



**50 UA Council Session 1 Meeting Minutes**  
 September 12, 2018, 7:30pm - 9:00pm in W20-400

<b>Living Group</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Present?</b>
Baker	Rachel O'Grady	
Burton-Conner	Katie Fisher	
East Campus	Tesla Wells	x
MacGregor	Eleanor Wintersteen	x
Maseeh	Darius Bopp	x
McCormick	Laura Bergemann	x
New House	Emily Tang	x
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 Muttu	
Interfraternity Council	Samuel Ihns	
Living Group Council	Emily Fleischman	
Off Campus	--	
Panhellenic Association	Meredith Loy	x
Panhellenic Association	Kyra Post	x
Panhellenic Association	Alyssa Weiss	

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| 1. Roll Call  | 7:30        |
| 2. Approval of 49 UAC 14 Minutes                    | 7:30 - 7:35 |
| 3. Welcome Remarks from Chancellor Barnhart         | 7:35 - 7:45 |
| 4. State of the UA                                  | 7:45 - 7:55 |
| 5. Compton Lounge Brief by UA Innovation            | 7:55 - 8:10 |
| 6. CUP GIR Experiment Presentation by Kate Weishaar | 8:10 - 8:35 |
| 7. Budget   | 8:35 - 8:45 |
| 8. Councilor Updates                                | 8:45 - 9:00 |

#### Enclosures

- A. Fall '18 Compton Lounge Sustainability Brief
- B. UA Budget FY19

### **7:35 Last year's minutes**

Motion, seconded, 11 (all) in favor. Passed.

### **7:36 Chancellor's Remarks**

- Chancellor's office: "all things students"
  - We are a team: Ian, Suzy, Jag, Kim, etc. + students!
  - If you want a team chancellor shirt, let her office know
- She's been in this role for 4 years, trying to improve every day, still lots of distance to cover, but proud of things her office has accomplished
- Striving for unified vision, instead of siloed version
- Member of "senior team": inc. President, Provost, VP for Research, EVP, etc.
  - Get together every Tuesday 8am-12pm + Deans, etc.
  - Help everyone work on their goals
- Trying to do whatever they can to improve student experience
- Lots of successful collaboration, recently
  - First Year Experience
- Strong advocate for big, bold initiatives
- Food Insecurity: important issue
- Mind, Heart, & Hand Initiative: important mechanism for community to infuse sense of support for one another and self
- Policy Updates
  - Good Samaritan Policy, and expanding to include drugs other than alcohol.
  - Working on sexual misconduct policy since Day 1. New COD policy, new sexual misconduct policy, revising now.
  - Paid parental leave for graduate students
- Collaboration with students has been key for success
- Sampling of Chancellor's priorities included in slides
  - Advance FYE work
  - Student Support & Wellbeing: will always be thinking about it
  - Shared governance
- Working with AAU to administer sexual misconduct survey again after 4 years in Spring
  - Learn how effective the awareness, prevention programs have been
- Laura: focusing on FYE, what about upperclassmen experience?
  - Ian: first year office
  - Don't have much control over it, trying to have more influence over it
  - Has been little change, maybe part in because no one has control over it
  - Cindy's office doesn't own these years, but can serve as conduit of information
  - Department Support Program: rolled out in 5, doing 7 this year, another 7 the year after to cover all departments
    - From data thus far, students feel comfortable in residential spaces, but not the same in academic departments
    - Opening up the conversation
- Mahi: Of all that your office wants to accomplish, what do you think will be the hardest to execute on?
  - Trying to balance trade-offs
  - Changing FYE: don't have much authority over GIRs
    - Complex; if we were to remove/add GIRs, more than just creating choice
  - Takes a lot of time, conversation, compromise
- Eleanor: When you want to fund new things, you need to remove from different places. How has that happened this last year?

