

Sidney-Pacific April House Meeting Thursday 04-08-04

5/6 Floor Reorganization

- proposed: 5&6 North, 6 South → 5 North, Floor 6
 - total number of Hall Councilors is staying the same (13)
- bylaw amendment passed (see legislation entry in MyAcct section on website)

Thank you everyone: Officers, volunteers, for your help & ideas over this past year!
(round of applause)

SPEC '04-'05 Elections (run by Board of Trustees)

Ballots – note: if someone drops out or if a position is not filled, then position will re-open, elections for that position will be held in ~ 1 week

Also: have option for not voting for a candidate, even if there's only one person running

Q: Can explain Preferential Voting method?

A: In this case, doesn't matter since there's 2 or less ppl running for each position

- Rank candidates from 1 to 2 (1 – most preferred, 2 – 2nd preferred)

Candidate Statements

Adlar Kim – running for VP Info. Was Web Chair this year, Web Vice-Chair the year before. Past few years have done a lot of work with database, mainly to make officers' jobs easier (i.e. check-out system for Inventory Chair). This year and last worked very closely with SPEC, really proud of what we have achieved so far. A lot of things that can be improved, esp. communication between officers and SPEC officers.

Ioannis Bertsatos – running for Chair of the Halls. Last year served as Hall Councilor for 4-North. Got to interact with SPEC, as well as a lot of residents in the dorm. Wants to further integrate the dorm, so that nobody has reason to say that SPEC and officers, or officers residents are two separate groups.

Jacob – running for VP ResLife. Used to live in Tang, has lived in SP for a year. Became vice social chair this year...some events: Orientation party, Fall Festival/Arts Fair, Valentine's Dance party. Especially proud of Fall Festival, since it wasn't really just about SP, was for entire graduate dorm. Interested in building graduate community, not just through social events, but through other ways: i.e. culturally. One of the things to focus on: develop identity of SP, very multicultural. Also interested in working with MIT administration to develop things here. Other issues: resident representation etc.

Joe – running for VP Resources. Has been in Office of Resources for 2 years. Not interested in lobbying- that's the president's job. However will keep things running – front desk resources, fish tank, gym stuff, etc.

Tim- running for President. 2nd year student, has been here in SP for a year. After coming to SP, gave a sense of home, pride in the dorm. Wants to share that, and put energy into giving back. First year – SPEC laid a great foundation, Second year –

community, diversity – reached out to Cambridge, rest of MIT. This year we need to recommit ourselves to residents.

Adrian (KC) – running for VP Reslife. Not a current officer, been in SP for this past year. Recently co-organized a talent show. Back in Australia, has been involved in Engineering Society. VP Reslife – dual role: 1) organizing things like brunch, coffee hrs, social events, etc 2) provide clear vision to lead gov't system. We have a large diversity of ppl here, both culturally & academically—we should try to understand each other's differences. As SP resident thanks all SP officers for their work past year.

Q&A session (led by Manish, Trustee)

Candidates have 2 minutes to answer each question

1. Q: (from Anna, 8th Floor HC): What do you think you can do differently from this year's SPEC?
 - a. Yannis – lots of things can be improved. Will always have an ear open, will be available to discuss it with them, improve life for everyone by being open for residents
 - b. Joe – address A/V system issue first: currently discuss things with outgoing SPEC. Things keep running, effectively. Would like improve attendance at House Meetings.
 - c. Tim – open lines of communication, make each other available. Encourage people to talk, foster communication between SPEC and residents,
 - d. Jacob – in add'n of social events, focusing on aspect on cultural identity of dorm.
 - e. Adlar – agree with Tim, communication is important. Separate time allocation for ppl with questions, at house meetings.
 - f. Adrian – agree that communication is important. Have to channel people's input..more of a guiding role rather than mandating.
2. Q: (from 9th Floor HC): Joe gave her the finger, said racist remarks to her at an officer meeting...also has heard of him making racist remarks about others..is that something that should be characteristic of someone in SPEC?
 - a. Joe – admits said many things, mostly in fit of rage. Has publicly apologized. However as an executive officer, is more accountable. Is honest. Hopes to improve relations. Difference of opinion brings balance in power.
3. Q (emailed): What do you see as role of Hall Councilor?
 - a. Joe – HC's role is underemphasized, are the voice of residents. HCs need to vote
 - b. Tim – HC are first point of contact, but not necessarily...SPEC and gov't should be directly accessible to residents
 - c. Jacob – set up roundtable discussion with residents. Wants to get feedback on what we could do better. Adding a bit of transparency in SPEC.
 - d. Adlar – agree with everything was said. We need to talk to residents, to see how to improve.
 - e. Adrian – HC's cannot lose social commitment to their halls
 - f. Ioannis – sort of disagrees. Decision of role is up to HC themselves..can't force them to do things they don't want to do.

