



MIT UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION

50 UA Council Session 3 Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2018, 7:30pm - 9:00pm in W20-400

Living Group	Representative	Present?
Baker	Rachel O'Grady	x
Burton-Conner	Katie Fisher	x
East Campus	Tesla Wells	x
MacGregor	Eleanor Wintersteen	
Maseeh	Darius Bopp	[rep sent]
McCormick	Laura Bergemann	x
New House	Emily Tang	
Next House	Erick Eguia	x
Random Hall	Mike Weiner	x
Simmons	Edward Fan	[rep sent]
Interfraternity Council	Arjun Mithal	
Interfraternity Council	Michael Trinh	[rep sent]
Interfraternity Council	Christopher Muttu	
Interfraternity Council	Samuel Ihns	
Living Group Council	Emily Fleischman	
Off Campus	--	
Panhellenic Association	Meredith Loy	
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 2 Minutes	7:30 - 7:35
3. VPSL Suzy Nelson	7:35 - 8:00
4. State of the UA	8:00 - 8:10
5. Tea With Teachers Bylaws Vote	8:10 - 8:20
6. EC Rush	8:20 - 8:30
7. CUP/Education Forum Questions Discussion	8:30 - 8:55
8. Councilor Updates	8:55 - 9:00

7:35 VPSL Suzy Nelson

- Mission: “here for students. Help students thrive in every possible way.”
- 6 areas of focus: holistic well-being, student spaces and dining, safe campus and self of belonging, graduate student experience, leadership and social leadership and ethics, student-centered approach and continuous improvement
 - 800 staff members!
- Space matters to students
 - 2030 multi-million plan to renew *all* spaces
 - Division on Student Life is about quarter of total money being spent
 - Current priority right now is houses
 - New House \$84M project opened today
 - New Vassar house (450 beds) will open in 2020
 - 450 → 650 grad students in recent years, and about 25% of them live on campus → need housing on campus
 - Commitment for additional 500 spaces
 - FSILGs house 1100 students → initially build Greek village on west campus, 8-10 chapters have shown interest → more like New House, instead of house row
 - Completed facilities assessment
 - \$27-31M in deferred maintenance on these properties
 - IRDF: anyone can make a gift to this fund, which helps FSILGs
 - Used to be limited to academic purposes → expanded to historic preservation and safety & accessibility
 - 90% can be directed to a particular FSILG of choice, 10% to common fund
 - Student community space → invest every year in significant ways
 - Athena cluster on 5th floor will be redone
 - La Sala lounge and bathrooms will also be redone
 - Discussion about 4th floor as well
 - Goal: 15K events on campus, and 9K happen in student center, and 4.5K are sponsored by students
 - Check out the new Rainbow Lounge in Walker! And the space multicultural space + new prayer (non-religious, or religious) space
 - DAPER: resurfacing tennis courts, fundraising for boat house, and Rockwell will be renovated
- Food & Dining
 - New dining contract
 - Dining dollars, and 5% discount on-campus

- Food insecurity with SwipeShare! On individual basis
 - Urgent grants; no questions asked
- TechMart in Rebecca's very well-received → 500 students in last 2 weeks, most of the students live on east campus
 - Rebecca's is doing this for us → at-cost, but they have to purchase through their vendor
 - Thinking about adding a product line
 - ARM (Accessing Resources at MIT) wrote to high-need students → 75 students have reached out
 - Urgent grants and no questions asked on food, clothing, trips home, etc.
- Kids eat for free in dining halls on Friday! To help support graduate students with families
- Student Support and Wellbeing
 - Mind, Hand, and Heart initiative working with departments to make sure climates are supportive of students
 - Houses are huge network working with CARE team
 - Resident Peer Mentor Program piloting program in McCormick where upperclassmen tutoring underclassmen, mainly in GIRs
 - DAPER partnered with S^3: voucher program to enroll in yoga or mindfulness class
 - Wellbeing Hub!
- Safe Campus & Sense of Belonging
 - Strategic plan to figure out how to use new intercultural center
 - Heard many things anecdotally, and a little bit of data
 - Arrival experience for freshmen
 - Some houses was positive, but very variable across houses
 - Complaints: logistics of moving in is a mess
 - New CUP experiment with GIRs
 - Advising and orientation pilots
 - Looking at holistic experience
 - Students spend 9 waking hours in their house → how are these hours spent?
 - What was your experience like when you arrived?
 - 5/10 or fewer said it was positive
 - In other 5, most hovered around 60% positive, one 75%
 - This particular house had upperclassmen individually helping out freshmen move-in
- Guiding principles with freshmen move-in

