

DormCon GBM 03/13

Date: 13 March 2025

Location: MacGregor dining room

Attendees:

****NOTE**:** If you find any issues with the meeting minutes, please email dormcon-secretary@mit.edu

tl;dr:

- Exec updates
 - i3 guidelines will be passed on to dorms Soon
 - CPW coming up, dorms can submit funding requests, and should pub for hosts
 - Concord Market is open now!!
- Funding request for ESF
 - standard \$2000 request, passed by vote
- DormCon Field Day planning
- Concord Market is open!
 - Some concern over prices, but general happiness with product selection
 - Products will shift with time as they learn what does and doesn't sell
- Presidents' updates

Full minutes:

Exec updates:

- UC rep (Eugenie)
 - was going to send out dormspam, but quite hosed :(relatable
 - will think about it over Spring Break and figure out wording
 - to let people know what's been happening, why it's hard to get new solutions, hard to take on something like Stata meal swipes :(
 - dining is just complicated >.<
- Treasurer (Leo)
 - funding proposal is on agenda :D
- i3 (Jackson)
 - having a meeting with HRS people at 2:30 tomorrow - happy pie day meeting :D - will get guidelines and timeline then, and pass along to dorm presidents/i3 chairs
 - someone (dorm prez or i3) asked about copyrighted music, will ask tomorrow and pass along

- Hanu - question about i3: was a dorm i3, very involved with music situation, what's the policy?
 - Jackson doesn't have one yet, will ask in meeting tomorrow afternoon
- Secretary (Lauren)
 - No updates
- UC rep (Jamie)
 - might want more publicity things happening (from Jordan and Ananda)
 - redoing Infinite poster? let them know any other publicity ideas
- CPW (Anthony)
 - has been dying, Gabriel has been doing most work
 - DormCon is splitting \$10,000 extra CPW dollars, dorms will request, don't do it late!
 - also need more hosts, pub to dorm residents!!
- Dining (Daniel)
 - Concord Market is open (!!!)
 - will be an agenda item
 - they've delayed taking EBT because "smth smth government bad" O.O
 - people struggling with food insecurity should reach out for swipes
 - Two days - meeting WasteWatchers
 - meeting Peter Cummings
 - meeting FSAT (food security action team)
 - also house dining committees should go
 - scheduled for last Thursday but postponed
 - Office of Sustainability?
 - Maseeh sustainability officer wants food waste bins, struggling to get approval
 - residential bins comparable to Random or MacGregor's
 - talking about running out of food at the end of meals - Mark is working on it
 - tricky trade-off between running out of food/food waste
- Housing (Temkin)
 - Fire Day (!!)
 - contact in EHS is on leave, pushed to fall 😞
 - City of Cambridge also being annoying
 - no one wants to let us have the fire
 - Meeting about upcoming REX changes?
 - Helen sent a NOMS email? (solitude) - very concerned about supporting students
 - URL is getting restructured, might hear info from Tasha and maybe more people

- GRA and HoH hiring is something they want to work on - very difficult logistics for candidates - something like 16-20 hours of interviews o.o
- meeting w HRS and RCL tomorrow, mention anything they should bring up in prez updates
- President (Jordan)
 - has been out of town for two weeks!
 - Helen Wang is doing “the Norms Of MIT Solitude”
 - lunch every Friday at 1pm, where they talk about the norms of MIT solitude
 - why don’t people talk to their friends anymore 😭
 - “please send me your thoughtful, reflective, and imaginative students”
 - thinking about CPW events (DormCon wants to run them)
 - also planning an inter-dorm field day (more to come!)

Funding Request for ESF (from Hanu)

- Budget link: [📄 Total Budget Final Version](#)
 - Last year’s version: [📄 DormCon GBM Minutes 2/29/24](#)
- esf is celebration of east side campus at MIT
- mostly organized by EC, but also Xi, Pika, Random
- held in DAPER field A - where EC build was this past REX
- including new additions
 - bouncy castle
 - hair dying
 - good stuff
- Asking for money!
 - for things that are necessary or useful
 - for DormCon - specifically security and some set-up costs (e.g., table and chairs)
 - budget was sent out at some point, is also in the minutes ^^
 - asking DormCon for **\$2000**
- If they don’t end up needing a police detail, they’ll give the money back
- need someone from Bon Appetit to “come check the temperature of our meat”
- also need a police detail
 - apparently sometimes the police detail doesn’t show up, or they don’t charge you... just hit or miss?
- unknown whether the police detail was charged last year - Hanu will check
- how is the event being advertised
 - posters

- sending emails on dormspam (and to eastside mailing lists)
 - word of mouth
 - This is the same answer as last year, plus the word of mouth part
 - It's not like there are other ways to advertise
- This is a person vote - each dorm gets 1 vote, we know the drill
 - Geoffrey has a wheel-spinner
- Vote
 - Maseeh - yes
 - BC - yes
 - McCormick - not present
 - Simmons - yes
 - Baker - yes
 - New Vassar - yes
 - EC - yes
 - Random - yes
 - Next House - not present
 - MacGregor - yes
- APPROVED :D