(time for response changed to 1 minute in interest of time)

4. Q: HC meetings, how to improve?

- a. Yannis - Well, thought they were good this year..maybe try to have better attendance?
- 5. Q: Policy on Senior Segue?
 - a. Jacob –Senior Segues are good add'n to community, shouldn't be distinguished from others.
- 6. Q: How you deal with stance on issues?
 - a. Joe: Well SPEC is 5 members. Will fight for the minority
- 7. Q: reslife questions –what do you think about residents themselves
 - a. Adrian – re: lending expensive equipment- look into certificate
 - b. Jacob – concentrate on Orientation, recruit 1st years. Demolishes segregations.
- 8. Q (emailed): Community vs. SPEC decisions, how to distinguish ?
 - a. Ioannis – managerial decision, trustees ...
 - b. Adlar – hard to draw a line between SPEC and officer decisions.
 - c. Joe – the more significant issues can be done with SPEC themselves, others, as they gain more significance, have to deal with residents
 - d. Tim – SPEC get feedback from the officer, residents.
 - e. Adrian – SPEC level: operation level, with advice from housemasters, housemanager...info should be clear
 - f. Jacob – SPEC officers should take ownership of pos'n
- 9. Q's (from Cultural Chair)
 - a. Tim - are you for or against opening SPEC meetings to all residents?
 - i. Tim: Yes, but in some cases certain things should be confidential
 - b. Joe – has anything in the building been a waste (of money)?
 - i. Joe: Yes, some things: i.e. some art, DVD wide-screen.
 - c. Ioannis – what is your plan to get ppl out of rooms and care about SP?
 - i. Ioannis: instead of individual Hall meeting, combined hall meetings?
 - d. Adrian – Do you have an idea of an event with no drinks, no food
 - i. Adrian: a formal concert
 - e. Adlar – transparency, what does it mean to you?
 - i. Adlar: well right now we have everything on the website, that's a start
 - f. Jacob – plan for recruitment?
 - i. Jacob: capitalizing on Orientation period, reaching out to new students
- 10. Q: Summer availability?
 - a. Tim – won't be here for the summer (internship). However contacted and arranged start/end dates w/ employer to make sure can still carry out role as President if elected
 - b. Joe - will be here
 - c. Yannis – will be here
 - d. Adlar – will be here
 - e. Jacob – will be here
- 11. Q: Reslife question ..re: Fundraising – what kind of budget?
 - a. Jacob: want to get resources, attracting big events to SP (i.e. Spring Weekend) working with dean of students of Life
 - b. Adrian: says doesn't know topic enough, but will look into it.
- 12. Q: How are you are going to improve communication? And how to make sure it's propagated?
 - a. Officer meetings (outside of House Meetings)
 - b. Residents – Hall Councilors are represented
 - c. Propagation - Officer How-To's, institutional memory is important

13. Q: (from Yanir, Historian) : Most people (~50%) don't care about house government?
What do you think of this?
- a. Tim – there is a fundamental limit on what ppl care. Don't think of this as a game, a lot of ppl here really care about things.
14. Q (from Sriram, President) SPEC involves a lot of teamwork – what are personal qualities you feel that you can bring?
- a. Jacob – leadership style: ask ppl to take ownership? Provide motivation
 - b. Adlar – good working with people
 - c. Adrian – add new flavor in SPEC, has own stance on things, but is open-minded
 - d. Ioannis – like discussing things, passionate about ideas but can be convinced
 - e. Joe – “I will strive for a compromise that maximizes benefit”
 - f. Tim – passion for the work involved
15. Q: What do you think about having allowing all residents vote?
- a. Joe: doesn't agree, since can never get quorum. Less than 50% (much less) of residents care about anything
 - b. Ioannis: maybe some way it can be done, but will have to be discussed
 - c. Adlar: doesn't support idea, same reason than Joe mentioned, but maybe there's alternative?
 - d. Jacob: has to be worked out, if it to be changed
 - e. Adrian: read excerpt from constitution..said it needs to be change
 - f. Tim: hasn't made up mind, but would lean towards just officers voting, since they are more informed as to what's going on.

Now it's ~10pm..Christina Silcox (Trustee member gathering ballots) announces that official counting of votes (done by Trustees) will take place at Associate Housemaster's apt (#268) and is open to anyone. Winners will be announced later on.