

East Campus Housecomm

November 6, 2013

1W is late
4W are absent O.o

Reports:

1E voted as a hall to install card-reader locks on their doors, and they talked to someone and the locks will be installed over IAP. They have been assured that this won't set a precedent. Everyone who has access to EC will have access to 1E. Leonid asks 1E to make sure the non-precedent assurance is in writing somewhere

Nelson: Nelson wants us to do a dorm community service project. And make it an ongoing/recurring thing. He wants to know if ComComm is still a thing and what we're interested in doing. Kelly suggests Habitat for Humanity. Currently ComComm maintains the EC collection of stamps. Andrew's idea: Bikes not Bombs, you can build bikes. Emma's idea: Cambridge Women's Center. Nelson has a meeting next Wednesday at 3 with the administrator suggesting this, and invites ComComm to this meeting.

Nelson: advertisement for IAP Conflict Management Training. Consider signing up for it, and email was sent to ec-announce

Elliot Williams, SNAGS representative: we're trying to make a new student-driven service for dealing with mental health issues. We want to make a program that's a student-run peer support initiative. Like medlinks but for mental health. There are pilots in MacGregor and some other dorms. We don't want it to be a top-down approach. We want to make sure you like the idea. It's called "Peer Ears" – like what a lot of us do for our friends anyways, but with more training on how to deal with these mental health issues. They'll have office hours, they are confidential (unless someone might come to harm)

How is this different from the GRTs? They would be below GRTs, they would go to GRTs if they need to escalate something. Similar role but as undergrads, hope to be more approachable. How much of the advice will amount to "You should talk to a GRT"? Answer: it's more about listening than advising.

If you want to get involved, Nelson will be sending out an application. EC should decide if we want to have this program and then we'll select our not-counselors.

Peer-ears-contact@mit.edu

Kelly: Kellynud, Nelson, and Tom have been working on a document of community values, and a document describing what happens around here. They are ready to share this with us. We'll start the process of approving this over email. If there are concerns we can discuss them at the next housecomm meeting.

Finally, financial concerns:

Helena: reimbursements aren't fast enough. We sent a bunch of emails and got caught in a bureaucracy while hall residents were in the red for a long time. There was a lot of people cross referencing each other. The hall accounts and the greater EC account have had trouble getting access to their money, getting their residents reimbursed, and getting the administration to believe their treasurers are legit. Kellynid talked to Colin Codner, who didn't have a great answer, and doesn't seem to have any sort of oversight over the guy, Liam, who's responsible for approving RFPs. We were told "we'll try to do better" by SAO, we're not sure what the problem is or how we can fix it. We seem to be looking at a black hole of bureaucracies. Our best plan is to forward any notification that your RFP is still pending to Colin and Liam, asking what's up. We also need to smooth over the transition process when we get new hall chairs and treasurers. The idea was for them to use the ASA database, so we'd update the ASA database with who our signatories are and then SAO would use that information. This will limit the max number of signatories we can have. Fuzzy suggests collecting EC internal data so we can tell SAO how much total money they owe us and how long it takes on average to process an RFP. The problem is someone needs to make this and make sure people fill it out so the data exists. Some good news: there's a chance we might get procurement cards!

Leonid: went to a RAC meeting. For crowding and disabilities compliance, we need a plan for what happens if housing needs a room that someone is occupying. Something like, if someone broke a leg and needs to be on the first floor, or needs to be in a double and have a medical note. An acute/chronic health reason could come up and we need a fair, consistent way to make rooms available if necessary. We need to make a list of rooms that we don't want force-doubled or force-occupied. In the case of singles, the process is just, that hall gets one less freshman and an open room is given to the person with the contingency. In other cases, we do emergency room wars, but the administration wants an answer that doesn't involve re-running room wars in case they want to change things on us in July. It appears we're being asked to come up with a way to do room wars with incomplete information. It appears to be possible to change which ones are the doubles over time so you're not setting a permanent precedent.

Proposal: Leonid will send out a draft of this force-reassignment policy, at the same time as the community values document

Great job to the haunted house people, that rocked!!

On November 18th, Monday, 5pm, we will have Sarah Rankin, Barbara Baker, and Mark DiVincentio come visit us, to talk about Title IX things and give us food. We'll get a better understanding of what Title IX actually means as interpreted by those at MIT who are in charge of interpreting/implementing/enforcing it.

Saturday 11/11 Hal Abelson will be here for dinner in Talbot

Meet your Medlinks this Friday at 8:30, come to Talbot, have dinner, and poke around in the Medlinks kits