MIT UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION

52 UA Council Session 4 Meeting Minutes

June 11th, 2020 9:00 PM-10:30 PM EDT, Zoom

Living Group	**Representative**	**Present?**
Baker	Laura Rosado	Y
Burton-Conner	Sarah Aaronson	Y
East Campus	Miana Smith	Y
MacGregor	Seif Eses & Albert Gerovitch	Y
Maseeh	Zach Villaverde	Y
McCormick	Afeefah & Yara Komaiha	Y
New House	Sarah Edwards	Y
Next House	Thomas Adebiyi	Y
Random Hall	Sonia Reilly	Y
Simmons	Shaida Nishat	Y
Interfraternity Council	Nico Salinas	Y
Interfraternity Council	Jaya Kambhampaty	Y
Interfraternity Council	Maximilian Porlein	N
Interfraternity Council	Sam Costa	Y
Living Group Council	Jason Ye	N
Off Campus	Sam D'Alanzo	Y
Panhellenic Association	Kate Nelson	Y
Panhellenic Association	Stephanie Zhang	Y
Panhellenic Association	Valerie Chen	Y

52 UA Council Session 4 Agenda

June 11th, 2020, 9:00-10:30 PM EDT, Zoom

1. Roll Call	9:00 - 9:05
2. Minutes Approval	9:05 - 9:10
3. Fundraiser Update	9:10 - 9:20
4. Consensus Decision	9:20 - 10:00
5. COVID-19 Update	10:00 - 10:30

9:05 Meeting Begins
Motion, seconded, all in favor. Passed.

9:07 Chaplin
- HR
    - Amid concerns and controversial email, Tech Catholic Chaplain steps down from position
- Apology for outside engagements survey will be sent shortly

9:08 Minutes Approval
- Minutes were abbreviated in the context of a closed meeting.
    - Sarah Edwards asked about limits on what "closed" officially means.
    - Albert feels closed should be stream-lined with exceptions for specific statements
    - In the future, closed meetings could potentially allow for participants to request statements to be "on the record."
- Motion to vote. Seconded.

Living Group	**Representative**	**Present?**
Baker	Laura Rosado	Y
Burton-Conner	Alex Quach & Sarah Aaronson	Y
East Campus	Miana Smith	Y
MacGregor	Seif Eses & Albert Gerovitch	abstain
Maseeh	Zach Villaverde	Y
McCormick	Yara Komaiha	Y
New House	Sarah Edwards	Y
Next House	Thomas Adebiyi	abstain
Random Hall	Sonia Reilly	Y
Simmons	Shaida Nishat	Y
Interfraternity Council	Nico Salinas	Y
Interfraternity Council	Jaya Kambhampaty	Y
Interfraternity Council	Zach Rolfness	-
Interfraternity Council	Sam Costa	Y
Living Group Council	Jason Ye	-
Off Campus	Sam D'Alanzo	-
Panhellenic Association	Kate Nelson	Y

Panhellenic Association	Stephanie Zhang	Y
Panhellenic Association	Valerie Chen	Y

Motion Passes. 14 yeses. 2 abstains

9:16 Fundraising Update.

- Fiona explains that UA has been working with various organizations to pool money to match donations for a fundraiser. Fundraiser details will be sent out tonight (6/11) or tomorrow (6/12)
- Consensus issues with uses funds from various organizations' budgets
    - Various feedback about decision and if it is allowed
    - Danielle mentions that she was told that groups are able to donate as long as amounts remain under $5000.
    - Kevin mentions that the clubs should rechannel the donations back to MIT.
    - Consensus decision could potentially sway them, but there is not a precedent for this.
    - Suzy Nelson says that a consensus decision could further progress on the topic.
- Fiona, on behalf of UA, envisioned fundraising would match donations 1:1 and to encourage further engagement, letters of advocacy or tuitions would have higher matching incentives.
    - Guidance and templates would be provided with events to follow for questions
- Precedent of rules being broken. Fundraiser being shown support, but some officers have concerns about publicizing before official confirmation
    - Ex. Epstein donations
- Head of finance is concerned about budget consequences. Fundraising support is likely, but some officers hope to hold off before advertising.
- UA Council concerned that budget issues will be dealt with before petitions and letters to local government will take affect (in the case of waiting to publicize)

9:25 Consensus Decision.

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are important now more than ever amid police brutality towards black people and other POC. This consensus decision could start a precedent to encourage further decisions in support.
    - Danielle mentions emphasizing work towards feasible suggestions for support during the summer of 2020 and onwards.
    - Police issues are not mentioned in the notes; consensus has not yet been met among undergraduates.
    - Albert feels that consensus decisions maintain power in rarity (ex. One every meeting could be redundant)
    - Afeefah felt that demands for departments across campus should be included in the document.
    - DEI officers are now mandated to be in all departments. Danielle feels issues that require clarity should be handled first ("low-hanging fruit")
- Consensus decision on advancing anti-racist solutions
    - Kelvin gives an overview of the document. Emphasis on what can be done in the short term to contribute towards long term change.
    - Present moment is detailed and context is given as it applies to MIT.
    - Sarah Aaronson mentions detail could be included, as a part of the memorial or the history, about MIT's identity as a land grant university and the history that accompanies it (profiting off of the land of indiginous peoples).

