management.
- Yo: Who is interested in conflict mediation? Three. Crisis management?
 - Caitlin: We're going to touch on both.
- Yo: The other thing I wanted to mention is, we have been talking with the RLADs about hosting a meeting with DormCon exec and presidents. It would be an hour or half, and it'd give us an opportunity to start working with each other. Of all of the admins, the RLADs are the most exposed to dorm life, and the best admins to work with if we want to push things through. The date is February 23rd, in the evening.
- Caitlin: After the retreat, we'd love to go as a group to dinner, just wanted to know if you wanted to schedule in another hour to do that?

3. Officer Updates

- Yo: So, I am the DormCon president, the role is to preside over meetings and represent DormCon to outside entities.
- Caitlin: We're charged with executing your decisions, and help you as much as possible. I am Vice President, and I just assist in this process.
- Yo: In terms of things I've been working on, there are things surrounding the SHAC Committee; we've been in discussions in transitioning DSL post-Henry Humphries, because he was juggling a lot of balls and now people have to catch them. In terms of MetX, the building has passed the committee. Some changes will be made; we'll be talking more about that in the coming weeks. We're drafting a document for future dorm construction projects, what works, what doesn't, and things any architect should know about designing an MIT dorm.
- Caitlin: I've been involved in the search for the next VPSL, I really cannot talk about this process. It is happening, I would expect announcements in the near future.
 - Kim: Who was the previous VPSL?
 - Caitlin: Dean Colombo, at our school DSL is number one.
- Jackie: I'm treasurer, I do budgets, take RFPs, if you order food, give me receipts. For events I would like you to submit an itemized budget with what you would like, I have the proposed budget for 2016.
 - Caitlin: We will speak about that later.
 - Jackie: I will also email it out.
- Caitlin: We would encourage you to read the funding guidelines.
- Yo: The first meeting for groups to request funding is next meeting.
- Sonja: I am one of the two DormCon Housing Assignment Chairs. The things we are working on is storage in dorms, right now, we are working on finding a vendor to replace the Met that will have MIT discounts. It is not official because Dennis needs to submit the request to Dean Colombo, but for this summer, in dorm storage will remain. We're working on minimizing the impact of that on students, it's not official, but it should be soon. Our number 2 priority is making sure any of the things you guys need to get done don't get dropped because of the DSL. Feel free to reach out to Kyle and I about harassing people on that front. Our number 3 is security; we're working on establishing a Security Committee, we passed that last semester.
- Caitlin: We will send you the committee charter after this meeting.
- Sonja: We're also examining how gender inclusive housing is working, it's now campus wide.
 - Kim: Will gender inclusive housing also be a thing over the summer?
 - Sonja: It should be, but I will follow up with that.
 - Kate: Summer housing last year had no doubles.
- Sonja: Summer housing isn't official, but right now we're talking about Random and all of MacGregor. They are expecting it will be enough space, it should be enough beds.

- Lily: I'm one of the JudComm chairs; at the end of last semester, Eric and I had a meeting with the Chancellor. Last semester, we took a survey of the state of JudComms, and it was varied across dorms. We had a meeting with the Chancellor, to see if its something the admins want, and how it should be implemented. Right now, we're in the midst of trying to figure out what the JudComm does. The Chancellor wants students to be responsible for each other, and she wants to avoid bad things happening and the fear of reporting. Also, we redid the constitution, and we're looking at the election process in greater depth this semester.
 - Yo: Is it true that there are more amendments?
 - Lily: Quite possible.
 - Sonja: So, when you say bad things, what do you mean? For example, JudComms could do a lot of different things, like reinforce house policies, are we worried about that, or mental health?
 - Lily: She's more concerned about safety and health of students, she cares more deeply about people putting themselves or other people in danger. How we decide who's in danger, and to what extent is one of the questions. In each dorm, how can we be accountable for health?
 - Yo: One example is hazing, it's not something you'd want to report.
 - Lily: Like I said, people are protective. In one dorm, it took a year and a half to get help for a student who was self harming.
- Brenda: I'm the i3 chair, things are still starting out. I met with people from ResLife, we're in the process of setting up a meeting with the dorms' i3 Chairs,
- Kate: I'm a Dining Chair, we deal with dining. As some of you may or may not know, Bon Apetit's contract is up at the end of the semester, the process was started later than ideal but, the current plan is to extend the contract for another year, and then come up with changes next year. We're using data available about our dining plan and other schools.
- Mary: We're also looking at other on-campus food sources, we also work a little bit with dorm dining chairs. HDC no longer exists, we'll be reaching out to the dorm dining chairs soon.
- Rachel: Sean and I are Risk Management Chairs. We made sure party safe training was a thing again, over IAP, we met with DormCon CPW Chairs, Katie from admissions, and someone from mental health. We're going to make an internal document, based on past years, we've gotten a lot of good input.
- Sean: I'm also a representative for the Health Promotion Committee, I have the minutes for the last meeting, mostly they've talked about making a website, and a brand for the committee. There's a lot of research on making the campus healthier, generally evaluating different plans that they've done. They're also planning a laser tag event in April.
- Rachel: I also sit on the Hazing Prevention Committee, and they're looking at having a Good Samaritan policy for hazing, and want feedback.
 - Yo: Will it be done this semester?
 - Rachel: I'm not sure.
- Kim: I'm CPW Chair. CPW is 9 weeks from today. Over IAP, we went to a meeting on how CPW is a great success, and we met with Katie from admissions.