DormCon Field Day

- Or Field Day Brought to You by DormCon™
- competitions of some description, vaguely outside, maybe some stuff inside, late April/early May, touch grass
 - “tug of war, tug of war”
 - *less enthusiastic* “other field day type games”
- would need at least one contact per dorm, and want to know if this is actually a thing people want
- times to not do (e.g., not during ESF)
- thoughts™?
 - timing things
 - David - UA is planning hosting Cultural Festival weekend after CPW (on Friday)
 - SpringFest is happening weekend after that
 - springing off of SpringFest (which is the 3rd)?
 - don't do it that weekend (ring delivery is the 4th)
 - Marathon Monday (day after CPW)
 - upperclassmen would be hosed and maybe doing Marathon Monday things...
 - notes on competition style

- Eugenie - some form of competition, people compete in teams but earn points for their own dorms, inter-dorm competition?
- what sort of competitions?
 - athletic vs. non-athletic things?
 - thoughts on less athletic events? ring toss, bouncy house
 - “for any Midwesterners in the crowd, corn hole”
 - “you can take my arch from my cold dead hands”
 - “isn’t Baker going to win everything?”
 - “Baker is going to have very low participation” - baker prez
 - aim for whimsical carnival but with tug-of-war?
 - need to balance the team
 - the other side is also MIT students
 - “you don’t have to be athletic to beat other MIT students”
 - EC likes whimsical carnival but gets a little competitive when it comes to other dorms
 - question of how to tabulate scores if we’re making it inter-dorm?
 - interest in having a trophy.
 - second prize is a Blahaj.
- Last day of classes is May 13th, thoughts on doing May 10th or May 11th? people might be hosed, but could work?
- fire hose, but it’s a garden hose 😊
- could also be fun with no scoring
- trophy is based on dorm with highest attendance 😭
- vibes towards scoring?
- Could get big roll of tickets, and people drop them into buckets for their dorms
- we could put each dorm in charge of an event
- 12-4pm kind of timeframe
- location? Killian would be dope but will be getting set up for commencement
- It takes them all of May :(kills All Of The Grass :(
- people like running events that represent their dorms, could be fun to run events that represent the dorm to the Rest of the dorms
- MacGregor did something similar with entries, worked well!
- anyone think it’s not feasible for dorm to be in charge of one event?
- we get kresge and have a smash tournament inside the auditorium
 - unfortunately, kresge costs a lot to rent

- they put tents EVERYWHERE >:(
 - scoring would be fun, but if there's not a good way to do it without lots of people
 - boxes. tickets. events. people.
 - each person gets a ticket for winning an event and can put it in their dorm's box. The people running the events (from each dorm) distribute the tickets.
- message Jordan with further thoughts!!

Concord Market!!

- "there goes my wallet" - Leo
- some of it is twice the price of Target - because organic, not as mass-produced...
- very expensive butter, yogurt
- Geoffrey - sus how people have emphasized affordability, and when Concord Market was advertised as new vendor, we emphasized prices, but it's instead like Brother's Marketplace level, disappointing
- not true for every item
- there are some really expensive things, some really cheap things
 - candy and snacks are cheap
 - feeling like there's no middle ground
 - prices not yet set in stone
 - they've also been changing
 - "reverse inflation?"
 - "Can you barter?"
- feedback form
 - very mixed feedback in terms of price (some people thought it was cheap, others thought it was expensive)
- in terms of the things they have?
 - people are happy
 - Ella - the ratio should be reversed (grocery staples cheap, snacks more expensive?)
 - government definition of food desert is lack of affordable, healthy food options
- Gabriel got blackberries for \$1.99, blueberries for \$2.99
 - reasonable price
- Ella - \$5.50 for carton of strawberries
 - not a large variety of fruit
- Gabriel - there's cheap tomatoes and expensive tomatoes, but should have more of the cheap ones than the expensive ones

- Jackson - they mostly have fancy brands, which makes it more expensive
- they'll see what is/isn't getting bought, will phase out the things that don't get bought
- seem to only have the organic version - they have two fancy brands instead of a fancy brand and a less fancy brand
 - true for some items and not other items
- potatoes were very expensive, only free-range eggs, "not Idaho potatoes"
- Geoffrey - notably, Concord Market doesn't accept EBT (government benefits) - sad experience for person who tried to use EBT and couldn't use it
- "the government is bad right now"
 - couldn't get SNAP authorization yet :(
 - they're still waiting on it
- not tax-free
 - talked to Peter Cummings, who said they'd talk to them about it
 - since they're an external vendor (?)
- product selection
 - how do people feel about brands people haven't heard of, vs. would want to buy?
 - they have lots of things?
 - sparkly maple syrup???



