

## Dormcon General Body Meeting Minutes

Date: November 18, 2021

Time: 7:00PM

Location: McCormick Country Kitchen

Food: Fried rice, fried noodles (?), something on a stick, fried flat noodles

### **EXEC UPDATES**

#### *Housing*

zawad: real fake walls. simmons and random you should hear from hrs soon. one big thing we're gonna ask next tuesday. increasing the time racs have for placement. so it doesn't all have to be in one day. the q we had was. do any dorm prez's have any objections

jordan: do yall object to your racs having more time to make decisions??

zawad: we'll figure out what the options are

meghana: what currently happens?

zawad: sat is when rex happens. tues is when fyre is due. wed morning frosh get new assignments. wed night is when in house exploration happens. thurs morning they have final room assignments.

zawad: maybe extend it to you're supposed to have your new room by friday?

caragay: going the other direction of shortening rex would be bad. but going that direction would be good

jordan: on post rex survey maybe ask people when they knew they wanted to fyre [some yes's]

meghana: were things harder this year with two classes

caragay: i think it depends. usually some dorms have a hard time but this year all dorms had a hard time.

jordan: ik for simmons only 10 sophomores moved

meghana: we forced all of them to move lol

jordan: i sent dorms prez the post rex survey. it's long but if yall could briefly glance and make sure it doesn't say anything atrocious

shuli: make sure that all questions your residents can answer (ex. asking about roommates but no n/a option for macg)

meghana: just for frosh and sophs? [caragay: yes but ? on sophs]

jordan: come back to us

### *Dining*

ashley: dining surveys underway. work being done. tim's mart has extended their hours. it's kinda wonky 8-3pm and 5-8pm but it's open more often now. mark hayes once again brought up to medical that we reduced capacity in the dining halls. it seems they're not willing to budge about it for a while. mark hayes is director of dining for those who don't know. suggested that he come to one of the dormcon meetings to explain how we are phasing in a new dining meal plan in future years to address dining losses. he could explain why and the process that went into that decision. we can do this next semester.

zawad: mark gave a presentation of that at the last gbm before covid

jordan: does tech mart have better options

ashley: you mean tim's mart? but yes. i have not been there just yet. not just snacks anymore

meghana: mark has floated that stud renovation conversation. that theyre gonna happen next semester.

ashley: there's been this talk of stud renovations for a while. it's a bigger conversation that no one really knows is going on.

meghana: starting next sem and stuff they will start looping students into this conversation

caragay: they've been talking about this but they couldn't do it until they had enough funding but now they are reaching this point.

caragay: if you want to learn more all of these people would love to talk about it

*Treasurer*

mohan: list of new funding requests. currently no new ones. two of them are done. general to-do list. the grubhub used to be tax-exempt but it is no longer tax-exempt. if anyone knows how to fix that please let me know. also we're getting charged some random(?) grubhub charges so ???

mohan: dormcon tax. someone else files the jv to get the tax to us. but apparently we don't know who that is? so we're trying to figure out who that is.

caragay: maybe alexandria knows

alexandria: no clue!

sunmee: random update! we will be moving next gbm to new vassar (instead of random) for elections

*P/VP*

caragay: shuli and i will be meeting with all of the medical people. we will be talking about face coverings generally. they are looking at removing that requirement in the dorms. if you have anything you'd like us to bring up, let us know.

jordan: when would this be implemented?

caragay: depends because HoH and how they receive this. medical wants to move quickly so possibly end of semester or IAP?

jordan: any way to massage the HoH about this??

caragay: medical will be making a recommendation from a public health standpoint. if you want to talk to your HoH about what reducing mask requirement means in the dorms to you???

shuli: it seems like medical's recommendation is going to be relaxing mask requirements in small groups and only on upper floors of residence halls.

meghana: this sounds like a close approximation of what's happening right now???

zawad: what does this mean for pods program?

caragay: pods is going to wait until december meeting because hopefully we will be able to do this other thing.

ashley: what authority do HoH have in this regard?

shuli: if there's a few that disagree maybe not as much but if they all say no it's a pretty big influence.

meghana: how often do you all talk to your HoHs? [some responses of just knocking on HoH apartment or emailing, or meeting every two weeks, bringing up things occasionally but not having a scheduled regular meeting, casual interactions]

caragay: one other update. you can just read the last point. any thoughts on collaboration reflection thing. what if we learned from experiences?

