

**DormCon Meeting  
February 4th, 2016  
Location: Senior Haus**

**Agenda:**

- 1. The Hygiene Campaign**
- 2. Committee on Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response (CSMPR) Representative Election**
- 3. Title IX Working Group Representative Election**
- 4. Renaming the Housemaster Position**
- 5. Spring Picnic Funding Request**
- 6. Update on In-Dorm Storage**
- 7. MetX Updates**
- 8. Dorm Electricity Competition Announcements**
- 9. Caitlin's Updates**

**Attendance:**

<b>Dorm</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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	
Random Hall	Issac Grosof	
Senior House	Sarah Melvin	
Simmons Hall	Yuge Ji	
President	Yonadav Shavit	
Vice President	Caitlin Heber	
Secretary	Sabrina Madera	
Treasurer	Jacqueline Liu	

**Start Time: 19:35**

**0. Introductions**

## 1. The Hygiene Campaign

- Nisha: Hi! My friend at Harvard started a project called the Hygiene Campaign; it's to take pads and tampons donated, and donate them to women's and homeless shelters. There are branches at Tufts and Northeastern. I'm here to ask permission to put collection boxes here, and I'll come every two weeks or so to pick them up and take them to the shelter.
  - Sarah: Would this be an ongoing thing, or with a set end date?
  - Nisha: Ideally I'd want it to continue for the next couple of months, at least, to see if there's interest, so someone else can continue.
- Yo: We will have you email out to dorm presidents to coordinate.

## 2. Committee on Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response (CSMPR) Representative Election

- Yo: We are electing a new representative for the committee on Sexual Misconduct.
- Kate: It's looking at existing policies about sexual misconduct, and how to report it. Also, it looks at the online training for staff. It's like 30 people on the committee, and meets once a month for 2 hours, Tuesday from 12-2pm.
- Yo: Does anyone want to be on this committee?
  - Rachel: I can do it.
    - Yo: You're the new rep!

## 3. Title IX Working Group Representative Election

- Yo: Similar to that, there is a Title IX working group.
- Adri: It's mostly just comparing the existing programs at MIT compared to other schools, figuring out what posters are the most informational and eye catching; that and similar projects. Meetings are twice a month, first Monday and third Tuesday at 7:30pm to 9pm normally.
- Piper: I can make posters.
- Lily: We need a majority vote on this.
  - *Vote taken, unanimous yes.*

## 4. Renaming the Housemaster Position

- Yo: Most of you have hopefully spoken with your Housemasters about this topic, but they have raised the point that housemaster is a gendered term, and has connotations of slavery. They have already voted on this. One of three titles, House Dean, Head of House, and House Advisor, and the Chancellor has asked us to weigh in on what we think is an appropriate title.
- Liz: A lot of people have said they don't like Dean because it sounds academic.
- Yuge: Simmons had an informal poll, and we agreed that Head of House is better.
- Susan: McCormick also had a poll, and we were okay with Head of House.
- Caitlin: Does anyone have any thoughts on if we should keep the original title?
- Jane: Is there going to be a campus wide poll to see if anyone cares?

- Caitlin: The majority of people who weigh on this are ambivalent, mostly. Do we have a preference for any of the three?
- Yo: The housemasters have already voted; they wanted the students to vote separately.
- Piper: So the option of not doing anything is not an option?
  - Yo: We can resolve that we have no preference on the options.
  - Ru: I think if we don't have a preference, it's their position, and if they want to change it they have a right to.
- Adri: There are some people that think it's kind of bizarre.
- Caitlin: We're going to take a straw poll on two options, whether or not we want to keep it the same or make it Head of House.
  - *Vote taken, Head of House wins.*

## 5. Spring Picnic Funding Request

- Kiera: We're McCormicks social chairs; we're asking for funding for the Spring Picnic, that will be co-hosted will be with Next and Burton Conner. We're thinking April 30<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm.
- Mary: This has been a successful event every year. We've had residents from every dorm, and faculty. We're looking for about \$1800. We are going to advertise by emailing out to all the dorms, and putting it in the infinite.
- Kim: By hosting, what do you mean? Will Burton Conner and Next also have things in their courtyard?
  - Mary: No, it's on our lawn. Their social chairs are helping us.
- Flora: How much do the dorms have to contribute?
  - Mary: Usually about \$500 a dorm. It rained 2 years ago, we moved it into the living rooms, and it was still successful; about 500 people attended.
- Jackie: So, we have \$13000, and they're proposing \$1800. That is 13.8 percent.
- Caitlin: Presidents can vote on it, or can vote for less or more.
- Kim: What other external sources do you apply for?
  - Kiera: LEF, and hopefully the UA and the Baker Foundation.
- Yuge: Do we have a list of other events we fund?
  - Jackie: Piano Drop, Steer Roast, and last year we funded \$1600.
  - *Vote taken, unanimous yes.*