- from Zakiya

- people want more produce
- someone bought a coconut
 - "my friend also bought a coconut"
- nice they have flowers, but not sure if they'll get bought
- Ella - thought selection was good, was impressed by the amount of stuff (like a standard grocery store), also pro-more-produce
- produce is hard to find maybe?
 - seemed visible

- three people in form wanted produce
- Jackson - reiterating that product selection and prices are maybe linked, product selection is prioritizing organic brands, etc., hard to decouple product selection from price
- large brand selection, but none are recognizable
 - 5 olive brands and 5 caper brands
 - Jordan - "I don't know what you're talking about. I have really strong caper preferences"
- Prepared Food
 - Leo - we don't have time to buy blocks of cheese, cut them up, and put them on crackers
 - Ella disagrees - has time to cut a block of cheese. preprepared meals are fine and good, but angling towards healthy/less waste
 - three pieces of cheese in two layers of plastic is sad
 - frozen meal selection was expensive and limited, wouldn't spend \$9 on a frozen meal
 - Zakiya - had lots of fancy cheeses and teas, different grains of rice, different types of nuts, likes having all the options, nothing looking for in particular, but would buy things.
 - annoyed they didn't have non-gummy vitamin supplements
 - Jackson - wants to add - also annoyed they only have gummy-like vitamins
 - coffee from coffee bar?
 - still getting worked out?
 - sandwiches came in excessive amount of packaging - wrapped and then also in a box
 - not sure why they sell tea for \$3.50, Wellbeing Lab is 2 floors above with free tea
 - \$8 sushi ran out fast - concern expressed that this could lead to price increase (but no current evidence to suggest this is likely)
- Geoffrey - Enoch suggested Consumer Price Index of prices in Concord Market
 - what is he tracking? inflation?
 - Gabriel - another suggestion is big spreadsheet to track Concord Market vs. other stores
 - lots of work, but could do for a few products, list of staple foods
- Talk to dining chairs or Jordan with more thoughts on Concord Market

President Updates

- Paola
 - working on merch designs, AD got canvases for murals

- planning CPW events
 - looking for a snowcone machine
- Helena (Maseeh)
 - working on CPW
 - working on improving basement (redoing gym with house budget)
 - game room, dance room becoming craft space
- Henry and Ella (Random)
 - getting committee chairs to document their positions
 - in case they get hit by buses
 - getting foosball table for basement
 - our roofdeck is becoming tap access :((((from 12-6am? it's quite sad.
 - nothing happened. "they just don't like us." - ella
 - other dorms are not allowed on the roof
 - Random has no other outdoor space (you're not allowed in the shaft lmao)
 - Temkin will bring up with HRS
 - Ella has a telescope and wants to use it
 - Simmons terraces? apparently a campus-wide thing, not just Random, but it's the first one being implemented, Random's roofdeck mostly gets used from 12-6am :(
 - good intentions, dumb implementation
 - good to have outdoor space for mental health - this is maybe best bet argument
- Hanu (EC)
 - associate HoH interviews (2.5 hours)
 - still trying to collect feedback and present to rest of search committee, should be done soon, will have new associate HoH
- Jackson and Eugenie (Simmons)
 - scootahockey is going to happen
 - some problems with laundry - free laundry is making people use the laundry machines a lot
 - things are now malfunctioning, have to run machine 6 times to get clothes dry
 - 6/10 New House dryers are nonfunctioning
 - "I guess there's no such thing as free laundry" - Jackson
 - McCormick last week had a washer start pouring water out
 - in fairness this is also just the constant state of the Random laundry machines... maybe the cost of free laundry...
 - GRA interviews are happening, got people to help run them, on April 5th and 6th, realized they don't have an i3 chair! that's not good! need to figure that out.

- no one ran for i3 chair
 - might reach out to the ones from last year
- Haylea
 - lots of rooming discussions, finalizing rooming discussions/processes
 - working on internal stuff
- Zakiya
 - 2nd elevator just broke, both elevators out of commission :(trying to fix that...
 - Next House just also has an infestation problem in country kitchen
 - roaches?? oh no
 - 2 raw sewage leaks in a month (in TFL (?))
 - next to where last GBM was... there's a dark spot now
 - there's also mice but everyone has mice
 - talked with dining chairs, trying to get better vegan/vegetarian options, trying to model a bit after Vassar, they have dedicated vegan shelf, have more options
 - running out of food? happens pretty often in Next (every other time, arrives late)
 - got i3 chair, will send to Jackson, getting him onboarded
 - figuring out student groups within dorm, getting website up and running, want to have things set by CPW
 - planning formal
- Michaela
 - don't really have any updates (working on CPW and social events)
 - planning for Top Golf event
- Brendon
 - planning Pie Day for tomorrow
 - CPW planning going well (yay Jamie!)
 - need details from a few entries, doing a MacGregor-wide event, MacDonald
 - GRA interviews happening, just waiting on C entry
 - AD is leaving at the end of the month :(, will transition to new one
 - in talks of getting makerspace/crafts space, approve from HoH on items, finalizing training processes, etc., whether or not to get a sewing machine, in talks with McCormick
- Farin
 - something vague about sewing machines, happening
 - also have laundry concern (already brought up)
- Camila
 - piano drop still in the works
 - having an eclipse watch party

- officially renamed Country Kitchen to Baker Space
 - that's pretty good
- got a few people from Baker who forgot to fill out housing form 😭
- Temkin - housing being pretty strict on waitlist, most people should get off it if they fill it out now (space next year) - prioritizing rising seniors