Cultural House Information Session Notes

The following information will help me to better understand your information sessions (formerly interviews). Please fill this information out by June 1st. Remember that information sessions should be an opportunity for you to share information about your house with prospective residents and give them a chance to get to know you and your house’s culture. I will be available to help you as you retool your interviews into information sessions. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you need anything!
Thank you!
-John Ross

Reminder:
New students’ preferences will determine housing assignments, and houses will eliminate the sense of rejection experienced by first-year students when upper level students rank or pick them to live on their floor or entryway. Housing decisions must be based on non-personal factors including available space, gender balance, and students’ housing preferences, such as sleep schedules, study habits, quiet/social floors, and cooking commitments.

House Name: Chocolate City

1. Please list your timeline for conducting information sessions.

   June 14        Cultural houses receive list of interested incoming first-year students
   June 14-20     Cultural houses conduct information sessions

2. Please outline the format of your information sessions (i.e. introductions, information sharing about house, time to ask prospective students questions, time for questions from prospective students, etc.).

Information sessions are scheduled with students via email by the CC member who will be conducting the session. The default platform is Zoom, but we are very open to using other platforms such as Skype/Google Hangouts if that makes the student feel more comfortable. The CC member will introduce themselves and explain the purpose of the call -- to share information about the house and house responsibilities and for the prospective student to learn more about Chocolate City and ask any clarifying questions they may have. During this call, we will explain what Chocolate City is, some basic facts (size, location in NH) and what makes us special as a living group (our purpose, our house culture). The prospective student is open to asking questions at any time throughout the call. Then, we will ask a few standard questions such as why they want to live in Chocolate City and what they are looking for in a living community. The student will then have time to ask any further questions, most of which will likely be general MIT questions and also New House specific questions. We end the call reminding students to email
residence@mit.edu to confirm their interest in living in CC after the call if they decide they still want to live with us.

3. Who from your house will participate in information sessions with prospective residents? Will there be a consistent group of current residents facilitating each info session, or will the work be divided among several sub-groups? If different groups of people will be conducting information sessions, how will you ensure consistency?

The summer cochairs (CC housing chairs) conduct the information sessions. There are usually 2 housing chairs who are CC members, and the calls are done one-on-one. There is also a small committee of ~5 members who may fill in for the housing chairs in case both of them are unavailable. We have a standardized list of questions which are asked to all the students and we collect the answers. After all the information sessions are concluded, the housing chairs and their committee will get together to discuss the prospective residents and wait to see which ones maintained interest in living in Chocolate City then make the final housing decisions.

4. Please list the questions you plan to ask during your information sessions.
   - General background info about themselves
   - Why do you want to live in Chocolate City?
   - What are you looking for in a community? How important is community to you?
   - What are your interests outside of academics?
   - What fruit would you be?
   - How do you spend time on the weekends?

5. How will decisions about who you can accept be made in the case you have more interested students than available spaces?
   We base our decisions primarily off of students’ enthusiasm for living in Chocolate City and being a part of our community, expressed through their numerical ranking of us on the housing lottery or verbally during the call. For example, given that prospective students are enthusiastic during the phone call, and commit to member duties, we try to accept those who ranked us 1st in the lottery, then 2nd, 3rd etc.