- Looking forward, it's a challenge. When she first came, asked for a lot of resources to build-up student services, needed to increase money, was always told yes. But now, economic situation means that Institute will have to be more wary.
  - Trying to raise money outside
  - Need to be more creative about how to fund things
- Tesla: What are you personally looking forward to?
  - Providing students with academic experience that fires up students' love of learning
  - Sexual misconduct awareness, education, prevention -- re-administering the survey to see how well they've been doing
  - Admissions: major competitors are wealthier -- how do we compete, and attract the best students?
  - Provide more experiences to students -- x-terms -- how can we enable students to have experience outside of MIT, but doesn't slow down track to finish MIT and is financially beneficial to students?
- Mo: How frequent will the AAU survey be?
  - 4 years since last one
  - Might be dictated by State of Massachusetts
  - Maybe every 2-3 years

### **7:58 Vote to change the agenda**

Motion, seconded, passed.

### State of the UA

- Learning management systems: are they best serving students?
  - School of Science is doing trial on student dashboard
  - Are these parts communicating?
- Wellbeing Hub
  - Meeting with people in David's office
  - Will present to Council next meeting
- Techmart
  - Opening on the 17th likely
  - Will be in Rebecca's 3-11pm on weekdays
  - Have grocery list
  - Tesla: more information on pubbing? Still hiring student captain
  - Justina: Weekdays? Yes
  - Tesla: are we allowed to pub ourselves? Should councilors pub for position? One person applied for position. Group will start meeting, so don't pub position, but pub the store and opening. Don't say exact date, just yet. Allowed to send our grocery list.
- On Demand Shuttle Service
  - Boston East running until 1am
- New Fund Budget Process
  - 27K to split between undergrads and grads, meant to subsize tickets & conference grants
  - Justina: when/if the tech shuttle will revert to old route? Missing dorms on Mem drive. Alexa will ask.
- Student Life Fee
  - Ricky looking into splitting between undergrads and grads so that wouldn't need grad approval to potentially raise fee
- OneWorld
  - Not exact same as last year
  - More family oriented, not sustainable to have large parties
- Career Fair

- Volunteer for shifts in email, and here: [signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4aa9a92ca6fc1-2018](https://signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4aa9a92ca6fc1-2018)
  - Officers volunteering on Friday to sort mail
- Off-Campus rep
  - Election commission by next meeting, hopefully
- AAU Survey
  - Since some of the information is sensitive, councilors can give feedback in-person, TechCash in return
  - AAU Survey feedback here: <http://bit.ly/review912>
- UA Retreat
  - Work being done!
- Careers Committee
  - Interim report delivered to Ian
  - First year advising, impact of career fair, grad student careers, more collaboration between offices,
  - Tesla: Who is point of contact? David D.
- Social Events
  - The UA will host more!

### **8:08 Innovation Committee: Compton Lounge 26-110**

- Banana Lounge!
- Malte and Kayla say welcome to everyone in room.
- UA Innovation Committee, 21 students: last year, ran MIT Innovation Week, Student life make-a-thon, and Banana Lounge
- Background: focus as committee is to 1) bring people together, and 2) break down barriers they face
  - MIT does a good job, but still needs to improved
- Goal: change how we approach space. Should be an experience. Space impacts how we collaborate, meet new people, relax, etc.
  - Play legos, sit in bean bags, open lighting and plants for good atmosphere
- Started with 3-day experiments: how will people react?
  - CSL and DSL worked together to create pilot
- 10,000 bananas; 3,000 visits/week; 50 → 300 students/day; ¼ of undergraduates signed petition to support
- Space arrangement on slides -- natural light on tables important
- Provide coffee, tea, mugs -- sustainable, and encourage students to stay and call it home
- Beanbags in corner, and legos to relax; nap pods; tables for group work
- "This is the MIT that MIT should be: comfortable, cozy, productive, and inviting."
- Future: how can we expand this to other spaces?
  - A sustainable Compton Lounge
  - Sustainability brief attached
  - Expecting 50,000 students; working on minimizing upkeep needed, maintain as student-run space
  - How do we wash 250 mugs? Funding for dishwasher?
- Looking at working on new, different types of spaces
- Asking for councilor feedback, and support
  - Sometimes struggled to convey student support behind this space
- Eleanor: How did they wash cups? Had to wash it at Terrascope, Concourse, etc. once or twice a day. Took 30-45 min each time.
- Michael: Untapped volunteer labor force, would be happy to wash mugs
- Alexa: what does committee see as biggest space need? Ran survey through Lounge. Play, study, social as ranking. Legos were huge hit. How can we make more spaces for creative studying and group work?

