

## AHEC Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020, 8:00pm @Zoom

### Attendees:

Adam  
Allison  
Amanda  
Andrew  
Haosheng  
Katie  
Kruthika

Minutes: Jacqueline

### [Update] Isolation spaces & TechMart

- Housing sent out email on isolation
  - Original email was poor but they seem to have corrected course
  - Though well intentioned, sometimes admin communications come off as the administration undermining a key message or dumping excess stress onto students
  - Focus has shifted largely to undergrad housing and it's noticeable

### [Update] Outside meetings

- GSC: general unrest on Housing policies; seminar on Title IX; GSC Archivist; COVID; budget
  - Housing: continual stream of decisions that ignore what grad students want
  - Title IX: govt changed regulations to make it harder to file complaints
    - MIT will keep existing, broader classifications for harassment
      - Will be for those in US; on- vs off-campus under consideration
    - MIT has combined student & faculty processing under one office
      - Has to go through open court/hearing
  - GSC Archivist: new position being rolled out as resource for student affairs over past 50+ years to build institutional knowledge on GSC student advocacy, including historical issues with Housing
  - COVID-19: long lines, ADA access, positive cases allowed to leave after 2-week isolation but told not to retest for x-amount of months
    - Positive cases are moved to special section of Atlas so they're no longer in COVID Pass
    - Rationale seems to be to not continue using tests on known positives, but doesn't account for possibility of reinfections
  - Budget: much smaller due to loss of Student Life fee, but fewer people have applied and costs overall have gone down since virtual
    - Still looking for external funding, but welcome anyone to apply

- Sustainability: Meeting Thursday
- HCA: nothing
- Activities: nothing
- Orientation: nothing

[Discussion] Confirm meeting time for fall semester

- Confirmed through email that meetings will be Tuesdays at 8 PM

[Update] Feedback on Orientation 3AM

- Looks good
- Jacqueline to make PDF of 3AM for Ashdown website

[Update] Report back on Ashdown Orientation events

- All went well, relatively smooth distribution, got to meet some residents
  - Those who came to one tended to go to the other
  - PowerPoint Karaoke well-suited for a virtual platform
  - Virtual paint night was good (+1 Kru); distribution was tricky
    - Issue ordering paint supplies – order in advance next time
    - Some RFPs had taxes, making reimbursement difficult
  - Board Games Night was pretty fun (+1 Haosheng)
  - Forging Friendships over Food was good
  - Jackbox party night was fun
  - Crosswords & Croissants worked well and people asked for it to be held again
    - Catering should be ordered well in advance – had 3 different caterers cancel
      - Aim for a week in advance
- John submitted all forms for GSC-funding-required documentation
- Volunteers can be targeted to committees directly overseen by AHEC (e.g. for Coffee Hour, contact Allison)

[Discussion] Budgets and upcoming committee events

- Technically were due Saturday
  - Events has until next week to submit
- Waiting on Communities and Brunch
  - Slight hiccup with Brunch – may not have receipts for GradRat summer event (wouldn't be paid if through external funding)
- Upcoming
  - Brunch
  - Garden events
  - Coffee Hour
  - Events meeting to plan fall events + how-to guide on virtual events (publicity, distribution, and running event)
- All to check in with committees

[Update] Back-of-door flyers

- Allison shared version of new flyer – looks good
  - Allison to add a QR code to link to website
  - Let Allison know if there are any other changes
- Once finalized, ask Denise first for distribution since it has to go inside the room

[Update] Website

- Live, no dead links found yet
- All to compile list of pages that should redirect from old website to new website

[Update] Suggestion box

- Nothing new

[Update] New door nametags

- Talking to various committees, waiting on resident list from Denise
  - Allison to follow up with Denise in a few days if no word

[Update] Composting bins signage

- Now up (at least on second floor kitchen)

[Update] Intersection Albany and Mass Ave

- Katie put in touch with MIT people who work with Cambridge city, waiting to hear back after contact meets with Cambridge city at their regular meeting

