

09/11/19

hello all and welcome to this week's spicy notes

Attendance: ~~Floor Pi missing~~: Floor Pi showed up! All present and voting.

1. Fire Safety Day:

- a. What days are available? (When does it work for the safety team? When for us?) Food options?
- b. What would we like to do again? --> Smoke out Floor Pi :)
- c. What would we like to do that's new? --> Learn how to break down a door :D
- d. Anybody want to help organize?
 - i. Gaby

2. The Budget:

- a. Question: do we have a more detailed budget? What is my money going towards? The budget in the HouseComm email was not detailed.
 - i. AV Comm is requesting thousands of dollars; they're buying the new speakers they've asked for for many years.
 - ii. Bad Ideas and Concert Comm are EC's contributions to dorm-wide events.
 - iii. Soccomm: 9 parties and 8 FACs, and somewhat malleable
 - iv. Toolcomm: somewhat flexible, but it's in case tools disappear or we have major repairs.
 - v. Weight Room: new equipment!
 - vi. PianoComm: new instrument things
 - vii. GameComm: larger allocation than usual because GameComm has been active; the funds will go to snacks and study breaks
 - viii. JockComm: the cost is for paying fines if EC intramural teams flake their games. Welp. :/
- b. Time to vote!
 - i. Yes = pass budget; No = do not pass.
 - ii. YYYYYYYYYY
 - iii. Budget passed!
- c. Request: next time, the budget should mention a short explanation of major orders.
 - i. + It also serves as a useful update!

3. ElectComm

- a. Nominations! Freshmen are encouraged to run.
 - i. Hannah
 - ii. Eryn
 - iii. Fabian
 - iv. Caroline
 - v. Frederick
 - vi. ~~Shreyas~~
 - vii. Zawad
- b. Nominees will now stand in a line "over there."
 - i. Hannah: Putz. Democracy is important! In a week and a day, I will be able to vote in actual elections. It would be nice to be involved in my dorm and my hall!

- ii. Eryn: 5W. I want to start getting involved in hall government! I could also do meetings, but this is more dynamic.
 - iii. Fabian: 5W. I guess I want to run. It's that entryway into government, and I find this interesting!
 - iv. Caroline: Slugfest. I deeply care about this place! I want to get involved early, I've held relative positions in the past: I did business (in / and) robotics.
 - v. Frederick: Tetazoo. This seems to be the most fun, interesting place on campus. I want to see how things work!
 - vi. Zawad: Slugfest. I like elections; I like voting theory (fairly) - I could apply that and make elections more fair!
- c. Question: Commitments
- i. Hannah: I don't have a super clear idea, but I don't see any serious interference arising.
 - ii. Eryn: a few clubs, but no strict commitments.
 - iii. Fabian: (?) I missed it, so sorry Fabian :(
 - iv. Caroline: Admissions vlogger! I think I can do both; I am committing to this; I will stick to that.
 - v. Frederick: the only thing right now that i'm really involved in is (?), I might join a few more clubs.
 - vi. Zawad: my schedule is mostly fixed right now. I have some nights when I have more work, but I have enough time to do ElectComm as well!
- d. Question: Experience
- i. Hannah: organized Bay Area conference with several hundred attendees and lunch! I've been involved in student government; I did a lot of budgeting for robotics.
 - ii. Eryn: Academy of Communication and Design; vice-president; organized a t-shirt; field trip (track people down), a lot of communicating! It was a pretty small group; I have experience with deadlines. I was also Secretary of NHS at my school; it wasn't as heavy of a commitment; we also designed a t-shirt for that!
 - iii. Fabian: A little bit of backstory: I was in the first graduating class of my high-school; I started a lot of clubs there: NHS, student government. I was a boy scout for over a decade! Ran lots of different group and planned out budgets; planning / fundraising hundreds of dollars.
 - iv. Caroline: President of drama club, ran fundraising, ran election. I had a business for my robotics team: sponsors and adult-y people!
 - v. Frederick: I've been an officer in a few clubs; Math Honor Society
 - vi. Zawad: i've worked in student government, national events: national math events, in Bangladesh; I've done mostly administrative things and not math
- e. What are the responsibilities of ElectComm?
- i. Put out a call for nominations for EC President and Vice-President.
 - ii. Make sure residents know who's running!
 - iii. Set the standards for campaigning: what can you and can you not do.
 - iv. Publicize, prepare for, and moderate the debate.
 - v. Make sure volunteers can staff the polls on the day of the election; and to count the ballots all by hand.
 - vi. You are the elections commission: "you keep fairness". Negotiate conflicts and complaints!

- vii. Some years, there may also be referendums, and you are also responsible for getting that onto the ballot.
- f. Audience questions?
- g. Discussion (a few minutes).
- h. Election occurs. Each hall has two votes!
- i. Caroline and Eryn elected as ElectComm.
- j. If you are not ElectComm, come back in February for Comms Elections!