- Mo: Are there specific underutilized spaces identified? Early exploration into lobbies 10 and 6, Athena clusters, meditation/prayer/irreligious space in West Campus around Walker (working with chaplain). Bathrooms: think of as transactional space, but how can we make it better?
- Justina: Will Compton Lounge space change, since Building 12 opened? Maybe things will be distributed, but the Lounge is always so full even when no bananas, coffee, yoga mats, etc. since precedence has been set.
- Paper copies distributed.

### **8:23 CUP GIR Experiment**

- Kate Weishaar presenting
- Kate was student in class last year, now works in Ian's office.
- Came up with experiment from class: what happens if we make GIRs PNR?
  - Anticipated that students wouldn't feel like they would need to overload on GIRs freshman year, and would instead explore major
- Shift schedule so that instead of 3rd GIR, students explore major, minor, or something outside of class beyond GIRs
- Students can postpone 3 science GIRs to remaining 3 years. If they designate a subject and NR it, they can retake it any point of time and still be on PNR.
- Issues: Some GIRs are pre-reqs for sophomore year classes, so working with departments to resolve this and encourage roadmapping. Not all major classes are suitable, so creating lists of classes that are suitable for first years.
- Sharing more info with students with website, compiling testimonials, changing messaging to focus on exploration
- Enrollment in science GIRs has gone down by 500 students, mostly in chemistry and bio
- These are still early results, though.
- Most students felt that they had enough information.
- Huge drop in Biology enrollment, slight in Chemistry enrollment. Will see spike in enrollment in future years. Fixes lottery!
- Almost all → 64% of students coming in with no AP credit are now taking fewer GIRs freshman year.
- Edward: This is huge. Levels playing field. If you came in with AP credit, felt like you were ahead of the game.
- Students exploring across other schools/departments
- Alexa: What classes are people taking now? Usually math classes, like 18.03.
- Eleanor: How many are in first year seminars? Uptake. Students are participating in first year seminars!
- Kat: Data from last year? No, didn't ask.
- Mike: Clarifying why 3 GIRs. With this number, students won't postpone taking GIRs.
- Meredith: CI-H requirements still the same? HASS departments: language classes start in Fall, so confuses track. So still have to take in first year.
- Meredith: Are we going to see less exploration of bio and chem? Still no final numbers, but hoping that students will take classes in big majors, and realize early on how they feel about them.
- Mike: Is there a net flow from small majors to big majors, or vice versa? If we're speeding up exploration process, won't it speed up flow from small to big majors? Think there's no flow back because they don't have time to explore, etc, so hypothesizing that this won't be true.
- Asked about different priorities in choosing classes. Have data since have asked for a few years. Fulfilling requirements went down, other markers have gone up.
- Next steps: larger faculty conversation in GIRs (long-term; 5-year). Working on improving advising in first year and beyond since students aren't super thrilled with current system. Want to work to create more tools to help with exploration: MIT Explore: how can students fit everything?.
- Proposal for Class of 2023, proposal by Feb. and decision by April.