- Sarah Edwards mentions that acknowledging that this is just a sort of jumping off point that will act as a call to action as opposed to a final statement.
- Danielle mentions that inclusions of MIT's land history is already being publicized.
- Some verbiage on MIT's website appears to gloss over the meaning behind "land grant institutions"
- Danielle and Albert mention that phrases such as "publicly acknowledge" are ambiguous
- Fiona is wondering what goal is for indigenous peoples (E.g. compensation? acknowledgement?)
    - Space on campus, Columbus Day replaced with indigenous peoples' day
    - Most funds from land have already been invested over time
- Yara voices concern in aiming for "low-hanging fruit." Difficult goals should be aimed for in order to voice the sentiment of the UA.
- Danielle feels that bigger goals are completely feasible, and it is necessary to condemn events while they are most relevant. Her goal is to accomplish smaller goals to enact a more ambitious plan.
- Meghana wonders if notice of "high-hanging fruit" can be included in the document. Afeefah and Yara mirror this statement and hope to include a note of a follow up.
- Fiona mentions that including more ambitious plans may be helpful in strategic planning for the future.
    - Some sort of integration of anti-racist ideas incorporated into core curriculum
    - Danielle wants to communicate with student body before doing so
- Delvin explains hold on hiring decisions for DEI staff. MIT would need to enable hiring to "undo" the current pause that has been placed.

Motion to vote on Consensus Decision. Seconded

Living Group	**Representative**	**Present?**
Baker	Laura Rosado	Y
Burton-Conner	Sarah Aaronson	-
East Campus	Miana Smith	Y
MacGregor	Seif Eses & Albert Gerovitch	Y
Maseeh	Zach Villaverde	abstain
McCormick	Afeefah & Yara Komaiha	Y (could be better but want info sent out)
New House	Sarah Edwards	Y
Next House	Thomas Adebiyi	Y
Random Hall	Sonia Reilly	Y
Simmons	Shaida Nishat	Y
Interfraternity Council	Nico Salinas	Y

Interfraternity Council	Jaya Kambhampaty	Y
Interfraternity Council	Zach Rolfness	-
Interfraternity Council	Sam Costa	Y
Living Group Council	Jason Ye	-
Off Campus	Sam D'Alonzo	-
Panhellenic Association	Kate Nelson	Y
Panhellenic Association	Stephanie Zhang	Y
Panhellenic Association	Valerie Chen	Y

14 yeses. 1 abstain. Motion passes.

- McCormick on the record- believes it could be better but do want to prevent it going out
- Zach's abstain vote is in concern of fundraising. does not want to support for groups "advocating violence."

10:05 Covid-19 Update.

- Yu Jing discusses first report put out by UA committee on COVID-19
    - Suggestions based on student feedback based off of potential scenarios for the coming school year
    - Timeline somewhat limited community engagement
    - http://ua.mit.edu/resources-documents details UA committee recommendations based off of research and student input
    - Report in the works for the recommendations to MIT of decision release schedule (e.g. dorm assignment, transition plan) and ethical considerations of contact tracing/surveillance
- Fiona explains the contract tracing apps/systems that will need to be put in place upon return to campus
    - Could potentially be data collection based off of swipes into dorms of buildings
    - Some students may have privacy concerns because of this data collection which could warp results and affect the accuracy of campus-wide studies
    - UA committee on COVID-19 aims to find what level of data students are comfortable giving
    - Danielle mentions that feedback form is available and Yu Jing mentions the UA committee on COVID-19 feedback form.
    - Miana wonders about required accuracy rate for app-based data to be reliable
        - Compliance may be required by waiver on return to campus
    - Jaya adds that the goal of the microcosm communities, with complete compliance, is to potentially avoid the need for more invasive methods of data collection and to create some semblance of normalcy for students
- Kelvin adds that the compliance conversation highly depends on student voices and what the undergraduate population would be comfortable
- Fiona states the focus on contract tracing could potentially be based off of test results
    - What sort of release of information is helpful versus invasive? (e.g. 10% of students in a specific dorm have tested positively for COVID-19)
- Nico mentions that many are concerned about the restraints placed on students living off-campus. Will they be able to access academic buildings and other MIT spaces?

    - Danielle believes that MIT medical will still be a resource to students on campus.
    - Fiona conjectures that medical resources may be available, but determinations on common spaces and laboratories are not yet set (Danielle mentions that lab access will not be possible without confirmation).
    - Sarah Edwards is concerned about the hours of card access to various spaces.
- Yu Jing mentions that there is a task force in place to listen to concerns of 2024's in regards to housing and their transition.
- Fiona and Yu Jing are wondering if lack of dialogue on privacy concerns is a result of time to synthesize or in acquiescence to having their data being racked
    - Albert expresses a desire to return to campus, if that means having his data collected then so be it.
    - Fiona mentions the concern that tracking may potentially aid law enforcement in arresting protest participants
    - Some phones may not be equipped to download the apps for contact tracing

10:29 Motion to Adjourn.
Sarah Edwards motions, Seif Seconds.