[Discussion] RISE event planning

- Kru forwarded info on RISE to Basuhi; plans to float ideas by Events committee

[Update] Housing on compliance/consequence flowchart

- Katie sent out email describing Housing's response to this
  - Now there's a new subcommittee for the committee on discipline
  - More nuances in this committee for dealing with incidents
  - No flowchart; trying to consider each person's case
  - Those who forget rules once won't receive a warning unless there's a previous incident on file

[Update] Officer poster

- Haosheng sent reminder, have at least ~13 replies (missing many)
  - Haosheng to check with Can at end of week to see if another reminder is needed
- All to send in photos if yet to do so

[Update] MIT Vote email

- Kru to work on informative email, will send draft after meeting

[Discussion] ashdown-talk emails on WiFi

- Hope for people to submit service requests to IS&T and see targeted solutions
  - Have heard of WiFi gradually improving in SidPac
  - Possible that Ashdown-talk resident hadn't seen email on service requests (or that it hadn't worked)
- Potential concerns with people setting up their own routers?
  - Amanda asked, IS&T has yet to respond
  - It's IS&T's problem; if we ping them more and more they'll be incentivized to solve it
- No need to respond to ashdown-talk email

[Update] Ashdown occupancy

- Plan for 75%; still rooms being filled and Housing will cap at 85% (of 540 total beds)
  - Brunch could plan for 250, still fluid
  - 85% is hard cap this year since not filling three-bedroom suites without kitchens

[Discussion] Opening up AHEC meetings

- Fine to open up meetings again since everything will be in flux even going into next year; good to let residents know it's an option
- How?
  - Send regular meeting email to all residents (meeting link + spreadsheet)
  - Ashdown lists are being updated every two weeks
    - Send to ashdown first, then send to ashdown-talk if things go well (ashdown-talk is larger and includes people who aren't currently living in Ashdown)
- Amanda to send agenda + blurb about attendance to ashdown mailing list next week

[Discussion] HoH holding outdoor events

- Heads of House can run outdoor events thanks to pressure from HoH on event guidance
  - 40 people expressed interest so far
  - Will use signups and prepackaged food; no need for mask while eating if 6 ft apart
  - HoH will advocate for students to be able to hold outside socially distanced events with approval
  - Kru to forward exchange with Naomi on recent outside event
- Institute policies may have been affected by recent rises in positive cases among colleges and universities, but ever-in-flux policies appear to reflect lack of trust in event planners and has contributed to officer resignation
  - COVID occupancy signage is inconsistent across campus

[Discussion] Remaining isolation concerns

- No further thoughts at this time

[Discussion] Recent policy announcements

- No thoughts at this time

[Discussion] Access to printers for residents

- No color printers in Ashdown
- Second floor printer open to public; also have printer on first floor by puzzles
- Worthwhile to confirm info on both printers is on website
  - Also update with info on how to print (Pharos software, Kerberos, MIT ID)
  - Allison to make updates
- Adam has already reached out to resident to suggest using second floor printer

[Discussion] Brainstorm solution to missing packages

- Leaving packages out where anyone can take them is a possible security issue
  - No storage space to keep them behind the desk (low storage space in Ashdown)
  - Can't limit deliveries as that would hurt a lot of people
- In the past, have had residents inform front desk when expecting sensitive packages so front desk can keep an eye out for it
  - Adam to talk to Denise about this
  - Important to talk to people at front desk about suggested changes in policy before trying to implement
- Amanda to ask Denise about residents sending front desk emails when receiving/expecting important packages

[Discussion] Idea Bank response

- Originally requested to forward along with Orientation events, but Orientation has ended
- Kru to respond to Mohit and forward general info onto ashdown-talk

[Discussion] Thoughts on welcome HoH dinner

- Today's went well, more conversation than Q&A
  - Different crowd than Orientation events
- Only 4 people signed up for tomorrow's
  - Haosheng & Andrew won't be able to make it

Presided by Amanda

Meeting adjourned