



MIT UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION

52 UA Council Session 5 Meeting Minutes
June 25th, 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	Diego Escobedo	Y
Interfraternity Council	Maximilian Porlein	Y
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 5 Agenda

June 25th, 2020, 9:00-10:30 PM EDT, Zoom

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|---|---------------|
| 1. Roll Call | 9:00 - 9:05 |
| 2. Minutes Approval | 9:05 - 9:07 |
| 3. VPR Funding and Support | 9:07 - 9:30 |
| 4. COVID-19 Housing Assignment Discussion | 9:30 - 9:45 |
| 5. Class of 2021 Letter | 9:45 - 10:00 |
| 6. Council Operations | 10:00 - 10:30 |

9:05 Meeting Begins

Motion, seconded, all in favor. Passed.

9:09 Minutes Approval

Motion to approve by Zach Villaverde. Seconded by Sarah Aaronson.

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	Y
Maseeh	Zach Villaverde	Y
McCormick	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	Diego Escobedo	Y
Interfraternity Council	Jan Wojcik	Y
Interfraternity Council	Sam Costa	Y
Living Group Council	Jason Ye	-
Off Campus	Sam D'Alanzo	Y
Panhellenic Association	Kate Nelson	Y
Panhellenic Association	Stephanie Zhang	Y
Panhellenic Association	Valerie Chen	Y

Motion Passes. 18 yeses.

9:12 VPR Funding and Support

- IFC collaborative effort presented by Nico Salinas and Zoe Levitt. Increasing Training about Title IX Process
 - Aiming to increase student access to resources and increase funding from VPR
 - Proposing new reporting options for title IX infractions
- Optional Sexual Assault Prevention Trainings are in place but response trainings are limited
 - Prevention trainings should include a responsive component
- Social Host Training from FSILG and AODS
 - Chapters must send percentage of their membership to annual training
- PLEASURE Educator Training from VPR- 40 hours of training that takes place in a week (once or twice a year)
- VPR has only two staff members, so scheduling is a difficulty. If trainings are increased, more staff will be necessary in order to properly educate participants
- IDHR received more funding, however, they are focused more specifically on labs and workplace dynamics.
- What is missing from incoming training
 - Incoming first-year student are required to complete both AlcoholEdu and Sexual Assault Prevent modules before arriving on campus
 - However, upon joining an IFC chapter, students are not trained in how to report a sexual assault, how to respond to various claims, and generally how to unpack title IX
 - Potential for dorms/communities to host trainings, a greater frequency of trainings, and increased staffing at VPR and Title IX to bolster trainings
- Panhel currently has Sexual Assault training, but Kate agrees that VPR is not currently able to accommodate the need for increased training
- Andie Maloney, a part of UA wellness, agrees that funding needs to be increased
- Chapter president approval would be needed in order to make training a requirement
 - Multiple council members are interested in the number of chapters currently opting-in to the training which is not currently mandatory
 - However, there is also a backlog on requests as chapters have similar meeting times and VPR can only do one training per weekend.
 - Danielle mentions that because fraternities have been requesting training, the UA's involvement could potentially aid in attaining more ample funding
 - David Spicer inquires about inclusivity about training. Nico mentions that trainings are typically more effective when given by a member of the chamber
- Panhel utilizes VPR and SPXCE, but both are understaffed so receiving training is difficult
 - Danielle mentions that SPXCE is utilized by staff as well. Potential for outside hiring to increase training
 - Fiona is wondering about policy/exception for IDHR and VPR; is hiring freeze the current issue or is it inaction
 - Danielle mentions that the office itself is a limiting constraint; a letter to enact change is necessary
- Yu Jing and Zoe Levitt suggest all campus day focused on sexual assault prevention and response- all campus movement that will begin conversation
 - Andie suggests considering a way to make it a sustained push for education not a one time thing
- VPR has been asking chapter presidents for feedback on training; Nico mentions there is room to change training. Currently VPR staff goes to an individual chapter
 - Many officers suggest multiple IFC chapters attend the same training
- Fiona is nervous that unless it is a followup to the letter, not much of an impact will be made
 - Andie wants to pursue multiple methods of sustaining the effort, suggests that UA Wellness could possible organize a group effort (possibility for a UA committee)
 - Student Advisory Committee, run through Bianca, is primarily focused on grad students
 - Andie wants undergraduate reach to increase

- Initiative of Student Wellness vs. UA Committee
 - Danielle and Andie feel that as an initiative, the progress will be long-term
 - A UA Committee may difficult to create progress and could fizzle out
- Zoe mentions that grad student council could team up with UA in order to learn from their success with trainings and keeping the progress going
- Sam is wondering if IFC response to sexual assault cases is standardized
 - Nico notes that IFC does not handle sexual assault cases; COD handles the majority of the cases;
 - However, Zoe adds that frats are allowed to remove the member without going through the title IX process. Currently, the IFC will be working on guidelines on how to respond (that is up to each chapter)
- Zoe says that the Title IX process is being revamped currently, but she is hoping to include the undergrad population outside of UA. Kelvin, a member of the council discussing the matter, adds that the changes are ridiculous and echoes the same concerns as Zoe
- Andie wants to establish a form or channel that will allow students to air grievances
- IFC, Panhel, and Zoe will be drafting the letter. Zoe would like other groups (Pleasure, SPXCE, etc...) to sign on
- Rachel McIntosh from Pleasure exec, extends Pleasure's support
- Kelvin will send a when2meet to schedule a meeting to talk and write the letter about sexual harassment/assult issues
 - Involve councilors + pleasure as needed

