

Dormcon General Body Meeting - October 14, 2021

Time: 7:00 PM (ET)

Location: Baker House Upper Dining Hall

IF YOU HAVE ISSUES WITH MINUTES (EDITS/CHANGES): PLEASE EMAIL
dormcon-secretary@mit.edu and mitalic@mit.edu

Meghana: any questions about updates?

Looking forward to house team results

Mohan: updates - random hall apple picking event approved by exec due to treasurer mistake, \$950 (?) this weekend (Saturday)

Next haunt and ABC up to vote today

Doubled budget for exec and GBM food (\$300 now for GBM) since apparently food has gotten quite expensive these days

ABC vote - do we make budgets public?

Meghana: probably

Mohan: details - amount not requested but max we can do is \$600 so we'll go with that

Before vote - do we want to do these at GBMs or do we want to do a pulse check with the email list (raise objections over email - this way it won't have to wait 2 weeks)

Presidents: I think an email is fine

Meghana: Email is fine for vote but say at GBM what went through

Mohan: thumbs up

ABC

Tina: Confused

Mohan: clarifying that \$1200 is budget so default is \$600 unless people have objections

Meghana: how much money do we have

Mohan: tens of thousands, normally we don't have that much but now we have excess, I'm of the opinion that we should use as much as possible for events

Simmons just got to point where they overspent so going to take care not to have that happen here
\$36,000 total budget

Alan: Vote by dorms

Baker y

BC y

EC y

Macg y

Masseeh y

Mcc y

New absent

NV y

Next y

Random y

Simmons y

Mohan: rip the mismatch in spreadsheets

Will fix it later

Time for next haunt vote

Meghana: I will send you the doc

Mohan: Details in exec updates

\$3,500 for Next haunt

Meghana: Lumber expensive and everything had to get thrown out in 2019, paint, fire retardant, puzzle design, costume, make up, food for people, shirts for volunteers, speakers, buffer
Event is open, 450+ people normally, lots of non Next build volunteers

Sarah: How did you decide buffer

Meghana: made numbers nicer

Someone: do you sell tickets

Meghana: no, its free

Some budget from Next

Mohan: any questions before vote

Brendan: something something settle with EC??

Mohan: start the vote

Nvm

Tina: how much are we approving

Mohan: everything with dormcon next to it

Meghana: can go down to \$3000 since it doesn't match up and budget was updated

Mohan: when would you ask for money

Meghana: we can ask for it after

Mohan: we can approve \$3500 to account for potential extra costs

Meghana: we can request half the money post event based on actual expenditures

Alan: vote

BC y

EC y

MacG y

Masseeh y

Mcc y

New absent

NV y

Next y

Random y

Simmons y

Baker y

Mohan: and that's all tyvm ask for money later

Meghana: sunmee's updates are follow us on social media

Mitali: send RAC feedback last call

Zawad: met with housing about murals, want to start with 1 or 2 dorms in the spring, New and Next will start and then BC, something about new architecture in BC

Sarah: picture rails to hang canvases

Do we know what the plan was originally?

Meghana: something similar to what they said, plywood hanging or something

Zawad: plan for most dorms is screw into walls, new reno dorms should have something sliding

Sarah: we have hang on a hook, sliding sounds preferable

Zawad: we can talk about this more since the details aren't really hashed out

Meghana: we will open up this convo with deets from earlier

Alan: my updates are yeeehaw

Meghana: yee harder

Mitali: if you have ideas for hazing prevention lmk, don't start hazing or accidentally haze <3

Meghana: dining updates! Mark and Heather are v responsive if there are things you have trouble with, they want to come in and have conversations about things to fix

Please talk to me

Next had changes made within a week

They are also new to the system, hired just before pandemic, may lend itself to flexibility

Tim's mart thinking about changing hours but will take time with union negotiations

[redacted]

~~UA~~ dormcon dining survey will be out soon

Questions??

Cool!

Presidents

Octavio: Maintenance in Maseeh slower than it used to be, mostly in kitchen, dishwasher been broken for a month etc.

Trying to get in touch about what is up

Brendan: EC renovations only thing now days ahaha

Trying to figure out about 70 Amherst with GSC

Meghana: do they have power

Brendan: no but we're trying to involve grad people

Mohan: nothing for Simmons except our ice cream is frozen solid, is this an actual problem??

Meghana: does simmons have dining chair

Mohan: no not really I am the dining chair by constitution

Meghana: next dining chair sits down with the head chef to talk about things like this ex. Internal soda poll to change the sodas
YOU HAVE POWER in your dorm

Mohan: i'll figure out who it is

Meghana: we can help with that! Does NV talk to dining?

Tina: finishing elections tomorrow so we'll have dining chair woot!
Other updates breakfast is 7-9 pick 6 now, brunch 9:30 - 2:30, so the 9 - 9:30 nothing available but idk if we can fix this because it's a scheduling issue

Meghana: can bring it up to Mark
How did elections go

Tina: maybe 80 people voted but it just went out last night so pretty decent
Mostly freshman running which is p exciting
Elected primary positions, planning for more elections in December for things like REX, i3, etc.

