



MIT UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION

**50 UA Council Session 6 Meeting Minutes**

December 5, 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	x
MacGregor	Eleanor Wintersteen	x
Maseeh	Darius Bopp	x
McCormick	Laura Bergemann	x
New House	Emily Tang	
Next House	Erick Eguia	[rep sent]
Random Hall	Mike Weiner	x
Simmons	Edward Fan	x
Interfraternity Council	Arjun Mithal	x
Interfraternity Council	Michael Trinh	[rep sent]
Interfraternity Council	Christopher Muttu	
Interfraternity Council	Samuel Ihns	x
Living Group Council	Emily Fleischman	
Off Campus	--	
Panhellenic Association	Meredith Loy	x
Panhellenic Association	Kyra Post	x
Panhellenic Association	Alyssa Weiss	[rep sent]

President's Questions	7:00 - 7:30
1. Roll Call	7:30
2. Approval of 50 UAC 5 Minutes	7:30 - 7:35
3. State of the UA	7:35 - 7:45
4. New VP for IS&T	7:45 - 7:55
a. What key issues should the new leader of IS&T address?	
b. What attributes do you want to see in this new leader?	
5. Commencement	7:55 - 8:10
6. Year In Review	8:10 - 8:20
7. Council Feedback	8:20 - 8:45

### **7:38 Approval of 50 UAC 5 Minutes**

- Everyone in favor, none opposed

### **State of the UA**

- Dinner series for OVC to inform FYE
- Monday forum with VP IS&T
- Looking for someone interested in planning One World
  - No longer tent parties
- Mental health mural update: still being painted, going to stay as in
  - On very thin canvas, not on wall
  - Over IAP, going to think more about mural, might potentially move it
- SLF will increase next year
  - Will be announced to broader student audience
  - Hiring more people in CAPD, change career fair
- Shuttle updates
  - Updating signs on shuttle stops
  - Another meeting coming up this Friday
  - Will ask about Memorial Drive/Amherst updates with construction
- UA GBM tomorrow! And Dean Nelson will be there

### **7:40 New VP IS&T**

- Eleanor: Don't think we have expertise. Why are we being asked?
- Tesla: Student consulting board should not be disbanded. Incentivize people to do cool projects
- Justina: Didn't know there was a VP IS&T. Really good to have someone who is invested in communicating with students, clear channel. Nice to know more about what projects IS&T works on.
- Darius: Took 1-2 weeks to get to department in IS&T. Generally better logistics

### **7:47 Commencement**

- Too much time between finals and commencement (14 days).
- Want to push spring semester back.
- We take extra long because we receive actual degrees, and need to make sure people actually did graduate.
- Proposal 1 to do all: (1) eliminate one day of class in IAP. (2) shift spring reg day to coincide with last day of IAP. (3) reduce final exam period from 5 to 4 days but straddle around reading period to increase reading time.

- What about GTL/externships affecting IAP? Externships are already short. Traveling back over weekend really nice, which would be removed.
- Seniors and parents really wanted to receive their real degree
- Is starting spring semester a day earlier better? Need to shrink spring semester somehow.
- People will probably not going to go to first day of classes if it's on a Friday.
- Final exam on Friday? Restricting to 4 days increases scheduling conflicts. But we've had this system before (2 years ago).
- Proposal 2: (1) Replace one of the two student holidays on Patriot's Day with a day of classes.
- Is it possible to combine the options?
- Why does the 1 day reduction matter?
- How should Waitz get feedback?
  - Email after finals
  - Do NOT send our calendars
  - Nice pictures of all the different scenarios
  - People will probably get very excited about this
  - This deserves a fair amount of feedback. IAP is good time to get feedback.
  - Need stronger rationale for why this change is being considered. Where is the data that people actually want this?
  - This has been in the works for a while
  - Will Senior Week change?
  - Survey should be what do you value as opposed to which scenario do you prefer
  - Get a few students to be a part of the discussion → focus groups would be nice.

### **8:10 Year in Review**

1. Outside administrators/presenters that joined us: Paul Kominors (Corporation), Tessa McClain (OSC), Vrajesh Modi and Bob Millard (Corporation), Chancellor Barnhart, Kate Weishaar (OVC), Suzy Nelson, Dave Darmofal (career exploration)
2. Voted to change the name of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day at MIT
3. Began a UA travel grant program for undergraduates to get funding to attend conferences
4. Voted on principles to guide the way we think about funding: transparency &

accountability, accessibility, stability

- Started a ticket fund for students to get free tickets to ticketed events: began with Senior Ball 2018
  - Changed budget approval process for SWE, GSC, UA, and Class Councils
5. Began looking into the Student Life Fee
  6. Started Swipeshare, a program for students to donate unused guest swipes (& now meal swipes) to other students
  7. Helped open TechMart, a low cost grocery store for students
  8. Helped pilot an on demand shuttle
  9. Voted to pass an initial Wellbeing Hub Proposal by Sarah
    - Continuing this year working to develop the proposal in more detail
  10. Passed confidentiality policy for students to share information on Institute Committees
  11. Passed election code amendment to allow for the reimbursement of election spending
  12. Helped develop SAC report on the closing of Senior House
  13. Helped select new dining vendor on campus: Compass One
  14. Held MIT I Messed Up (MIMU)
  15. Held UA phone bank about DACA
  16. Assisted with Office of the Vice Chancellor re-organization
  17. Helped in the passing of the CUP Experiment to change P/NR structure
  18. Held an education forum on FYE and had Vice Chancellor Waitz hold office hours for experiment feedback
  19. Voted to approve Tea With Teachers as a UA committee

### **8:12 Council Feedback**

1. What would be your ideal Council Meeting? How often would you want to meet? What would be the agenda? Who else would you want there?
  - Having administration come in is cool, but doing a lecture is not cool. We'd rather have discussion with administration about something. Better if admin brought questions. The goal they want from the presentation is important to say.
  - Like the frequency and timing.
  - A lot of times initial opinions are not constructive. Ideally, people would raise hand when they have a constructive opinion -- more solution providing, less absolute statements. Go on less tangents to be more efficient.

- Feels like sitting on DormCon meeting. Not as relevant to FSILGs, structure meetings so that first/second half is relevant only to dorms. And vice versa.
- People represented by where they live, and not by their class. Make this more publicized, especially to administration.
  - Why isn't class council part? Typically don't have interest in policy, more planning, but open to idea.
  - As we discuss first year more and more, need freshmen. Should have younger students.
  - Would be nice to have class council since they are fall-spring like UA.
- Add people to meetings. Should have placeholders, not necessarily set. Perhaps in first council meeting discuss what is missing and add those people.
- Really liked breakout groups and talk to neighbor. Good ice breaker, and bouncing ideas off of each other.
- Certain announcements can be sent out over email, and others are really helped with having everyone in the same room.

2. How do you currently communicate with your constituencies about Council meetings? How should the UA communicate with your constituencies moving forward?

- What's worth sharing? Is it our position to tell our constituents? But also important for student leadership to know, if not relevant necessarily to all students.
- Filter announcements in meeting minutes.
- Would it be helpful to write really short updates to send out? Yes.

3. How can the administration better understand students' concerns?

- Administrators coming here had implicit understanding that this is discussion not lecture.
- They should know what they want in coming here.
- We can share facts beforehand to councilors, so that time here is about discussion.
- Talk to students!
- Come with more directed questions, not general "what are your thoughts"
- Councilors willing to meet with administrators individually if they want.
- Make sure admin knows who is in Council.
- Set up ways to follow up.

- Email random students.

**8:39 Approval to End Council**

- Everyone in favor, none opposed