## 6. Update on In-Dorm Storage

- Sonja: So we met with Peter Cummings and Dennis on Wednesday, and they gave us a new proposal for storage. The proposal is that we get to keep storage areas that are designated areas, and students will be able to store things there, as long as they can provide proof of insurance. MIT is trying to launch a campaign for students to get renter's insurance, and they're gonna launch a big campaign.
- Caitlin: In addition to the tuition I'm paying, I'm responsible for their building not functioning well if my stuff gets ruined?
  - Sonja: They wont budge on this.
  - Kyle: Anything designated a storage facility, they have full control over.
- Piper: Is there an estimate?

- Sonja: Their estimate is \$120 a year, they would encourage you to get it all the time.
- Kyle: We also mentioned financial aid, and they'll look into it.
- Adri: How exactly will they enforce this?
  - Sonja: They said there would be some way to submit proof in order to use. Part of this means the storage would be locked, and housing will put in money to make sure they're up to spec.
  - Kyle: They're actually going to track it as well.
  - Sonja: They're going to keep track of boxes, who's they are, and when they go in.
- Caitlin: As Simmons storage captain, this is going to be a nightmare. If a student comes to me saying "I need to store my stuff now", and they don't have insurance, it's going to be a huge clusterfuck.
- Kyle: I don't think they have an idea on how many people use this.
- SarahW: There's some communal property in New House. Who's covering that?
  - Sonja: Presumably MIT, before this it was going to be continued to be stored by MIT.
- Kyle: They probably won't allow anything stored in individual rooms, to deep clean.
- Sonja: We would like feedback.
- Yuge: You mentioned designated storage spaces. Would the Housemaster designate spaces?
  - Sonja: The problem is that some dorms currently use student rooms as storage space. We asked what it took for something to be designated storage, basically, this year is going to be a big experiment because we don't know what the demand is going to be like. Technically, only DSL has to make something a storage space.
- Kyle: They're open to a lot of ideas.
- Adri: Why don't they reopen the Met?
- Sarah: Is the insurance required for this summer?
  - Sonja: Yes.
  - Sarah: That's not a very long timeline for people to figure out insurance.
- Sonja: The goal is to have details ironed out before spring break. I think it won't be difficult, and it'll work.
- Sarah: It's also a short time for dorms to figure out a system.
  - Kyle: We will figure that out. It wouldn't be up to the dorm, maybe house managers will expand desk staff, and they'll double as storage.
  - Caitlin: In Simmons, I'm hired as storage captain.
- Sonja: There is a question with how we'll deal with equity, but none of this is addressed yet.
  - Caitlin: In Simmons, it's 6 boxes per student, and a mini fridge.
  - Piper: My main question is, if you don't have that much stuff, and you want to pay with someone, can you?
    - Caitlin: In Simmons, you can lend your space.

- Kim: Did they find an insurance company that would guarantee MIT students a reasonable rate? Insurance can sometimes depend on other things, other than the fact that you need it.
  - Sonja: They're going to recommend three companies to work with MIT. These changes were suddenly thought up and approved, so they don't have anything settled.
- Kyle: If you have insurance already from your parents, there will be a list of things you need to check off. Also, dorms with no storage: Piece By Piece was pretty expensive. It includes 4 boxes that they give you, and 4 additional items for \$300. If we can get case studies from them, that will be great.
- Sonja: We were concerned the prices were way too high, but it turns out their prices are very similar to what we were shooting for, so we're pretty happy. Also, MIT doesn't partner, so if you find a better deal, you can choose whoever you want.
- Kyle: We're also making sure Amherst isn't just jam packed, logistically.
- Sonja: They were thinking of being on campus all week during finals week, but I don't like that. I think they should have spots in every dorm. We're much happier with the price quote.
- Kyle: Timeline is probably weekly meetings, if not more.
- Billy: If they break something while moving it, will we need insurance for that?
  - Sonja: Presuming it's third party, they will probably have insurance.
- Kyle: Supposedly they work with Boston College and BU.
- Sonja: And they just hired the guy that ran the Met. We will send out an open survey to collect feedback. DSL wants to provide boxes.
- Kyle: We want to find an industrial storage solution that isn't \$8 Tupperware.