- She did emphasize that they need more female hosts specifically, we are passing that on. We've been in contact with the CPW Chairs from all the dorms, and we're going to meet this weekend, we're going to throw all the info at them. Things that might concern you guys, there's not a lot until we get closer to CPW. We're also working with the Risk Management chairs.
- Yo: Something we talked about last year is the G-rated nature of CPW, there was some discussion that it should be PG-13 because to our knowledge, there are no people under 13 admitted.
 - Nolan: Their biggest concern is not the students, but the parents. Katie did say that as they're filling out the registration, if the event title is misleading, there is another box to fill in the actual description.
 - Kim: You could put the explanation into the extra notes box.
 - Nolan: She did say, for example, the alternative sex seminars would be allowed.
 - Yuge: How many events?
 - Kim: 190, up from 175 last year.
 - Yo: The core idea of DormCon wiki is to transition people who are coming in, it is a resource to be passed on to our "progeny".
 - Caitlin: We'll be looking for help populating that, if you have thoughts on what should be added to that, you should let me know.
 - Becky: I come to all the meetings, I help Yo and Caitlin on the side. I'm also on the email list, but I never share anything on the email list, I respect your privacy.
 - Caitlin: If you ever want to reach out to her, just go for it because Becky's awesome.

4. President's Updates

- Yo: Presidents, it'd be great if we could briefly hear from you. Talk about your dorm, and what your dorm means to its residents. Also, mention if there are things of particular concern.
- Caitlin: Discussions can happen; we encourage you to have discussions on those topics. Would anyone like to start off?
- Liz: I'm president of Baker. We pride ourselves in being a social dorm. Some issues are that we've had multiple transports. We did some party safe training, and our house team is looking at that, but we're trying to make sure we are still social.
- Rachel: Something we brought up is taking a look at the official party policies. Could we have a discussion on how we can make it better?
 - Liz: Making sure the residents know that there are party guidelines.
- Flora: I'm president of Burton Conner. We're known for having two wings, where each floor has a unique culture, and it's suite style, which fosters community really well. I think that most of the issues that I know of are interactions between students and the Housemaster. I know we don't always agree completely, and I want to be a passive mediator, just making sure the administration agrees with us.
- Piper: We have a lot of diversity between the floors in East Campus. We are nearing 100 years old, and that shows in the building. We're also very overexcited about rush. Probably the current biggest issue is that we are not one of the

summer dorms. Also, in the light of the storage situation, people are still concerned about where their stuff is going to go. We figured out our Associate Housemaster at this point.

- Ki-Jana: MacGregor is split up into nine entries. Each of the entries works as its own culture; we're mostly smaller communities. We just got new Housemasters, and a new RLAD. We also had a death in one of our entries last year, and we're still recovering. Me and Abby, the vice president, are working on recycling and composting in the dorm.
- Yo: Has any other dorm done this?
 - Paul: Burton Conner. We just implemented it last year; the residents take out the composting.
 - Sarah: We implemented composting a few years ago. Maintenance takes out the composting.
- Yo: Are there relevant admins?
 - Paul: The UA Sustainability Chairs took care of us.
- Kate: Do you not have recycling?
 - Ki-Jana: Some wings did and some didn't, the main issue is our House Manager is very protective over his workers, so trying to figure out who takes care of that. Also, we share a loading dock with New House.
 - Kate: It's standard practice for maintenance to do recycling.
 - Yo: Sonja, do you want to mention this to Dennis? If anyone is interested in tailing the workers as they "take out the recycling".
 - SarahW: In New House, they stay separated from the trash.
- Billy: Maseeh is typically described as being inclusive. Issues were having is that our bathrooms are considered private for some reason, and as a result we can't have MIT help us with soap. We had an issue with some floors putting up soap dispensers, and they were taken down. Previously, people tried talking to various administrators and deans.
 - Sonja: I'll bring it up with Dennis.
 - Yo: How many people per bathroom in Maseeh?
 - Becky: On a floor, there's 80-90.
- Issac: Random has the squeeze soap.
- Liz: We don't have paper towels at Baker. I was told if I have trouble with the House Manager, I could go to Dennis.
- Caitlin: Toilet paper is provided at desk.
- Sonja: I will bring it up with Dennis.
- Billy: Also, because Maseeh has a lot of places that are tappable, there's the guest list, and you need to be added to have card access. In the past we've had 3 updates per semester, eventually we'll have the ability to do again. We think it'd be easier if we could do it more frequently, especially for freshman who aren't aware.
 - Yuge: Do you have a number limit?
 - Billy: Previously, we had 3. Now we have 5.
 - Liz: At Baker, we don't have the card access issue, we just have places to enter the information. We talked to the exec board and the security team.

- Issac: Random has the same system. It's the same thing: we get one update a semester, we have a 5 person guest list, and you can't put alum on it, even if they would have card access to other parts.
- Sonja: For people with constantly updating guest lists, can you take people off whenever?
 - Sarah: At Senior Haus you can.
 - Billy: We only have the card tap guest list.
 - Sonja: Can you take someone off whenever?
 - Billy: If you email, it will be done. You need to email us, and we send it to housing. For us, when you want to update the guestlist, we have a poll done.
 - Sonja: There are no problems on the DSL side for people who need to be removed. On the other side, would it be useful to have an express and non express list?
 - Billy: They wouldn't be able to get into anywhere, except the lobby.
 - Sonja: Are all of the card readers on the same number?
 - Becky: They are different.
 - Sonja: If they're all different, it might help to have a discussion about this.
 - Becky: For us, we want to update it more frequently, the problem is that they have to send it off to put someone on the list.
 - Billy: We would even be happy having our own system.
 - Yo: One minor addition is that one of the things we want to push through a dormitory wide guest list policy, where we have a system that is more efficient.
- Susan: I'm the president of McCormick, and we value community and making everyone feel welcome. One of the issues over the past year is that we no longer have residence based advising. Just because that is gone, we see a real difference in how freshman make friend groups.
- Yo: One thing we could talk with Dennis Freeman about is the RAA, residential associate advisor.
 - Paul: We have them and they host dinner every semester, but it's meaningless.
 - Brenda: I'm an RAA, all my advisees are in Next House. We have a big-little system though.
 - Yo: Is that different from what McCormick has?
 - Susan: The problem right now is that our RAAs report to 7 different advisors across campus. They would live next to freshman before, and now that's not really possible.
 - Mary: We have RAAs for all freshman who don't have an associate advisor in McCormick. It doesn't really work.
- Yo: The officers on DormCon have their roles, but we're all here, and we're all people, and we want you to use us as a sounding board.
- SarahW: I'm from New House. We don't have too many issues, except some plumbing problems. A lot of New House exec used to come from House 3, but

