



MIT UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION

52 UA Council 8 Agenda

July 23rd, 2020, 9:00-10:30 PM EDT, Zoom

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|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Roll Call | 9:00 - 9:05 |
| 2. Minutes Approval | 9:05 - 9:10 |
| 3. JudBoard Bylaws | 9:10 - 9:40 |
| 4. Student Leaders on Leave | 9:40 - 10:00 |
| 5. Emergency Disruption Clause | 10:00 - 10:15 |
| 6. Diversity Council | 10:15 - 10:30 |



MIT UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION

52 UA Council Session 8 Meeting Minutes
July 23rd, 2020, 9:00-10:30 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	Summer Vo	Y
McCormick	Afeefah Khazi-Syed & Yara Komaiha	Y
New House	Sarah Edwards	Y
Next House	Thomas Adebisi	Y
Random Hall	Sonia Reilly	Y
Simmons	Shaida Nishat	Y
Interfraternity Council	Sam Costa	Y
Interfraternity Council	Jaya Kambhampaty	Y
Interfraternity Council	Jan Wojcik	Y
Interfraternity Council	Nico Salinas	Y
Living Group Council	Jason Ye	N
Off Campus	Sam D'Alonzo	Y
Panhellenic Association	Kate Nelson	Y
Panhellenic Association	Stephanie Zhang	Y
Panhellenic Association	Valerie Chen	Y

9:05 Minutes Approval

Living Group	Representative	Vote
Baker	Laura Rosado	Y
Burton-Conner	Sarah Aaronson	Y
East Campus	Miana Smith	Y
MacGregor	Seif Eses & Albert Gerovitch	Y
Maseeh	Summer Vo	Y
McCormick	Afeefah Khazi-Syed & Yara Komaiha	Y
New House	Sarah Edwards	Y
Next House	Thomas Adebisi	Y
Random Hall	Sonia Reilly	Y
Simmons	Shaida Nishat	Y
Interfraternity Council	Sam Costa	Y
Interfraternity Council	Jaya Kambhampaty	Y
Interfraternity Council	Jan Wojcik	-
Interfraternity Council	Nico Salinas	Y
Living Group Council	Jason Ye	N
Off Campus	Sam D'Alonzo	Y
Panhellenic Association	Kate Nelson	Y
Panhellenic Association	Stephanie Zhang	Y
Panhellenic Association	Valerie Chen	Y

17 yeses

9:10 PM JudBoard Bylaws

Bylaws sections are close to being finished; Fiona C. and Shelly Ben-David describe bylaws

- 5 sections include: Purpose, Composition, submission and acceptance of cases, working on cases, ruling on cases, and appeals
- Purpose
 - Resolve conflicts that may arise in UA
- Composition
 - New change being proposed; Reserve Pool they will represent the board as a person

- Submission & Acceptance of Cases
 - If one JudBoard member deems a case nonfrivolous, then it will be reviewed
- Working on Cases
 - Self-recusal is encouraged in the case of a conflict-of-interest
 - Hearing process involves a series of deadlines pertinent to the case; people involved, not JudBoard, are culpable for finding the evidence in a timely manner
 - Each side will have 30 min, including opening statements and questions; ruling will be discussed between 24 and 5 days later
- Ruling on Cases
 - JudBoard should attempt to find a consensus; Chair of the Board is responsible for sending out decisions
- Appeals
 - In the case of new evidence, the case goes back to JudBoard;
 - Bylaw violations will be reviewed by Council with the possibility of impeachment and then to a Board derived from the Reserve Pool;
 - Disagreement in interpretation will initially go to Council and then to a Board derived from the Reserve Pool
- Reserve Pool System
 - Fiona C. says that there are still questions regarding this body of people
 - Reasons for a Reserve Pool
 - Conflict of interest
 - Appeals may require a new set of individuals
 - Options:
 - Outgoing president nominates both JudBoard individuals and reserve pool
 - IFC, Panhel, Dormcon, and dorm judicial boards form the reserve pool; possibly disproportionate representation
 - Members of Council each nominate one individual and then the number of members of the reserve pools will match the number of Council members
- Feedback/ Comments
 - Danielle G. adds that members should be acknowledged
 - Council: Jaya, Albert, Yara, Kate
 - JudBoard: Shelly, Roy, Eric
 - Fiona wanted to clarify that edits are still being made, so vote will likely be at next Council meeting
 - Kelvin G. has concerns about involving other organizations in the JudBoard appointments;
 - He wonders what sort of documentation would be required and feels that independence in appointment may be more beneficial
 - Kelvin also prefers the lack of Council presence (especially in cases of new evidence) unless necessary (mishandling)
 - Fiona adds that the misinterpretation issue should have an additional step to vet individuals but does not want the process to be overly tedious
 - Stephanie Z. was curious if there was a process to determine which members of the reserve pool would be selected in the case of an appeal or conflict of interest
 - Fiona replies that they normally exclude anyone who was previously involved for selection
 - Options
 - Generally, positive reception to appointment through in option 1
 - However, many council members unofficially voted against Option 2, which involves IFC, Panhel, Dormcon, and dorm judboards to form a reserve pool
 - However, Jaya K. still feels that randomization would avoid conflict of interest and Jaya feels that IFC is very experienced in handling cases
 - Miana S. expresses that the dorm and IFC/Panel chairs handle cases of different natures than that of JudBoard

