



MIT UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION

52 UA Council 18 Agenda

February 11th, 2021, 9:00-10:00 PM ET, Zoom

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|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Roll Call | 9:00 - 9:05 |
| 2. Welcome and Onboarding | 9:05 - 9:20 |
| 3. State of the UA | 9:20 - 9:30 |
| 4. Election Code Amendment | 9:30 - 9:50 |
| 5. Chair of MIT Corporation Visit | 9:50 - 10:00 |



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52 UA Council Session 18 Meeting Minutes
February 11th, 2021, 9:00-10:00 PM ET, Zoom

Living Group	Representative	Present?
Baker	Laura Rosado	Y
Burton-Conner	Sarah Aaronson	Y
East Campus	Brendan Vaughan	Y
MacGregor	Shruti Ravikumar	Y
Maseeh	Octavio Vega	Y
McCormick	Adina Golden	Y
New House	Duha Syar	Y
New Vassar	Amelia Seabold	Y
Next House	Meghana Vemulapalli	Y
Random Hall	Margaret (Ret) Wang	Y
Simmons	Shaida Nishat	Y
Interfraternity Council	Jaya Kambhampaty	Y
Interfraternity Council	Orrie Page	N
Interfraternity Council	Nick Mannhardt	N
Interfraternity Council	Max von Franque	N
Living Group Council	Jason Ye	N
Off Campus	Sam D'Alonzo	Y
Panhellenic Association	Ashleigh Teygong	Y
Panhellenic Association	Catherine Washburn	Y
Panhellenic Association	Maria Ascanio	Y

9:05 Meeting begins

9:05 Welcome and Onboarding

- Welcome new councilors!
 - The UA is MIT's undergraduate student government, tasked with representing & advocating for students' interests
 - Three branches: Officers (executive), Judboard (judicial), and Council (legislative)
 - Purpose of each branch is outlined in the UA Constitution and each branch's bylaws
- Role of Council
 - Serve as a representative body for undergraduate voices to guide the UA in formulating policy stances and ensuring that the UA is working to address students' concerns
- Changes
 - In the past
 - Council meetings were like a discussion space
 - Now
 - Want Councilors to take a more active role in writing policy stances and engaging with constituents to shape those stances & their votes and also have more meaningful and engaged discussions
 - Emphasis on policy making
 - Consensus decision
 - document that represents the views of the undergrad student body -- requires near-consensus vote of Council
 - Example timeline of what this could look like:
 - 6 weeks prior to Council meeting: A Councilor decides to collaborate with a committee; they work together for a few weeks to gather evidence & write the consensus decision
 - 3 weeks prior: The Councilor and committee send out the Consensus decision to Council; each Councilor does engagement through surveys, office hours with living group over the next few weeks, and any other research necessary to vote
 - Council meeting: Publicly-held deliberation; potentially a vote
 - Prior example:
 - Black Lives Matter consensus decision from the summer
 - Potential examples for the future:
 - UA policy platform, MBTA pass project by UAPA, educational biases, divestment, student life issues, and much more!
 - To learn more: UAPA will hold a legislation-writing & advocacy session -- will send out a w2m!
 - Future work & further reforms in discussion still
 - Integration into the UA
 - Writing legislation will need to be a collaborative process between Councilors and other UA members!
 - Please be responsive on email and Slack!
 - Engagement with constituents
 - Examples of engagement methods
 - Introductory communication -- email or other method to introduce yourself as living group leader and Council / Dormcon rep, and inviting people to come to Council meetings
 - Weekly or bi-weekly pulse checks with your dorm -- use these to shape what sort of policies you want to pursue
 - Office hours, town halls, or forums for discussion

- Surveys or questionnaires to understand the distribution of opinions (eg multiple choice questions) as well as other quick feedback (eg open-ended feedback)
 - We want to compile all the engagement opportunities -- please outline a general plan + keep an eye out for a google form!
- Email Fiona, UAPA, or any officers with questions
- Councilors can also pass on the responsibility of being council representatives to another person in their organization if they do not have the bandwidth themselves
 - Some councilors worried about reaching their constituents and getting active engagement
 - Getting student buy-in is also important
 - Increasing student exposure to council
 - Increasing efficacy of council's action/actually having a positive impact on student's lives

9:25 State of the UA

- Shared a draft of mid year report with councilors, will be shared with student body in the coming weeks
- Goal: transform the UA into a student government that students believe in
 - Policy focused
 - Embedded in institutional structures
 - Integrated into student communities
 - Visible and relevant to the student body
 - Student-driven
- Acting with our values in mind, especially this year
 - Unity
 - Black Lives Matter (BLM)
 - Consensus Decision, Vigil, Fundraiser
 - UA Governance and Community
 - General Body Meetings, Weekly Cabinet
 - UA Connect
 - UA First Year Program
 - MIT Community
 - Q-week Challenge and UA Music Match and MIT Got Talent
 - Joining Boston Intercollegiate Government (BIG)
 - Student governments from over 11 different schools, over 60,000 constituencies within the greater Boston area
 - Equity
 - UA Diversity Council
 - Adoption of Indigenous Peoples Day
 - Free menstrual products in Dorms
 - 2020 Election
 - GOTV Fest, Election Holiday Advocacy and Consensus Decision
 - Legal, Ethical, and Equity Committee
 - Disability advocacy
 - Ad hoc Committee on COVID-19
 - Free menstrual products
 - Authenticity
 - Governing Document Review
 - JudBoard Bylaws, Off-campus Rep, LGC Rep
 - Visibility and Communication
 - UA Byte, Instagram, Facebook Events

- Academic Violations Team
 - Community Service Newsletter (The Circuit)
 - Forums
 - Campus Experience, Task Force 2021, Grading Policy, Emergency Academic Regulations
 - MIT COVID Hack
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- Looking forward
 - Q week challenge, part two
 - Climate action plan
 - DEI strategic action plan
 - Diversity Audit
 - Grade transparency
 - UA alumni database

9:45 Election Code Amendment

- Inflexible election code (current one on the UA website), particularly during a pandemic
 - Needing to collect signatures, having a budget, etc. doesn't make sense during a pandemic
- Amending the code with an emergency clause that allows for changes in the code during the semester
- Will need a population vote for this amendment
- Laying this on the table so that we can vote on it next week

9:50 Chair of MIT Corporation Visit

- Diane Greene & Vrajash Modi joining us for council next week
- Greene will talk for 15 minutes at the beginning but lots of time for questions
- A form for questions will be sent out ahead of the meeting
- Tell your constituents to come, this is a great opportunity to learn about the corporation!

10:00 PM Motion to Adjourn.

Jaya motions, Meghana seconds.