



**50 UA Council Session 2 Meeting Minutes**  
 September 26, 2018, 7:30pm - 9:00pm in W20-400

<b>Living Group</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Present?</b>
Baker	Rachel O'Grady	x
Burton-Conner	Katie Fisher	x
East Campus	Tesla Wells	
MacGregor	Eleanor Wintersteen	
Maseeh	Darius Bopp	x
McCormick	Laura Bergemann	x
New House	Emily Tang	
Next House	Justina Yang	x
Random Hall	Mike Weiner	x
Simmons	Edward Fan	x
Interfraternity Council	Arjun Mithal	x
Interfraternity Council	Michael Trinh	
Interfraternity Council	Christopher Mutty	[rep sent]
Interfraternity Council	Samuel Ihns	[rep sent]
Living Group Council	Emily Fleischman	
Off Campus	--	
Panhellenic Association	Meredith Loy	[rep sent]
Panhellenic Association	Kyra Post	x
Panhellenic Association	Alyssa Weiss	

President's Questions	7:00 - 7:30
1. Roll Call	7:30
2. Approval of 50 UAC 1 Minutes	7:30 - 7:35
3. State of the UA	7:35 - 7:45
4. Councilor Updates	7:45 - 8:00
5. UA Chief of Staff Bylaws	8:00 - 8:10
6. UA Reserve Bylaws Vote	8:10 - 8:15
7. Travel Grant Guidelines Vote	8:15 - 8:25
8. Wellbeing Hub Presentation	8:25 - 8:50
9. Education Forum Feedback	8:50 - 9:00

#### Enclosures

- A. UA Reserve Bylaws
- B. Travel Grant Guidelines

### **7:35 Approval of 50 UAC 1 Minutes**

All in favor. No oppositions.

### **7:36 State of the UA**

- Went to CSL, potential topics for the year
  - Added card access to all exits of the student center, would like to move it to 10pm
- Met with Bamlak, Finboard chair
  - Hoping student groups spend more money
- Met with Karen Singleton from Mental Health Counseling
  - What are the barriers for students seeking mental health resources?
- Had first PAC meeting and all officers met with President Reif
- Meeting with TechMart soon
- Meeting with SafeRide soon
- CJAC Meeting soon
- Meeting with Ian
- The Byte included feedback forms for TechMart and SafeRide -- encourage constituents to fill those forms out
- MJ working on Vice President advisory committee, will sent out applications to undergrads@
- MJ went to institute committee meeting, has updates on their plans
- Mahi met with Gus on student center renovations
  - Will change UA office
- Rikhav sent email about off-campus rep
  - Hopefully someone runs!
- Justina: Did the question about mailing list for off-campus reps get resolved? No. Can only create list for elections, and then must be deleted. Getting Leah to ask. MIT admin rule.
- Middle of recruiting for UA committees -- currently interviewing everyone.
- Also holding welcome dinner session in 2 weeks.
- On October 4th is the First Year Experience forum.
  - Similar to CUP Computational Thinking GIR last year
  - Overview with 2022s, and questions about what students want to get out of education and experiment for 2023s
  - Email going out tonight
- Joseph is here from SAO. New Associate Director for Student Activities and Leadership. Right under Leah. Involved in student government at UT. Wanted to connect with students. Has worked with Kat regarding leadership retreat.

Born and raised in Texas. Brought gifts! Works with ring comm, and other things. Specializes in leadership development.

### **7:46 Councilor Updates**

- Edward [Simmons]: no big updates.
- Rachel [Baker]: no updates.
- Katie [Burton Conner]: no updates.
- [IFC]: Rush is over.
- [Panhel]: no updates.
- Laura [McCormick]: Hosting Peter Cummings on forum on dining. \$5200 price point is too high. On paper, look good, but in practice horrible. People are only eating one meal a day. Why is this the price point, and what can we solve for next year?
- Mike [Random]: no updates.
- Darius [Maseeh]: some residents are transgender, called wrong gender by dining staff. Don't know where to go with this. Resident has been wearing pin with what resident prefers to go by. Alexa says she will give feedback to Mark.
- Justina [Next]: Erick will represent Next in the future. IS&T project is still ongoing.