- Shelly B. feels that reserve pool is more of a safety net than a frequent necessity
 - Stephanie Z. explains Panhel judicial board, but she explains that one individual from each chapter is selected; however, she adds that a proportionately smaller number of cases are dealt with than the aforementioned organizations
 - Shelly B. adds that Maseeh board usually handles cases individually; Summer V. adds that she has no knowledge of any handling of cases by Maseeh
 - Sarah E. adds that the Dormcon judboard has not been active for some time
 - Fiona C. wanted to get a sense of the activity of judboards: Afeefah K. adds that McCormick Judboard is active, but handles more complaints than judicial issues
 - Yara K. also feels that a recommendation system could be implemented, and therefore, the endorsement would not necessarily be required
 - Danielle G. is wondering about the timeline of recommendations;
 - Fiona C. says that if no one has people to recommend (if it is not required) then there will be a lack of endorsements
 - Fiona feels that the outgoing president could nominate people to the reserve pool; they could be nominated both independently and from the organizations to supplement the number of applicants
- Anonymous feedback form: tiny.cc/bylaws-feedback

9:39PM Student Leaders on Leave

- Danielle G. adds that leaves of absence (LOAs) will likely drastically increase this year
 - Yale University announced that unenrolled students may participate in clubs as both members and leaders
 - Yale wanted to avoid LOAs from impeding on extracurricular involvement
 - No one is paying for student life fee which removes a point of differentiation from enrolled and unenrolled students
- Groups Consulted
 - Directly
 - UA Advisor
 - DSL
 - ASA
 - Faculty Governance
 - Boston Intercollegiate Government
 - Indirectly
 - David Randall, Senior Associate Dean for Student Support and Wellbeing
 - MIT Senior Leadership
- Danielle and Yu Jing spoke with ASA leaders about new rules
 - 50% of executive board will no longer need to be MIT students (excluding the president and treasurer)
 - Organizations will still need registered students serving as President, Treasurer, and financial signatories
 - MIT students on leave may continue to participate in MIT activities that are open to the MIT community
 - Megan X. wonders if there are two co-presidents and one is unregistered; Danielle responds that one student would officially be president, but the other student would be involved in running the organization
- Anonymous Poll: Who is thinking about taking leave?
 - <https://forms.gle/e6NipHgGWRddLuEi6>
- Roughly 23 no's and 3 yeses. However, Danielle G. adds that this number is by no means representative of the MIT population

- UA Leadership Positions
 - Positions
 - Principal and Assistant Officers
 - JudBoard
 - Stand and Ad-Hoc Committee Chairs
 - Election Commissioners
 - Off Campus Rep (in general UA Council voting members are determined by their respective governing documents. However, there is an exception for Off campus rep)
 - Danielle G. wonders about Council stance on committee members serving while taking a LOA;
 - Sarah A. feels that there is no reason to prevent unenrolled students from being committee chairs, especially given the specificity of the situation
 - Afeefah K. feels that turning over leadership will not be productive, and feels that this should be a temporary policy
 - Nico S. wonders if there will be a distinction between an on-campus LOA versus off-campus LOA
 - Danielle feels that discontinuity of experience is fairly generalized
 - Stephanie Z. worries that being on leave may prevent students from dedicating time to their position (as they will not be spending time on classes)
 - Yu Jing C. adds that while this change is not permanent, it will set a precedence for the future
 - Megan X. wonders how the ASA rules apply to UA; Danielle adds that UA is unaffected
 - Fiona C. wonders if policy may depend on positions, in regards to loss of community and effects of social distancing
 - Megan X. prefers to have UA officers to be currently enrolled students; if UA is representing all undergraduates, then there should potentially be students on LOA involved
 - Stephanie X. feels that because such a significant percentage of students will be on leave; it may be helpful to include representation from students on LOA
 - Nico S. asks if there are any positions that require officers to be on campus or registered.
 - For example, Nico mentions that he is on the commencement committee, so his position is tied to his enrollment
 - Danielle feels that the UA education committee is discussing similar issues.
 - Furthermore, Danielle feels that the issue largely pertains to institute committees
 - Megan X. feels that cases should be dealt with on an individual basis to determine that the person on leave has the necessary time to devote to their role

10:00 PM Emergency Disruption Clause

- Significant Disruption
 - Danielle mentions that the UA definition includes full-time students
 - Faculty governance committee has a significant disruption policy (put into place in order to change the grading scheme)
 - Kelvin G. describes policy 2.102 for significant disruption which delineates extreme cases that would lead to a decision such as this.
 - Changes must abide by a list of criterion including: confirmation to recommendations of administration and health of students
- Where could it have helped?
 - Nominations

- Institute Committee
 - JudBoard
 - Election Commission
 - Elections
 - UA President and VP
 - Class Council
 - Off Campus Rep
- Where can it still help?
 - Membership
 - Include LOA students as UA Members (for leadership)
- Where it can hurt?
 - Bad actors
 - Stipulations should limit abuse of policy
- Kelvin feels that the faculty governance policy would be replaced by UA specifications
 - <https://facultygovernance.mit.edu/rules-and-regulations#2-102>
- Sam A. wonders who would make decisions about what denotes significant disruption
 - Danielle adds that the president would consult with Council and make a decision
- Megan X. wonders if faculty stops significant disruption, would UA follow suit?
 - Danielle feels that UA would probably make a similar decision, but not necessarily be tied to faculty decisions
 - Danielle adds that even if academic groups return to normalcy, student groups may still require significant disruption circumstances
- Gauging interest
 - No council members gave response.
- Danielle wants an official vote to approve UA officers looking into the issue

10:10 Vote for UA Approval to find a way to accomplish this Sarah A. motions. Laura M. Seconds

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Panhellenic Association	Stephanie Zhang	Y
Panhellenic Association	Valerie Chen	Y

Motion Passes.

10:12PM Motion to add update on diversity council

Sarah A. Motions. