

# MacGregor House Committee

450 Memorial Dr.  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
mac-housecomm@mit.edu



## Minutes of First Regular Meeting Held in A-Entry 3 September 2003

Attendance			
President:	Joe Jacobs	Secretary:	Jeanette Fershtman
Vice President:	Rose Grabowski	Treasurer:	N/A
<i>Entry Chairs</i>			
A:	Alex and Ethan Crumlin	D:	Laurie Stach
B:	Aayesha Siddiqui	E:	Merritt Tam
C:	Not present	F:	Mike Churchill
LRMAL:	Eddie Kay	G:	Carl Mahler
		H:	Sana
		J:	Peter Stone
		GRT:	
<i>Also in attendance:</i> Swapna Panuganti – CoRAC; Yong-Hwa Lee – Judcomm Chair; Muther Dahleh – House Master; Laura Yip – Temp Treasurer; Tulasi Chandan – Judcomm Member; Stephanie Lee – Judcomm Member and Rec Room Chair; Deepti Mehta – Social Chair; Laurence Wong – F-Entry Resident; Wei-an Yu – F-Entry Resident.			

Meeting called to order at 10:03 PM

Skip “House Mechanics” as on agenda

Joe <jsquared>:

- Entry chairs should update web pages and e-mails lists.
- Request to move bikes from basketball courts to truck room.

House Treasurer

- Jolene S. is not an MIT Student anymore. NEED NEW TREASURER.
- Joe <jsquared> has trained blah to be treasurer.
- Laurence (F-Entry) suggests that blah act on a temporary basis and we open election to the whole house.

Convenience is OPEN!!!!

- New management that only runs convenience stores.
- Thumbs up all around.
- Refer questions to [mac-dining@mit.edu](mailto:mac-dining@mit.edu)

REX Issue

Laurence presents motions for Rooming Assignment Chairs to take responsibility for in-house rush. He states that the RACs are ultimately responsible for all of in-house rush. He asserts that all the steps that the RACs took up to the time of in-

house were negligent. Essentially, Laurence says that *someone* must accept the responsibility for the problems of this years' in-house rush.

Swapna <swapna> (Co-RAC): It was Housecomm's responsibility to change the bylaws.

Laurence <lauwong> (F-Entry): That was not the reason given the night of in-house rush for switching to the old system.

Ethan (A-Entry): The blame is shared by many people. Other people should have questioned why the bylaws haven't been changed.

Carl <cmahler> (Co-RAC): Carl was not aware until the day after in-house rush that the freshmen and their parents had been told that the house would be using a computer algorithm.

Laurence <lauwong> (F-Entry): As Rooming Chairs, you should have known exactly what was going on and informed people appropriately.

Joe <jsquared> (P): At the onset of last term, Joe was handed very little to run with and decided that have an effective presidency, he needed to make a lot of decisions outside of Housecomm. Now he is stepping back and allowing Housecomm to run itself. Joe accepts blame for informing freshmen that the algorithm would be used.

Alex (A-Entry): Not sure that the call for blame-taking should be directed at Carl and Swapna. There was a lot of uncertainty for EVERYONE about whether the algorithm was going to be used.

Laurence (Co-RAC): Carl and Swapna did not explicitly tell people in advance that there existed a default plan if the computer algorithm results were disagreeable.

Jeanette (S): The subject of accountability has been discussed at length and suggests that we move on to hearing from the H-Entry and F-Entry chairs' motions.

Laurence (F-Entry): The subject of accountability has not been addressed at length

Alex (A-Entry): The fault lies with many people for not examining the bylaws BEFORE the fact.

Swapna (A-Entry): The computer system was invented because people were unhappy with entry assignments from the past. We thought we'd use it as a pilot but didn't really think that we'd end up using it.

Jeanette: The fact that you didn't think we'd end up using the system was not communicated clearly.

Carl (Co-RAC): We did the best that we could and we helped write the official statement that went to the house. I don't feel that we need to do anything else.

Laurence (F-Entry): If you don't take responsibility, I'm going to advise Church to make a motion that you be removed from office.

Munther (HM): We must clearly define who has ownership of the rooming process from beginning to end.

Laurence (F-Entry): It is the responsibility of the Rooming Assignment Chairs to make themselves aware of EVERYTHING that is going on regarding rush.

Ethan (A-Entry): There was a lack of communication. The RACs are NOT the only ones responsible.

Laurence (F-Entry): The RACs do have total control and are ultimately responsible for the process.

Rose (VP): I can't see making the RACs take the blame for the whole process as some of their power (like the announcement to the freshmen about using the computer algorithm) was taken away.

Laurence (F-Entry): The RACs should have taken issue with the publication of that information.

Swapna (Co-RAC): Asked Joe about the algorithm and felt that it wasn't going to work. However, when it was run with last year's data, there was a positive result. Regardless, the RACs still have misgivings.

Laurence (F-Entry): That's fine but you did not communicate that to the entries. The RACs should take responsibility. "Taking responsibility" does not necessarily mean stepping down. It may mean simply making a formal apology accepting the blame.

*General question:* How to take accountability if not by resignation.

Laurence (F-Entry): Public apology that parallels Housecomm's apology to the house.

Mike Churchill (F-Entry): F-Entry just wants accountability, reparations.

Carl (Co-RAC): If we were to write a letter, it would say the same thing as the Housecomm letter.

Wei-an (F-Entry): But the Housecomm letter asserted that it was the fault of the system, no individuals.

Ethan (A-Entry): If we have to go back so far to locate the source of the miscommunication, the accountability falls to many people.

Laurence (F-Entry): They had a chance to read the FAQs that contained the misinformation and did not say anything.

Sana (H-Entry): They should have done something considering that's the only week they have any jobs.

Rose: Swapna was Rush Chair and was involved in many activities.

Laurence (F-Entry): Just because she was Rush Chair does not excuse her from her RAC responsibilities.

Alex (A-Entry): It was a house-wide miscommunication, and so the blame is with everyone.

Munther (HM): Laurence says that RACs are in charge. The rest are saying that all of Housecomm shares the blame and RACs are not in charge of whole process.

Alex (A-Entry): Do Carl and Swapna feel they need to do anything else.

Carl (Co-RAC): Nothing else except to apologize to anyone who comes to who had a problem with what happened.

Swapna (Co-RAC): Same as Carl because we expressed it at two meetings and helped compose the letter.

Aayesha (B-Entry): The issue is dead at this point. They feel they've done enough.

Mike Churchill (F-Entry): "I move to vote for the removal of the current RACs."

Sana (H-Entry): "I second."

*Secret Ballot vote conducted by Judcomm Chair, Yong-Hwa Lee*

Yes votes: 3

No votes: 7

Abstains: 1

Motion fails.

Deepti (H-Entry): Have proposed amendment to the bylaws regarding an entry keeping all of its first choice picks in the first round. *Passes out amendment.*

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 PM