### **7:50 UA Chief of Staff Bylaws**

- MJ is Chief of Staff. Read bylaws, and don't accord with practices.
- Proposing changes so that bylaws agree with practices.
- [Bylaw changes documents passed to everyone.]
- Changes:
  - Instead of at least 4 at-large members, includes 2 at-large members.
  - Outgoing chief of staff should serve as at-large member. Makes transition easier.
  - Added some committees to Group A: Campus Planning, CoD, CAP, CoC, and CLS. Have higher bar of approval through Council, indicates higher priority to UA. Institute considers them as more appropriate.
  - Fixed grammatical errors.
- Justina: In practice, have these proposed Group A committees been Group B ones? Yes. In practice, this would be a psychological effect on Chief of Staff since staff Group A with first picks, and then Group B. These committees are just as broad ranging and important as existing Group A committees.
- Darius: Are you the Chief of Staff? Yes, MJ is.

- Mike: Can chair/vice-chair unilaterally appoint? Not specified. In practice, whoever is available does it. Members of the exec team who are available do it.

### **UA Chief of Staff**

Motion to vote. Seconded. All in favor. No oppositions. No abstains.

### **UA Reserve Bylaws Vote**

- 20% as flat number for reserve movement in funds. Colin from SAO suggested 20%.
- Darius: What happens to reserve fund at end of year? It stays 20% of operating budget for upcoming year.

Motion to vote. Seconded. All in favor. No oppositions. No abstains.

### **Travel Grant Guidelines Vote**

- Found travel grant guidelines confusing. No system for people to apply off-cycle.
- Very similar to GSC, and they've been doing this for a while.
- Darius: What has changed? Used to not have notification system, and now adding a way to apply off-cycle.
- Katie: No February 30th -- can we fix that? Yes, will move to February 28th/29th. Also says February 30th on GSC website.

Motion to vote. Seconded. All in favor. No oppositions. No abstains.

### **Wellbeing Hub Presentation**

- Meeting with all of David's team in a week or so.
- Get feedback from Councilors.
- Voted to approve statement from Sarah last year.
  - Any questions? No.
- What are the potential benefits of grouping MIT resources together?
  - Darius: Any particular ordering?
  - Kyra: How does this demonstrate there is more than one office? A bit confusing wording, yes, but if you see one physical location you'll see that there are more offices than just one.
  - Laura: Why isn't Title IX moving into this space?
  - Deanna: Very good thing. Will be beneficial because you'll see the other potential resources.

- Kyra: Where might this be? Would require shuffling. Potentially Student Financial Services, maybe Admissions. Somewhere around Infinite. An idea right now, but physical location has not been set.
- Would this make people afraid to come? Make it very welcoming student space, with food and massage chairs. Don't need to go there for just help.
  - Deanna: Community Health and Wellness Office is welcoming.
- Laura: 3 week waiting process right now. Would this come with updates service policies? Would this compound issue? May or may not have clinicians. Karen is open to the idea of new clinicians, but doesn't want to reallocate clinicians.
- Laura: What care will be taken to ensure private offices don't interfere with confidential offices? Separate entrance for VPR, Student Financial Offices is a great space because there are multiple entrances on different floors.
- Alexa: Thoughts on other risks?
- Darius: I think moving S^3 is a big risk. Don't move past Bldg 11.
- Deanna: Worried that making an appointment will be public. Alexa says that we're thinking of using kiosks, so that people can virtually check-in and make appointments.
- Joseph from SAO: With centralizing any service, is there benchmarking compared to peer institutions? Not a novel idea, people are doing this.
- Laura: If this were to be created, how would be the first person I would interact with if I have an issue? Would be cool to have a central reception desk. Someone who is trained to direct you to proper resource. Don't want to lose staff for current staff.
- Katie: Students have bad experience with one office, usually go to another office.
- Deanna: If it does open, have accessible feedback forms.
- Kyra: Kiosk on way out would be good.
- What current barriers are students facing?
  - Kyra: Wait time for mental health. Too long.
  - Deanna: Personal success with walk-in hours, maybe walk-in hours aren't working with people's hours.
  - Edward: Mental health closed online bookings. Makes it very inaccessible to people who haven't been there before.
  - Darius: Maybe better differentiation with other resources. Like "Let's Chat".
  - Deanna: Personally knows how to find the resources.