- Darius: Any proposals yet? No, want it to be truly crowd-sourced. Running forum soon to make sure lots of students involved. Soliciting input from everyone. Send ideas to Kate, or fill out feedback form on website. Pub feedback form in Byte.
- Tesla: Are you worried that new experiment next year will not make conclusions as clear-cut? Especially since two in a row? Not concerned about perfect data, but enough to show that culture is changing. Want to keep up momentum.
- Tesla: Is there any feedback system from departments? Yes. In contact with every department: department heads, and/or their representatives. Main resistance from departments with GIRs. Fairly positive feedback, esp. From
- Eleanor: Are the departments willing to create freshman-friendly classes? Esp. in science and engineering, yes.
- Feel free to point out things that aren't quite right. Websites, faculty members, anyone or anything that restricts exploration.
- Stay tuned for more. Town halls and workshops. Focus groups.
- Justina: When does the survey for first years close? Will something along these lines be available to upperclassmen? Can share slides without data. Closes Monday. Collecting registration data after 5th week.
- Tesla: Do we have demographic data? Not yet.
- Tesla: Any questions on taking jobs/career? Yes, it is a concern, but not sure if put that on orientation survey.

#### **8:45 Budget**

- Alexa: Did everyone look at it? Nope.
- Ricky presents.
- We received more money than we expected.
- We're transferring money from reserve accounts, as always.
- Will discuss change in bylaw soon.
- Discussing committee breakdown.
- Got rid of ASA, Fresh Fund, SAC, Special Projects.
- Giving money to EC, Tea with Teachers, Technology, Travel Grants. Pilot program for travel grants worked really well last year, so funding with this new budget
- Eleanor: what is the EC fund? EC 20K over budget for rush. Got it down to 5K. Tesla is very mad. EC doesn't know how they overspent. Two large build projects, and one was bridge (never done before) and they didn't know how vetting process for budget would work, so all financial decisions were made too late. No tipping point that they were over budget. Microsoft withdrew sponsorship.
- Eleanor: Do you know where the money went? Yes, receipts exist. Spent extra 9K on wood. 3K on messing up.
- Got 6K more in sponsorship, think they can return 6K in wood (4K will definitely be returned), and removed 4K from expenses. 11K in hole now. But most likely 8K in hole.
- This means that SAO will not intervene, and EC will decide how to re-allocate it. Might cut overall EC funds by half for the semester. Other option is to uniformly hall tax, or scaling hall tax based on which halls have less/more money, since lots of halls have reserve fund. Going to HouseCom after this meeting.
- UA Officers giving EC 2K. Out of 40K UA Officer budget, and Council typically would not vote on that.
- Eleanor: Is Events committee one that does Fallfest, Springfest? Yes.
- Mike: What is Tea with Teachers doing with 2K? Tech supplies, food/prof compensation, marketing.
- Laura: How much money does a dorm have to spend to get this reciprocal money? Darius: no savings? No list of rules. Never before seen.
- Mahi: How are you going to make sure this doesn't happen again? Yes, comprehensive list is being made. Tesla will give UA officers those recommendations since UA is helping fund.
- Create prohibitory status? Yes, will discuss.

- Eleanor: Budget training? Happens with Colin, but not about how to smartly budget. Treasurers aren't required to tell presidents how budget is being spent.
- Treasurers should not be allowed to be REX chair.
- Darius: Is innovation committee budget for new or existing project? Compton is 20K, 10K for lounge developments for future, etc. Low-balled amount, that depending on how things, might need to request more funding.
- Justina: Where did Travel Grants get money from last year? Spreadsheet is a little odd, but moved 20K from UA in middle of semester instead of 0 when first budgeted.
- Kyra: Why is more than half of reserves taken out? There is no reason to have such large reserves, since as long as we can explain it -- it's good. Decided on 20-30% to set in reserves. Only spend 60% of what we budget, on top of reserve money that's just sitting there. Want to set a constant amount, so that we can get as much funding as possible. Not voting on bylaw change today.
- **Motion to vote on budget. Seconded. 11 (all) in favor. Passed.**

**9:09 Motion to adjourn. Seconded. 11 (all) in favor. Passed.**