shuli: do you all know the bias incident in new house. that it happened? recap. someone put up posters that were supposed to be jokey reminders to clean up after yourself but it ended up being racist. now that house is receiving bias training and the bsu is involved. we want to bring this dei education into dorms before even these incidents happen. so maybe if this is something that you want in your dorm we could help you make it happen. program called sustained dialogue that is training people to have difficult conversations. mit is trying to bring this into dorms. we are having conversations with suzy about it. any q's

meghana: vision that is being developed?

caragay: i think they were hoping that they could send out students to do this training. we were thinking it would be better if we could bring an expert into dorms to have conversations with students.

shuli: i was thinking some student leaders would get training on this. and then student leaders will be able to tailor this to your own community. the expert would be providing knowledge of the training and you would provide the knowledge of the context of the dorm. so that students don't have to do this thing they don't want to do.

caragay: but it's really up there

meghana: when? [caragay; they're meeting with someone in a few weeks. not gonna go into effect soon. shuli: spring semester would be setting this up so it happens next year? maybe?]

shuli: we were talking about suzy of dorms identifying community values. if there's an existing document from previous years you could work off of that. or when you're transitioning incoming and outgoing officers could talk about this.

caragay: phrase community values is kind of painful but ec has been going through this and it's actually interesting.

shuli: it can also bring your community together because it can remind your community of them.

zawad: concrete examples of what these would be used for?

[some talk of using against your community? but don't see how]

caragay: i see this concern. bridge we can cross when suzy is like "we want all of these"

ashley: good use could be for students picking dorms

shuli: for now assume that it's something that can be used internally in your dorm

meghana: sounds like a good idea. but during transition meeting ???

adina: you can make this like an annual event or something in your dorm?

shuli: if you want to involve greater residence group that would be wonderful. it also seems like kinda a lot of work which is why i'm saying that if you're doing it with your officers it seems fine.

cameron: first meeting with bc reopening team tomorrow. they have charges to us but it doesn't seem bc specific. could be new vassar or anybody. this is something we should think about. doesn't say anything about floor culture or finding your home.

**PREZ UPDATES**

random (ret): elected cpw/rex chairs. we are currently doing pilot program for free menstrual products in the dorms. sent out a survey a week or two ago. they were in one bathroom but we got feedback of doing for all bathrooms. now pilot program til 15th of next month.

new vassar: guest list will be coming out in ~2 weeks. this is a q to other dorms. internal room switching process over iap? [yes. not official one but people asked. yes.]

mccormick (adina): we are trying to move our gym. currently in east penthouse in a pretty small room. people can't use outside 11pm. there's also not that much stuff in there. we have been working on this for 2-3 years. we have a space in the basement that is currently storage for housemaster but we have worked out moving into that space. dennis and people seemed cool with it and they said they would split it 50:50 with us. apparently they do this for gyms.

simmons (mohan): simmons has express guest list coming soon. graduate housing happening on west campus meeting. construction on graduate residence 676 occupancy immediately west of simmons. more construction coming 2022. jan-may 2022 demolition. construction until open in august 2024. construction hours 7am-6pm. piledriving will not start until 8am. we tried to push a bit more but contractor said no. it's also a third party contractor so if someone has a work order it will have to be submitted to them. it will just be an apartment building on our campus. no HoH.

caragay: sounds like piledriving would happen during finals week?

mohan: yes finals week. and midterms week [what but midterms week is every week??] they also mentioned that they are driving in metal cylinders and not the big metal sheets like in the music building.

zawad: this will meet the contract with the grad student council of making more beds.

macgregor (ashley): our ad started!!! he held a boba event to introduce himself. super fun. finals week events. usually stress relieving events. petting zoo? massages? but hmm so figuring that out. discussion with someone from housing about placing a student in our dorm when it violated our bylaws (gender balances). having conversation about this.

ec: working with rac a lot to fight housing about just forcing students into empty(?) rooms.

shuli: some of these people don't know what they're doing. so if you explain why and ask them not to do it they may change. unfortunately lot of explaining why this semester.

meghana: elections are happening. we're getting a guest list for graduate students? our house team told us that a lot of alum were coming in and being like oh culture should stay like this and not change. and they were also bringing in booze so frosh and sophs at the time were uncomfortable. do yall let grad students on guest lists?