## 7. MetX Updates

- Yo: Everyone take a deep breath. The Metropolitan Warehouse will not be turned into a dorm. A few of us found out about this late last week. I'm pretty happy about it. While the community made a lot of progress, it was clear that it was not going to be a good dorm. The major cause so far, as I can understand is, at some point they realized they couldn't convert the Met into a dorm by 2018. Because it was pushed to 2019, it was clear that they could build a new dorm from the ground up, and it was better by every metric.
- Kate: A year to plan, and two years to build a new dorm; they realized this and we wasted a year, why was the Met faster in the first place?
  - Yo: Also the matter of cost; it seemed it would be cheaper because it was a preexisting building, but it was not something they foresaw. Now, what are we doing with the Met now? A conversation has been started by Matt and the UA with the potential renovation for the Student Center. Part of the negotiations with the people who removed their stuff is that they were told construction would happen, and that is a process that is starting right now. I think it'd be reasonable as a supplement to the Student Center. Separately, we have to ask, we're building a dorm by 2019, and what will be in it? And, unlike the Met, they want to have an idea before they start designing it. Their intent is to design this building, and we are going to be

having discussions about the potential new dorm and what programming things we can do with it. The conversation that's happening is where we put the new dorm, with what lot makes sense. We're currently in talks with the Chancellor to be a part of this group that takes a look at the lots. We will be getting back to you on what goes into that.

- Yuge: Caitlin were you on the MetX committee before it was public?
  - Caitlin: They asked us last year, but nothing happened before students were brought on.
- Yo: I hope that gives you guys a rough timeline of the new dorm.
- Kyle: Since they're not immediately constructing it, is there any chance any of it will be storage?
- Sonja: Is there a reason we're looking at putting dorms on only west campus?
  - Matt: I can only speculate; but they went through with the Kendall Square project, and west campus is the only area where they have flexible space.
- Lily: What are the spaces they are looking at?
  - Yo: I don't think we know that. We're thinking the spaces between the Met and Simmons.
- Billy: We went to lunch with the Chancellor, and they are considering the space between the Stud and Simmons, maybe the tennis courts, and something weird about East Campus.
- Matt: This is complete speculation, but they're doing a massive parking lot construction in Kendall; they're going to make a 600 spot lot underneath Kendall, so I imagine the parking on west campus could be obsolete.
- Yo: We will keep you guys updated on this process.

## **8. Dorm Electricity Competition Announcements**

- Erin: We're from the UA Sustainability Committee, and we wanted to let you know the Dorm Electricity Competition will be happening the first three weeks of March, and our kickoff is February 29th in the Student Center. This has been happening for the past few years. It's to see which dorm can save the most electricity. Both prizes are monetary prizes on the scale of thousands of dollars, and the winning dorm will have to submit a proposal on sustainability, but if no one wants to do that, we can buy something for your dorm, like better light bulbs.
- Kelly: We want to have a program where we give dorms some amount of money, to have a sustainability study break. For this proposal, it'll be going on throughout the competition, and at the end whoever wins can look at all the ideas.
- Stephanie: We'd really love to see a lot of creative ideas, like vampire plugs are helpful, but we also want creative ideas. Anything from dry landscaping, reuse of water bottles; it's all free game if it's in our budget. Any project that minimizes waste is a good idea, if you think about how much plastic we waste just by drinking soda. Anything that reduces and reuses that waste is fine. If you have any questions, you should let us know. For more info, we are having something Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> from 9-10 pm in the Student Center.
- Erin: It's more to just get connections between sustainability groups in different dorms.
- Yuge: Would you mind sending us who are eco reps are?

- Stephanie: I can email out some more of the info mentioned today.

## **9. Caitlin's Updates**

- Caitlin: I have an update on the VPSL search: it is over. I'm working with the other student representatives on a document on how the process worked. We did have students who were involved, and we made an offer to our top choice and they accepted. We can't tell you now, because they need to settle things on their campus.
- Kate: Do you know how early they will start working?
  - Caitlin: I can't share that now. I believe it was publicly stated they would start in the summer, and I am very pleased with the results of the search.
- Kim: What does this mean for the timeline of other people we need to hire?
  - Caitlin: That is separate, and DSL is working on that.

**End Time: 20:39**