4. Security

- a. House Team: In the past 2 weeks, we've had four separate intruder incidents. People walking into our resident's rooms, un-invited, un-announced. This is in addition to various and sundry intruder incidents that have happened in EC during my time here (past 3 years).
 - i. Issues:
 - 1. East Campus is especially susceptible to this. A structural problem; Desk is not security, we have six entries...
 - 2. EC is particularly inviting to strangers, for reasons I cannot pinpoint.
 - ii. **How can we address this issue without trying to become security?**
- b. Clarifying Question: Is this coming from DSL?
 - i. No, from House Team. It feels like a tipping point; I've not encountered this before.
- c. Clarifying Question 2: Did this happen more when the doors were propped (because the tap wasn't working)?
 - i. Not clear, folks might be tailgating.
- d. Clarifying Question 3: Were the four recent incidents related?
 - i. Three of the four seemed to be related because they happened on the same day.
- e. Suggestion: If this is a continuing issue, the first floor on both halls has a secondary tap - would this be an option on every hall? +
 - i. How viable / practical is this?
 - 1. Financially
 - 2. Logistically
 - 3. Popularity?
- f. Suggestion: We should remember to let the first years know that it is okay to tell people who tail gate: Hey. Who are you. What are you doing? Or get an upperclassman. Formally tell our first years!
 - i. Who are you visiting; what hall are you going to? You can suss out their understanding based off of the name.
 - ii. Tell the first years not to give strangers their name - this is based off of a 4W dorm.
 - iii. Tell strangers to wait in the stairwell. Other dorms have guest lists :) You can wait!
 - iv. Maybe the standard should be that if you don't feel comfortable telling someone that you don't recognize them and they can't enter, you reach out to someone else. Hall Chairs could talk to their halls about this?
 - v. Problem: As soon as you walk away, they'll just go back to what they were going to do - does not equal security.
 - vi. Problem: Who would be tell, if we see someone on hall we don't know?
 - 1. Sandy: tell Sandy! Depending on time of day / evening, maybe tell police.

2. Immediately call police; Email residents! Warn others to also call police.
- g. What do the first floors do?
 - i. 1W keeps all the doors locked and says it's not a problem.
 - ii. 1E says they have discussed it and have not had issues.
 - h. Suggestion: An actual guest list?
 - i. Problem: this may require security workers. It doesn't give students tap access; it gives security an actual list.
 - i. Suggestion: Can we make it easier to tap in when you're holding things / when you already own an ID? This will reduce door propping for boyfriends who live in Next and actually just live here.
 - i. People who don't live here can tap in to Talbot or Talbot alone?
 - ii. Lower the heights of the ID taps?
 1. This might be a required height for ADA reasons.
 - a. Add a second one underneath?
 - b. A whole strip
 - c. It is very awkward to get your waist area up to that door if you are an average height five foot woman
 - j. MacGregor apparently allows students to add up to 5 people to the tap list. They, like us, have multiple doors.
 - k. Why do we need to change any of the infrastructure? Anybody can still get in by buzzing in to Desk.
 - l. Problem with the guest list: other dorms say you can't actually update it whenever?
 - m. Note: If doors break, we should keep them permanently locked instead of permanently open. Last year there was a mechanical problem with the Wood door.
 - n. Question: Did these incidents happen during Rush? EC is both more interesting then and more open.
 - i. Yes.
 - ii. Yes.
 - iii. But this is not the only sample size, incidents have happened over the past three years. This is a recurring problem: folks decide "EC is the place to hang out and be *naughty*"
 - iv. People have been scared off by these incidents; it is serious; I hope the impulse is to protect your fellow neighbors.
 - o. Additional opinion: On my floor (Slugfest) people like to keep their door open; treat hall like your living room. This is something we'd like to keep -- > requires security.
 - p. I think many of us have probably been guilty of propping open a door to make your life a little more convenient, but it actually does run the risk of making someone else's life more uncomfortable / difficult. Keep that in mind when you're dealing with minor inconveniences!
 - q. Create a norm that if someone asks you where you're going, you be nice about it - I'm going here, thanks for asking! This will encourage more people to ask, and create an environment in which you are incentivized because you meet new people!
 - r. How do people feel about the Tap Access question?
 - i. I'd like to ask hall.
 - ii. Remember when East Side Festival said there needed to be additional security, and we said they were all terrible? This is the best option. Other options include: adding security, only entering through Talbot...
 - s. I'm new here: what are your thoughts about exterior-facing cameras on the doors?

- i. no. no? no. no, no.
 - ii. I will say, there are cameras on the Talbot, Munroe, and loading dock doors.
- t. Decoy cameras to deter strangers?
- u. This is getting detailed, but if someone were to come in and you were to politely ask them where you're going, and they said, "oh yeah, I live here." At what point do you investigate?
 - i. Do they seem sketchy?
 - ii. Tap open the door for me.
 - iii. What hall do you live on? Oh, on the third floor. Oh, Slugfest?
 - iv. Follow them up, not discretely.
 - v. There's a lot of EC only experiences.
 - 1. "How was your Rush?"
- v. What mailing list do we send for randos entering?
 - i. First you call CPs. Then, email ec-residents@mit.edu
 - ii. If you need help with a personal problem, it is ec-discuss@mit.edu; ec-residents@mit.edu is for serious issues but should be used.
- w. It might not look like it on the face of it or aesthetically, but it is a privilege to be here; remind folks who do not live here that they do not have a right of entry. They should act accordingly.
- x. Can we put together a protocol for what to do or what to say when you see a stranger and feel uncomfortable?
 - i. This can be worked on between Adriana, House Team, Exec, and general input.
- y. More divisive issues:
 - i. Tap access
 - ii. Fake cams
 - iii. Possible changes to how we use Desk and the buzz in system?
 - 1. Require more interaction?
 - 2. We have no Desk rep. Here.
 - 3. It could be pretty informal.
 - iv. Adriana will compile a list of proposals, I send out a straw poll - help distribute it to your halls! We can reconvene in a few weeks to re-discuss (vote next HouseComm, in two weeks!) Approval voting.

5. Floor Reps: Would you like to invite Alexandria to come to one of your floor events?

- a. Adriana: I've heard the Medinas make fancy hot chocolate. Cristian: I wasn't aware of that.
6. HouseComm adjourned!