

Housing and Community Affairs (HCA) Minutes
February 19th, 2020, 6 PM in 50-220

1. Introduction of Members and Sign In (6:00 - 6:10 PM)
 - a. Mohammad, GSC HCA Chair
 - b. Daniel, Eastgate
 - c. Matt, SP
 - d. Kirby, Off-campus
 - e. Marlis, Sustainability
 - f. Aaron
 - g. Marie, Warehouse
 - h. Amy Kaiser, Office of Campus Planning
 - i. Brent Ryan, Chair of Committee on Campus Planning
 - j. Zack, Transportation
 - k. Alex, GSC VP
 - l. Kenny, Warehouse
 - m. Denise, Westgate
 - n. David, Westgate
 - o. Madeleine, Ashdown
 - p. Peter, GSC President
 - q. Webster, SP
 - r. Jerry, Edgerton
2. Presentation by Committee on Campus Planning (6:10 - 6:45 PM)
 - a. Started ~5 years ago
 - b. Some key parties involved
 - i. Building committee - comprised of administration and President who have final say in decisions
 - ii. MITIMCO - Investment Management group that gets funds from endowment, is not responsible to MIT faculty
 - iii. PCRSP/RCSR - Planning & Renovation (what classrooms get renovated, etc.)
 - c. There is no faculty Senate
 - d. One community, one campus (2016) is closest thing to a strategic plan - info about this was sent to faculty in an email (they were not consulted beforehand)
 - e. Who deals with communications? MIT Community Affairs office
 - f. There could be more graduate student and postdoc representation in the committee - similar to libraries committee which added more student members

- g. What motivates faculty to get involved? Faculty sense of injustice is strong
 - h. We should seek more evidence that our input is used - Registration
3. Site 4 Rates and Discussion (6:45 - 7:15 PM)
- a. There is a petition written about Site 4 - [link to petition](#)
 - b. Current Eastgate resident get 15% off the listed price of units for duration of stay and additional transition packages (after financial process) to ease transition
 - c. Such financial processes can be unpleasant or even humiliating, something to be aware about
 - d. Communication on the developments on extra support has been quiet - Westgate residents have heard things through the grapevine but not sure what's right (things feel hushed)
 - e. Some families (Sloan folks with many savings) may not need subsidies so the strategy from Housing might make sense
 - f. International families would struggle - but will probably get the support they need to move into Site 4
 - g. There should be a long term plan to provide support for those who need it - the current support mechanisms seem very reactionary and just meant to appease upset students
 - h. People who made these decisions are no longer in power - now everyone pays for it
 - i. Improved communication is one long term goal
 - j. What happens to incoming students who can't afford to live here but can't find Housing in Westgate? Incoming international families may struggle
 - k. A more actionable item (compared to the points in the petition) are to identify pain points of the financial process and fix them.
 - l. The financial form is a Google form which can be convoluted for many families to read through/understand.
 - m. Eastgate has a nice community
 - n. There is a family grant for support, but only offer ~\$2k
 - o. What should administration share?
 - p. Long term support is important
 - q. One viewpoint: The petition seems combative but does not offer a clear solution that might be achievable - might be good to have a document that gives administration a way out (something they could achieve)
4. Committee & Dorm Updates (7:15 - 7:30 PM)
- a. Kirby - off-campus events and survey
 - b. Marlis - next meeting Monday for Sustainability: pilot in Koch Cafe with reusables - similar to green lunchboxes used by undergrads

- c. Jerry - Edgerton - some concern about people peeping into Edgerton gym, may be CASPAR residents who are around the area
 - d. Alex - 70 Amherst modifying constitution and opening up officer positions to all graduate students
 - e. Kenny - Warehouse involved in a HoH search when Darmofals leave for sabbatical
5. Open Floor (7:30 PM -)