



MIT UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION

50 UA Council Session 7 Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2019, 7:30pm - 9:00pm in W20-400

Living Group	Representative	Present?
Baker	Hannah Mahaffey	x
Burton-Conner	Alice Zhang	[excused]
East Campus	Adriana Jacobsen	x
MacGregor	Anthony Cheng	x
Maseeh	Kye Burchard	x
McCormick	Afeefah Khazi-Syed and Yara Komaiha	x
New House	Lia Hsu-Rodriguez	x
Next House	Erick Eguia	x
Random Hall	Amanda Putnam	x
Simmons	Carlos Sendao	x
Interfraternity Council	Sam Ihns	[rep sent]
Interfraternity Council	Ato Kwapong	x
Interfraternity Council	Daniel Gonzalez	x
Interfraternity Council	David Poberejsky	x
Living Group Council	--	
Off Campus	--	
Panhellenic Association	Amanda Horne	
Panhellenic Association	Vanessa Wong	x
Panhellenic Association	*Need third rep	

President's Questions	7:00 - 7:30
1. Roll Call + Introductions	7:30 - 7:40
2. Approval of 50 UAC 6 Minutes	7:40 - 7:45
3. UA Overview	7:45 - 8:00
4. Breakout Groups	8:00 - 8:20
a. Student-admin Relations	
b. First Year Experience	
c. Mental Health	
d. Student Spaces & Renovations	
5. Breakout Groups Report Out & Discussion	8:20 - 8:40
6. Councilors Communication with Constituencies	8:40 - 8:50
7. Open Discussion	8:50 - 9:00

7:36 Introduction

- Everyone introduced themselves! Name, course, who they are representing, and one thing they would like to change about MIT.

7:45 Approval of UAC 6 Minutes

- All approved. None opposed.

7:46 Overview of the UA

- Mission: improve student life at MIT
- UA council helps us understand how students feel, so that we can better advocate for the interests of all students
- UA structure: 6 officers, work on our own projects
- Judicial Review Board: 3 students, checks and balances on our government, govern elections
- Class Councils
- Institute Committees: great way for students to directly interact with faculty and admin
- Priorities of the UA listed!

7:48 State of the UA

- CJAC, PAC, Suzy/Cindy/Ian, AA BOD
- Lobdell Dining: Councilors compile feedback
- SafeRide: [suggestions] peak hours just move over the bridge/stop near qmart, turnaround in BU/cut down spots/ultimately reduce turnaround time
- Commencement: PhD students will receive degree on Thursday on Killian, and are invited to come on Friday but will not have names read. Changes in commencement timeline, so likely will not get Tuesday of Patriot's Day off.
- Senior Gift: Rebrand as students helping other students, as opposed to give it to an endowment
- Student Life Fee: Will likely increase \$25 each year over the next 3 years. Numbers are not finalized. Needs to increase so that career fair revenue can reduce, since career fair revenue funds student groups around campus indirectly via UA/GSC/SWE/etc. and incentivize non-profit/government/smaller companies to also come to career fair
- OneWorld: Tent parties are very expensive, so different but fun event. Early May, and looking for suggestions for planning committee.
- Bystander training pilot: Students are trained on how to be more proactive bystanders. Trying out in 3 dorms this spring.

- How does this vary from sexual assault training online? This is in-person workshop, similar to model in Cornell but tweaked for MIT.
- Would it be integrated into party safe training? Probably separate. Not just parties, alcohol, sexual assault, but also racial basis, violence prevention, etc.
- Next council meeting: corporation meeting
 - Google Form will be sent in advance to ask them questions.
- Leah is also at council, and she advises the UA!
- UA Committees: Chairs are a part of UA exec. Some are policy-based, others are events/projects/program-based.

8:24 Breakout Group Discussion

- FYE: It's very hard to meet people the first-year, esp. If you're introverted. The Class council study breaks are sometimes inaccessible when in the Stud, and are often contained to just food. More opportunities to meet people within your class, and more bonding activities.
 - Class council appointed later in the year, potentially move it up earlier. Or, sophomore class council does events for the freshmen.
 - Let everyone share their interests online, and connect people based on shared interests.
 - Concerned with the growing number of orientation week events, especially ones that aren't attractive and useful. Seems like they keep adding one more event, or one more hour but parents really like them. Talk to Office of the First Year!
- Student-admin relations: Students don't know who the admin is. When do they come to talk, it seems to be talking at us and not discussion based. Their decision-making process should be more transparent.
 - Would like them to be a lot more responsive. In-person discussions and emails don't have same messages, so confused as to why admin change their beliefs.
 - Very frustrating to deal with admin policy changes, esp. given the drastic everyday changes that are made for students.
 - We will give feedback about dorm renovations for the future.
 - Conversations are rehashing the same points, but admin doesn't make movement on these points. Have it more of a co-creation process. Admin should be more accountable to student process.
- Mutual selection: See the data that is driving admin decisions. Unclear what admin motivations are, given that their messaging has changed over time.

Most of the communication has been one-way. Again, not engaging in discussion with students. Potentially overhauling the entire system

- Student support and wellbeing: S³ dean in the dorm isn't well publicized, and understanding what problems (esp. In terms of their severity) can be brought to S³
 - Reminders and compiled resources binder for all to access.
 - Still remains stigma around using mental health services; still work to reduce the stigma.
- Student spaces: Besides the libraries, student spaces aren't heavily publicized. The space itself at the student center isn't very attractive or friendly for students.
 - Student center is supposed to be for students, but it doesn't hold up to the expectations.
 - List of student spaces on campus
- Accessibility to MIT Medical: Minute-clinic type service in the center of campus. Alexa has been working on Wellbeing Hub with CJAC. Likely satellite offices of Medical and Mental Health Services in the Wellbeing Hub. In general, MIT Medical is poor at communication, with difficult navigation and no set protocol.
- PNR Experiment: Positive reviews from councilors. There is a faculty meeting next week on 2023 experiment, and all students are open to listen.
 - Unclear if freshmen are exploring more majors. Still a topic of debate! There is a "list" of exploratory classes, but they are not actually exploratory. Make more exploratory classes!

8:55 Communication with constituents

- How do you plan on communicating with your dorms/exec?
- It's important to us that what we talk about isn't just personal opinions, but representative of students.

8:56 Motion to adjourn

- All in favor. None opposed.