- now we don't have a vice president, secretary, or CPW chair. It's just getting freshman involved. We have a good record of community and events.
- Issac: Are the people in the Hyatt counted as part of New House?
 - SarahW: Yes, they're all moved in now. Communication with the house manager is difficult, but we have a new one.
- Issac: Random, it's a cool place comprised of a lot of smaller communities, but there aren't walls between them. It's very close knit. One thing is that we're getting a new housemaster; we're thinking about things that make a good housemaster and how to pick one well. The other thing is the house manager. She left mostly; she shows up once a month, so now we share a house manager with 3 other dorms. This is rough. We also have a lot of renovations.
 - Sonja: John Nolan is a house manager for Random, Baker, McCormick and Theta. It happened because a lot of people quit, and others resigned, and it took long to hire new people. The on-call stuff for weekends will be done by John Nolan. He will be coordinating it.
 - Sarah: Senior Haus is a pretty tight knit community, but also sort of has cultures. We value independence, and our main issue is that we've had a lot of conflict over the RLAD position. We came to a compromise, so we don't have a live-in administrator, and we were told that as long as we successfully integrate him into our community, it'll stay that way, but we don't have any measured metrics to see that. That's a concern because they'll have to take out a lot of rooms. Another big thing is that we have Steer Roast. We want to make it more obvious that it is open to all undergrads. We're going to provide people with easier access to courtyard tickets and being able to get in. Other than that, it's just keeping things as is, making sure people can choose where they can live and who they want to live in, and they can paint murals.
 - Yuge: Simmons is a dorm of 340 plus, I think. The things that'll come up later on is that we do major CPW/REX stuff. But, I'll just go back to the house manager thing. Nika is only Simmons' house manager right now. She is transitioning someone though, and she was also managing for Next. Dining, we'll all be in contact. On our part, for in-dorm storage, we have a lot of space, all of our residents get six boxes and a mini fridge. Not having storage is going to be a big change. However, we have storage that's not in the basement as well.
 - Cait: There is no possibility of in dorm storage. They do not want any student belongings in the building over the summer.
 - Sonja: That's what's coming from MIT insurance. One idea we have are things like clothes or books get damaged, but things like wooden furniture or mini fridges don't, so we hope they let us store non-fabric things, like lofts or fridges.
 - Caitlin: Another thing that has been discussed, like how student government storage works, and Next has storage for Next Act. That has not been brought up.
 - Sonja: We suspect that things that are owned by halls or dorms will be allowed to stay. We expect that dorm property will continue to be stored.
 - Sarah: Is there any way students can store at their own risk?
 - Sonja: No, because insurance doesn't want people to sue.
 - Arthur: What about in a dorm that's opened for summer housing?

- Sonja: If someone is staying in a room, that is just their stuff. This will be an extended discussion all semester, if you have creative solutions that are not loopholes, you should bring them to me.

5. Budget

- Caitlin: The proposed budget is in your emails.
- Jackie: Becky just informed me that ResLife is covering all of the funding for Apple Picking, so DormCon will not be paying \$2000 for that. Our current balance is like \$10000. The event we haven't funded yet is Bad Ideas, and our expected house tax this semester is \$16300.
- Caitlin: We're buying snacks and lunch, and we're doing \$500 per dorm for CPW.
- Jackie: For REX, \$1000 for each dorm. That leaves us with a final budget of \$4237.
- Yo: To be clear, we can talk about the budget.
- Jackie: We also just got \$2000 from apple picking, we can move that back into events budget.
- SarahW: CPW is really important for New House. I think the money should go to CPW.
- Yuge: CPW allocation is subject to change.
 - Yo: We're going to talk about the specific CPW allocation later.
- Caitlin: 2 years ago, we did it proportional to the amount spent. Last year, we did it equally, which it made it much easier.
- Yo: Anyone have any thoughts on where it should be put?
- Lily: How much have we spent on events in spring semester in the past?
 - Cait: In 2012, we spent \$12700. In 2013, we spent \$9000. In 2014, we spent \$12000. In 2015, we spent \$10000.
- Issac: It makes sense to put it in the events budget.
- Caitlin: I would like to propose what Sarah suggested, moving it to the CPW budget. A vote on moving \$2000 from the budget to CPW.
- Mary: If we allocate \$2000, it will be a little under \$200 a dorm. I know every time I've applied for DormCon funding, we haven't had enough money to allocate everyone that they wanted.
- Yuge: If we allocate it, it won't come back out, right?
- Piper: It's still a 40 percent increase, so it's not tiny.
 - Yuge: It depends on how much your dorm spends.
- Flora: The events budget, is that split between the dorms or what?
 - Jackie: If you have any events, you can apply for funding over DormCon.
 - Caitlin: This is for dorms only. Past events are Steer Roast, Dance Till You Drop, and the Spring Picnic.
 - Flora: So, it's not dorm specific?
 - Caitlin: Any dorm resident can apply. If they fulfill the funding categories, they can get up to half of the event funded.
- Issac: I propose putting the money into the events budget.
 - *Vote taken, the money goes to the events funding.*
 - *Vote taken, budget passes.*

End Time: 21:02