



51 UA Council Session 2 Meeting Minutes
 September 18, 2019, 7:30pm - 9:00pm in W20-400

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

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| 1. Roll Call + Introductions | 7:30 - 7:35 |
| 2. Approval of 51 UAC 1 Minutes | 7:35 - 7:40 |
| 3. Updates on Commencement Changes | 7:40 - 8:00 |
| 4. The Media Lab; Research Funding | 8:00 - 9:00 |

Enclosures

- A. 51 UAC 1 Minutes
- B. [UA Website on Funding](#)

No quorum

Overview of Commencement survey responses

Charlotte covers data from survey

Admin interested in personalization of conferral of degrees

Mahi: everyone focused on epstein/funding, commencement discussion iis on hold until admin shifts priorities

Media Lab/Funding

Clarification discussion on what was covered over the meeting, who has speaking privileges, faculty meetings are a reflection of what they think over time.

Sam interested in committee to look at funding over 100k, protection for whistleblowers, and office of moral guidance.

Tesla has heard from media lab students that atmosphere has been negative towards whistleblowing

AJ noticed that no faculty made mention of resigning, ~400 faculty present, being taken very seriously. Thinks things are moving in the right direction

Mahi curious what we think the role of student leaders is, especially as more information is revealed Joaquin institute struggles with transparency, students are only here for 4 years and hard to establish guidelines.

Mahi our collective agreement is the undergraduate student action, sense of urgency motivates us to act, considering series of panels for undergrads and faculty around values, asks what we think is an appropriate response.

Sam found it heartbreaking that even students with no connection feel ostracized, some profs encouraged community to reach out

Mahi emphasizes that the world is watching us, reporters have reached out

Carlos asks about differentiation from Koch, Saudi, what makes money bad versus a person bad, if the use of money doesnt benefit someone whats the issue

Mahi mentioned that epstein visited MIT

Tesla brought up discussion last year in EC about money from Jeff Bezos, a very tough topic, not possible to find agreement across undergrads

Charlotte talks about MITs investment decisions, another discussion about funding ethics

Alice what makes it okay to take money from certain people, some professors highlighted its not okay to have a culture of chasing down money all the time, how can students help push a cultural shift in having the right approach to money

Yara wants to be able to give information to constituents to enable them to understand, Mahi asks if students would attend panels, Anthony says no, thinks students are disinterested, Carlos agrees. Yara didn't realize how far past MIT this was known, Tesla thinks EC cares a bit.

Sam thinks people would care more if they understood the impact, MIT sets the precedent for other schools in understanding research funding. Students ought to be educated in the full scope of the issue, thinks panels wouldnt be enough.

Tesla thinks a vague statement from the UA would be good, about not being passive and standing up against harmful culture, undergrads are powerless, but less so than grad students, thinks we can endorse more ethical review processes, other issues are complicated, hard to talk about epstein without getting pedantic

Alice people care but might not know much, are actively seeking ways to have conversations Erick mentions that research needs a mission, we need to be stricter in how we enforce ethics, the process needs to be clearer and more explicit

Tesla transparency is a problem, its objectable that MIT gave him a platform aside from taking the money, which is personally acceptable without said platform

Sam interested in seeing an undergrad on finance transparency committee, Mahi agrees

Mahi what we say is the undergraduate stance, over the next weeks we'll have more information

Meeting adjourned