- Mike: Seems like this is a job for a big, big poster.
- Deanna: Receptionist should hand card out.
- Darius: Flow-chart poster.
- Erick: Can we disseminate this to individual dorms? Yes.
- Alexa: Have people seen the pamphlets that include all the other offices -- in S<sup>3</sup> and other offices? Maybe, not certain.
- Justina: Since there are so many programs, including the offices in newsletters and postcards and posters might be good. Might be overkill, but maybe people will start processing it.
- Justina: Normalizing that it's ok to seek mental health. Should also be on posters.
- Who should we talk to moving forward? What questions should we be asking? More on student side, than admin side.
  - Laura: MedLinks does a ton of training about resources. Those students have a lot of information, but not necessarily face-to-face interaction with offices. Talk to MedLinks, might have interesting perspective.

### **Education Forum Feedback**

- In 56-154.
- Want feedback on questions we'll be asking. Not their answers.
- Question One: What is the purpose of an MIT education in the 21st century?
  - Justina: Reading question as what did you come to MIT for, and what do you want to leave with. Not how do you want to acquire these skills. Should ask a question that asks about process.
  - Deanna: Interpreted as what should change, but seemingly doesn't relate to subquestions. Keep questions, but don't seem related. Instead of continuously asking about skills, ask about the how.
- MJ asks: These are intended to be big questions, and subquestions are intended to be optional ones. When she was writing these questions, she was trying to get the intangibles, but Councilors seem to not agree. Is there a good question to get at intangibles?
  - Deanna: Ask anecdotal question -- how has it happened for students?
  - Katie: Separate experience and skills.
  - Kyra: Add examples of skills, experiences, memories asking about.
  - Laura: Maybe ask: why would you hire an MIT grad over other people? Why would you choose MIT over other schools? Something that gets more at why is MIT valuable to the world.
- Question Two: How do we best build upon the Class of 2022 Experiment?

- UA exec views experiment as one step to change, but we ultimately want to think broadly instead of patching up the system. Yes, we understand why these seem unrelated, but don't think of this experiment as the end game.
- Laura: No space to ask about what have we done, and how does it work. Only asks about future. Forum should also address what the experiment is about -- an explanation for it.
  - Alexa: Can we leave comment cards? Instead of encouraging complaints since it's not productive. We can leave time for general feedback.
  - Deanna: If you add it as a question, it'll become a focus. If someone is upset, they'll talk about it regardless. Don't think it's necessary.
  - Kyra: Is it possible to share this data? Was published in Tech -- can we share this?
  - Laura: How does this affect potential hires? This event needs to be phrased properly.
  - Alexa: Would it be helpful to create separate event for students to share concerns?
    - Yes! If admin and students are all there.
- Erick: Is this targeted? Open to anyone.
- Laura: How many people do we want? 30-40.
- Laura: How much weight is going to be given? This is just to get information, and isn't just one way. Planning to do future events as well.
- MJ: Ultimately, proposals will go back and forth.
- Alexa: Format seems reasonable, right? Yes.
- Justina: Will there be a survey to upperclassmen? We will try to make it happen.
  - Edward: What useful feedback could upperclassmen give?
  - Justina: Ask upperclassmen how they might have viewed this experiment?
  - Katie: Ask upperclassmen that work with freshmen to compare experiences. Like associate advisors.
  - Laura: Make upperclassmen feel like they're included in this conversation.

**8:39 Motion to adjourn. Seconded. All in favor.**