9:51 Covid-19 Housing Assignment Discussion

- Danielle wants UA councilors to stay on the same page in terms of information
 - Sarah Edwards mentions there are not many updates on the DormCon side. Each analysis will be specific to each dorm and living group.
 - Once senior admin gives more information, Sarah Edwards mentions there will be more information
 - If pod living is different from current living groups, the situation will be difficult. Housing lottery assignments raise a lot of questions
 - Nico Salinas mentions that IFC has determined that one person will be allowed to live per bedroom
 - FSILGs may have to become pods at reduced capacity
 - For IFCs, there may be concerns about who will return
 - Kate Nelson mentions that Panhel presented a set of recommendations to Suzy Nelson
 - Conversations focused on what FSILGs will look like with social-distancing
 - What will housing and meal plans look like while in pods
 - Albert Gerovitch adds that survey has helped to garner student feedback
 - ~900 responses on the survey however, it is not accessible to 2024's
 - Sarah Aaronson adds that BC would like the policy to account for the fact that residents may not have a building/new building assignment yet

10:00 Class of 2021 Letter

- Tema Nwana, Senior Class VP, mentions that letter advocates for senior return, while acknowledging there are many valid reasons for return to campus
 - Link to Letter
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MOsFMFiAcAV9bfHYB1FoXgMFi3J18WRnPlao54x_QQI/edit
 - Vitality of being on campus; letters of recommendation are especially necessary for seniors in order to successfully transition from MIT
 - Seniors need the tools to help the world upon graduating from MIT

- Not having a senior year could potentially hinder alumni relations
- Preparation for the future is pivotal
- Letter has garnered over 400 signatures from current students and alumnus and endorsement of UA Covid-19 Committee; currently no response from senior leadership
- Albert Gerovitch inquires about endorsements; Kofi Blake adds that they are added at the bottom of the letter
- Kofi Blake adds that the next step would be publication in The Tech to increase visibility
- Nico Salinas suggests reaching out to various offices on campus

10:07 Council Operations

- Danielle Geathers offers potential for general change and opens floor for change in logistics
 - Naomi Michael would like to set up a Slack and Google Calendar for UA
 - Generally, council seems to support these ideas though some members do not favor slack
 - JudBoard path has not been followed up on
 - JudBoard Bylaws need to be moved forward; Fiona Chen mentions the appeal process is not officially documented.
 - JudBoard amendments have not been altered as yet, but they will be making changes to the formal appeals process before evaluating the appeal.
 - Appeals process would likely first go to council and then back to JudBoard
 - Albert Gerovitch adds that there is no official plan to approve the council of these bylaws yet. Amendments will be postponed until broader constitutional review takes place
 - Google form would be helpful for roll-call
 - Always posted for every meeting,
 - Minutes approval would still be vocal
 - Dorm Con switches up vote (Yara is concerned that people at the end may be influenced by order)
 - Fiona Chen is curious about need for vocal vote; Danielle feels that as a council votes are intended to be public
 - Multiple officers support the idea for mixed vote order
 - Miana mentions that the typical rhythm of voting is a time saver
 - Naomi and Fiona mention that forms could avoid peer pressure
- Yara Komaiha mentions that Harvard UC sent a letter to admin regarding a tuition decrease
 - Yara will try to get number from Harvard students
 - Michigan was going to raise tuition and it was turned down
 - Many other schools are considering raising tuition
 - Albert Gerovitch believes the issue may fit better under the Covid-19 Committee
 - Potential for survey to include tuition questions
 - Yara will be sending out information about Harvard
 - Stephanie Zhang is wondering about tuition rates for on campus vs off campus students and if it will be altered based on resources
 - Nico Salinas mentions that his interactions with faculty has given him the impression that there are no definite decisions being made
 - Danielle and Yu Jing feel that the issue has not been handled yet
 - Meghana Vemulpalli adds that there is a question giving participants an option to select "potential financial aid and tuition cost adjustments"
 - Yara Komaiha feels that we could set up the conversation to avoid working down from an increase
 - Fiona Chen feels that UA should advocate for tuition decrease; postponement could be about decrease amount, but regardless, decrease should take place as a result of lack of resources

- Kelvin Green mentions that Continuity committee has not addressed tuition change yet
- Danielle will be reaching out to the dean of Financial Aid
- Ethan Feuer has not heard anything regarding tuition adjustment
- Yu Jing mentions that the Covid-19 Committee can contact the Office of Financial Aid in order to gather more information about tuition decisions
 - What do we request? A decrease or a specific percentage
 - Danielle wants to gauge what they are thinking before making requests
 - Yu Jing mentions that solely a decrease may not be sufficient; it will have to be substantial
- Danielle is in favor of starting the conversation.
- Meghana Vemulpalli feels that the conversation could be started; Stephanie Zhang agrees that it would be valuable to have a group ready to go
- Google form will be sent out by Yu Jing

10:34 Motion to Adjourn.

Yara Komaiha Motions. Kate Nelson seconds.