- Living communities should be diverse and welcome
- House life should deepen and amplify MIT's value and educational life
- We reject rejection
- All students should have agency and a voice in where they end up living
- Move-in experience should be as stress-free as possible
- Student leaders should spearhead this with faculty and staff
- Positive change
 - MIT has been working really hard with visiting committees visiting every 2 years
 - Based on 2017 student quality life data compared to 2013, students feel it's more caring, safer, embracing of diversity, respectful of others, friendlier, and less competitive
 - Were differences with women, LGBTQ, and underrepresented minorities, but all groups improved
- How do we affirm that which makes us unique, while balancing first-year students' needs, family expectations, and MIT's values? How do we hear all the voices?
 - Tesla: break down the question into smaller parts
 - Mike: Is this for short-term satisfaction, or about long-term satisfaction?
 - Suzy: About short-term, specifically the arrival process.
 - Tesla: Why do this year's survey results differ so much?
 - Katie: Seems like there are multiple timepoints that we are talking about.
 - Suzy: Issues with pre-move-in. We'll meet with individual presidents, as well as other officers from each dorm. Will present data then.
 - Rachel: We expected the FPOPs or athletics to do programming, since they're the reason freshmen are here already.
 - Laura: Echoing Rachel's sentiment, especially since unfair to not allow non-REX volunteers come.
 - Suzy: Maybe the solution is to invite more upperclassmen back early to work on this. Do we house more underclassmen together?
 - Katie: Very hard for non-FPOP, non-REX upperclassmen to get early returns.
 - Suzy: I agree.
 - Mike: Random has many people who would love to come back early, but aren't getting early returns.

- Rachel: Would want someone specifically responsible for first week.
- Maseeh rep: Maseeh is trying to make another committee be responsible for welcome week.
- Katie: Big issue is that staff who run the process weren't accessible on weekend.
- Maseeh rep: Is there a way we can overtly communicate that people can only show up when they should show up, or change the process so that students don't have to deal with administrative process?
- Carlos [Simmons]: Updates given to housing manager at 10pm the night before. Less than a day of turnover, also.
 - Suzy: Bad communication between housing office and each dorm.
- Suzy: will put together small committee to come up with ideas.
- Suzy: We should talk about larger questions, not the small questions about logistics. We shouldn't shut down conversation because the other person isn't like them, or because they don't agree with us. We aren't doing our best with diversity and inclusion. Lots of anecdotal feedback about students feeling as though they're not fitting in, and this isn't acceptable. Please email me about ideas to reach out to as many students as possible.
- Carlos [Simmons]: Don't mutual selection dorms have better long-term satisfaction?
 - Suzy: Not true based on data. Students with lottery system have just as good numbers. How do I know who my people are the first week of school? Why should I be looking for my people the first week of school?
- Suzy: How do we get out of our comfort zone?
- Tesla: Being in diverse groups where people are very different is very important. But don't want defining characteristics to be watered down by living group. It's a balancing act. Also, what might benefit mutual selection is more active branding about how we talk about mutual selection.
- Suzy: This is a process! Get feedback all semester. Mini-retreat over IAP. Present solutions similar to first year experience. No hard timeline, but want to address these larger question issues by fall. Small committee to address smaller logistical questions.

8:44 Approval of 50 UAC 2 Minutes

All in favor. No oppositions.

8:44 Tea with Teachers Bylaws

- Want them to be official committee. Formally started under a committee, branched off and became standing project. Want them to be formalized.
- Questions about bylaws?
- Erick: Does “demystifying” have to be in the bylaws? It’s fine.

8:46 Approval of Tea with Teachers Bylaws

All in favor. No oppositions.

8:46 Letter from EC about rush

- Budgets (-around 1.5K) have been accounted for, since returned large amounts of wood.
- If you want detail, Tesla can provide it to you.

8:48 State of the UA

- Met with Vice Chancellor, CJAC, GSC
- ARM Coalition meeting
- Suzy/Cindy/Ian meeting
- Teaching and Learning Labs -- MIMU, looking to start video series. If anyone’s interested in helping them -- very low time-commitment, let Alexa know.
- Shuttle updates -- met with Judy and Tom. Phone number will be put on MIT app so that more students are aware. Heard feedback that the person picking up the phone isn’t very responsive -- will work on it before we publicize this number more.
- FYE Forum -- might go over questions next meeting, since not a lot of time.
- Class Council -- met about 13.5K budget set aside for free tickets for high-need students. Students will go through S^3 or online system. Haunted Harbor Cruise and Senior Ball.
- New Members Welcome Dinner -- tomorrow! 100 new members across the committees.
- TechMart -- went through feedback, will have 36-hour feedback turnaround time. Looking at student group taking over so that it’s sustainable. Please try to use TechCash or Dining Dollars!
- OVC Office Hours -- for 2 hours, one-time to give feedback about experiment.

8:52 Adjourn Meeting

All in favor. No oppositions.