mohan: might be the other grad students (gras) that have grad students on guest lists. one day there were a bunch of grad students having a gathering. generally not too many grad visitors even if they're on the guest list.

meghana: we might bring it back and then see what's happening. interesting because exec team is upperclassmen heavy so for ex i want my grad student friends to come. next inclusivity effort is NICE (stands for something) so that's starting up.

bc (cameron): bc reopening team meeting. we are discussing priorities. as well as how other dorms were addressing sorting bc people. [sorry there were some other discussions about this but my laptop internet died]

caragay: it's important to know that some people want to be an ec resident living in bc and some people want to become a bc resident and live there for the rest of their time.

brandon: yes we have some [insert floors] presence

cameron: we are putting together numbers for groups in our priority list right now. what's the deal with housing freshmen?

caragay: we were initially just filling the rest of the space with freshmen. but with covid and refilling dorms they took the rolling average of the past few years.

shuli: probably can't necessarily go as low as you want because 25% of population needing to be housed (freshmen) and i know this year some dorms it was as low as 15% but you don't want to go there because it can get a bit messy down the line.

cameron: associate HoH search. also asking about finaaid covering tier I singles.

caragay: we were going to bring this up! since dorms are trying to all become tier I we kicked off this process of reviewing finaaid budgeting. stu's fancy financial analysts are looking at the effects of increasing finaaid to cover tier I single or other option was. everyone is charged the same price to live on campus regardless of what kind of room you live in.

shuli: timeline. committee would maybe starting meeting over iap. we kinda want to have this ready before ec. to change the way finaaid works lots of fancy people have to sign off.

ashley: what does it mean to have tier I or tier II and stuff???

caragay: policy is that every renovated dorm will become a tier I. right now loosely based on quality of dorm and amenities. a bit arbitrary yes.

meghana: how do we know who is going to be next?

shuli: it is going to be random next or macgregor probably.

zawad: ec got moved up because people moved in and then plumbing was exploding.

shuli: i think they respond reactively as situation changes. so if the situation is getting worse for you, you might expect to be next.

caragay: they are struggling financially to do all the renovations. they're not sure of how they're going to fund this after ec. for example. on ec rag?

brandon: a couple of students on this committee. basically like bc transition team but more on the high level and explaining the reasons behind this. trying to get alumni informed on renovations happening.

maseeh: dishwasher is working (wooo!!!) we don't know how it happened before they said. but it did. guest list open. formal happening tomorrow.

brandon: workshop with architects and project team. spent 1.5 hours conceptualizing ec. think it was fun. how does dorm work. how do halls work. how do you get to campus. guest list security stuff.



talking to keith moser. apparently when you walk into any dorm you're supposed to be showing covid pass to desk worker?? primarily if you're not a resident of the dorm. expressed that i had not experienced this in any dorm. keith was like this is definitely not supposed to be happening. so if you start to be asked to show covid pass i'm sorry.

## **AGENDA**

caragay: two agenda items. bias discussion from earlier. you should be aware of these incidents. new house 3 one. and then there's been a variety of different ones in different cultural groups. in general present on a lot of people's minds right now. when you talk to dorm residents make sure you keep that on your mind.

shuli: other thing is. next dining chair brought this up. more about housing and rac. no one knows how the housing process works. we don't know how this algorithm works. the resultant output seems to not be good? generally we don't know what's going on there. we could reach out to housing about increased transparency on what is happening in the process. we can't suggest improvements if we don't know about the process.

meghana: because of the gender thing in next. then in house meeting HoH said i will request suzy to take gender into account in housing process. thinks this is small thing but we were like hmmm???

caragay: probably want to have broader conversation across dorms if you want to have this happen

shuli: sometimes the gender that people have documented is not what they identity as and some people might feel uncomfortable that this is having an impact on their housing results. and the outcome might not exactly be what you intended.

ashley:

mohan: there is a mailing list for the west campus project.  
[west-campus-project-info@mit.edu](mailto:west-campus-project-info@mit.edu) and this includes a lot of the people doing the constructing so they will see it idk

brandon: if someone leaves your dorm, their guest list does not get removed. so maybe you want to make sure this happens?

caragay: also we could talk to housing about fixing this loophole