

EC HouseComm 2016-11-09

1W and 3W are not here. Piper is serving as interim hall chair for 2E.

UA Updates

sophliu recovered from her South African surgery and is still UA President. She sent an e-mail to leaders of student groups.

Someone from class council spoke with petey about undocumented students. His advice was for us to come together and show a more united front to work with admins and students. Muslim Students Assoc. BSU and GSC officers want to express their support for undocumented students, and the UA will be talking with nelsonsm, edbert, and kdk. If you would like to send in feedback or show your own support, send it to Piper so she can pass it on. This happened like five hours ago, but this is just a quick update.

Committee on Student Life Smoking Meeting

This was brought up with rcm at the beginning of October. He got an e-mail from sive in CSL which said that MIT is the only university that allows smoking in any dorms (EC and SH). "All sorts of solid reasons to phase this out. CSL has been asked to examine this situation." Exec, head of house, and other student government will be meeting with CSL on 18 Nov., including two reps from 4W and two reps from 5E. rcm has been on the ball about us being in the meeting *with* SH as opposed to being split apart from them.

We don't really know what the agenda is yet because sive hasn't sent one. The reps going are currently formulating some kind of agenda/questions to ask. Also she has data somewhere? We don't actually know where this data is. Op. Hopefully we'll get some data/agenda from their end soon.

If you have feedback, tell exec! The smoking halls have already begun this discussion.

FAC Updates and Discussion

Lucy isn't here, let's skip this for now. Op she's here now.

Lucy was going to amend the wiki to remove the fine and/or provide some positive incentive, or distribute the work amongst people from different halls. If you have feelings, send them to exec! Wow. Or we'll send out a poll. Or we'll just present more ideas later.

New House Updates

There were some outstanding questions about New House stuff. Piper's gonna address those a little.

They're not tearing down New House, they're renovating half of the building in the 2017-2018 school year, and the other half in the next year, so half the dorm can continue living in the dorm during each of those times. Four of the cultural houses will be staying during the renovation (for both years): Chocolate City, French House, iHouse, and German House. La Casa (cooks together), New Houses 2-4 and Desmond will be resettled. Houses 2-5 will probably be split up into smaller groups (pairs, or groups up to ~15).

Piper and Lily met with nelsonsm and someone else in the chancellor's office on the New House transition and how to divide the groups in New House so they would fit well in EC. There are three options being discussed right now. We will be taking at most 30 New House students.

(rcm had slides but we don't have a functional projector) rcm has three suggestions for how to locate these students (basically for the La Casa situation where everyone wants to stick together and we need to fit 30 people):

- Option 1: 1W gets resettled into the rest of EC, and La Casa lives on 1W. Pros: Very contiguous, they get a kitchen to themselves
- Options 2-3: Take deep Goodale (floors 3-5), and deep Wood (3-5), and squeeze the rest of the halls down the other side

All of these options would cause crowding, so all freshmen would be in doubles (It doesn't seem that upperclassmen would be required to double, and there would probably be a lot of pushback for that anyways).

What kinds of conversation has been started with La Casa about what kinds of ways they want to be distributed?

This has come up once at DormCon, when Piper came back to HouseComm with questions from New House. Now that there's a plan for New House, we're hoping we'll get one of the two scenarios, and it's not clear how we'd go about selecting a group to come live in EC, but it seems reasonable to have a sort of "New House hall rush" in the spring, where people go around in the groups they want to live in so everyone can familiarize themselves with the space/people.

Things that need to happen now that are open for suggestion: Which house do we take, and how do we distribute them?

1W hall chairs have shown up. They probably heard we were talking about them.

It seems shitty to crowd out a group (1W) that wants to stay together to allow another group to stay together.

What's the tradeoff between having them all put in one area of hall versus having them distributed around the 3-5 floors of either parallel?

jag seems to think the numbered houses are more suited to EC because like cooking or something.

If we got a cultural house, what if we gave them Talbot to cook and eat together? Or if they're distributed amongst halls, they could rotate between halls' kitchens?

Where would the New House people we don't take go? Other dorms, potentially graduate housing (Tang). All the dorms are looking at how to make space.

Is there any reason we need to empty out a section of hall as opposed to interspersing throughout a hall? This is something that will be discussed more when we figure out who we're getting and what they want. If they expect a certain noise level, it might make sense to put all of them in one section above and below each other.

When will we find out/decide what part of New House will be here? What part is something we should move forward on, but in terms of numbers, we don't know yet. Piper will work on throwing a social event with people. We were going to go to New House with some proposals of how we could put New House in the building, and see which houses are amenable to that.

How will this work with smoking if people are distributed? Something something, when we actually meet people. Obviously we'll let people know what the conditions of each hall are (smoking/clothing/cats optional).

Probably the hall that gets New House people will also get prioritized in terms of hall-specific improvements.

Will New House continue recruiting freshmen while displaced? They want to, but it's unclear as to how they will do this.

If anyone has New House friends, ask them about their houses!

Nice Things for EC Discussion

rcm sent out a poll about lightboxes, and it got like 77 responses. Based on that, they probably should not go in lounges, because there may be some privacy issues where people with SAD don't want to treat it around everyone on hall, and it could be distracting to people who aren't trying to treat their SAD.

We'll try to have a lightbox at Desk that people can check out and return, and perhaps one in the music room - e.g., a semi-public space.

A separate group is working on making Walker more sparkly, and another thing where jag and nelsonsm are realizing that our lack of public space is an issue. Now we get to have Nice Things. In terms of large communal space, we could add stuff in EC or Walker/somewhere nearby. Top two most popular choices on the survey Piper sent out were makerspace and cafe. Other suggestions: Napping space, and DDR arcade cabinet. Piper will be sending and explaining all this stuff out to the Walker/public space improvement group. A rooftop garden was also proposed.

Nice Things to accommodate New House: People think the couches are gross, also they want fixed washers and dryers. Hall vacuums (omg), and absolutely Athena computer and printer in Talbot. You should let us know your cool and/or interesting ideas.

The basement is warm and humid and gross, and there's not much we can do until we get renovated, because the air conditioners that were installed with the building are blocked with leaves, and for some reason they can't be removed or replaced.

There are no nice things we could get in the short-term that would require EC to be closed over the summer. Maybe fixing up the basement would close off a section for a little.

alexandy's apartment has been on schedule to get finished "in two weeks" since the end of August.

If we get a roof deck, people want the roof alarm to be able to be disabled.

A lot of people care a lot about laundry room maintenance. Also the laundry room does not appear to have been cleaned in months.