Meghana: when is turnover planned

Tina: december schedule, saying for this academic year but maybe year and a half term will figure out with constitution

Meghana: do you want other constitutions from Alan

Tina: yes that is next steps

Sarah: officially picked 9 people for reopening team
Transitioned from transition team hahaha
Good interest from 24s and 25s

First meeting in december, run by Judy Robinson if people have thoughts about her leadership style
Transition team is going to discuss landscaping and furniture
Main goal is to nix the corporate looking furniture for more homey furniture

Shruti: the furniture is in MacG if you wanna look at it i haven't seen just protecting

Sarah: if it's corporate looking let people steal it >:)

Ret: Random internal updates
More feedback and talking about the Yellow light proposal (additional checks about guest list)
Pushback from house team bc they seem to not like the express guest list at all

Meghana: Next internal elections, one freshman
Might go to Salem instead of apple picking because of no buses
How to keep country kitchen clean please help
How do you fix washlava machines

Mitali: have you tried unplugging it and plugging back in

Others: ask house team

Adina: McCormick emailed Suzy (?) they want to discuss enhancing mcc spaces, thinking about upgrading gym [insert sad gym descriptions :()]
People who live in mcc for modesty/religious reasons and want to workout can't go to the gym
So maybe having a weight room would be cool
If people could send pictures of their gyms would be great
Are we going to talk about New house situation

Meghana: we all got an email from Suzy

Others: it was discussed at UA

Meghana: share

Shruti: posters that were really violent and aggressive, lot of people felt uncomfortable, president of ASA and BSU shared their thoughts about it
Meeting from UA to figure out how to make sure people are held accountable for things like this and how we should act as communities

Meghana: keep us updated

Adina: this is in a dorm context do we want to send out an email about it or something, what can we do as dorm prez to be accountable and responsible

Potentially send out a blanket email saying how to be nice if you have issues in your living community, it's okay to be upset but don't be aggressive

Sarah: email reminding about resources for these issues like AD, GRAs, RPM (for conflict resolutions)

Brendan: Kitchen czar's in CFY who impose these kinds of message but harder to be proactive about the racist language, need to build culture over time of internal checks and self regulation

Meghana: with Brendan about having issues with kitchen cleanliness etc. but need to think about how to build respectful communities

Shruti: hard for people who haven't had this much shared spaces, especially now that people are back after covid so making sure we're genuinely respectful in our community building

Meghana + Shruti: people shouldn't be afraid to take things down like these posters

Meghana: ways for people to not get so upset about gross shared spaces

Shruti: not limited to kitchens, laundry room etc.

Meghana: how to address things

Adina: another update - losing our AD in a couple weeks

Emily: Baker also going to be down an AD

Shruti: macg (and baker) just finishing interviews

Emily: had AD interviews

Problems with mask compliance, talking to house team about solutions but looking for solutions from other dorms too

GRAs can't be solely responsible for discipline since they are a support resource

Meghana: where are the issues

Emily: people not wearing masks as they leave the dorm or pulling them down in common spaces
Solution so far has been positive reinforcement to prevent immediate punishment but not sure what the best incentive is
Sent an email last week reminding about flu season but not sure how effective

Alan + Meghana: had these conversations in Next about how house team can support students in enforcing this but not very responsive on their end

Emily: baker is kinda opposite because GRAs have been pretty proactive about it
Hard to balance supportive role while enforcing rules
Ofc easier with repeat offenders but not sure how far to go with the disciplinary actions

Adina: where exactly are the issues

Emily: lounge in 3 parts of the floor, common to sit in one of the spaces and work with friends, many people pulling down masks around friends or when just going through like waiting to grab it from the front desk

Mohan: wrt GRA thing, GRAs have the policy behind them, in Simmons for example say something without policing

Emily: GRAs have been doing it but stuck in a place of do we report people if we see it more than once

Meghana: how old are people what can you appeal to

Emily: Baker is very frosh heavy so harder to do community arguments etc. upperclassmen know quarantine sucked so it's mainly people who don't know how sad last year was

Emily: thought about buying masks but very expensive so now thinking about a reward system like a raffle your name gets taken out of for non compliance for positive reinforcement

Sarah: put up posters saying you don't want to get quarantined with covid

Emily: postering gets nowhere in baker, emailing is also not very effective

GRAs send floor level complaints but not sure how effective they are

Will check in with house team it's been about 2 weeks

More peer accountability since then so maybe it's helped

[redacted]

Alan: Next house experience is that compliance is hard

Meghana: Can talk to us about discipline things

Others: Dependent on hall/dorm community pressure to set a norm

Shruti: maybe reimplement pod program? MacG has suites where things are working out

Emily: trying to do what is best for our community as a whole

Brendan: inconsistencies with policy which exists and enforcement of it

Meghana: reminders about last year, upticks in cases after this weekend

Shruti: MacGregor finished AD interviews, planning events upcoming including food trucks, dinner with reflection on the past couple of years and smashing pumpkins

Some problems with mask compliance in the gym but put up signs and seems to have helped

Buying a new peloton \$\$\$

We have nice gym

Adina: send me pics pls

End meeting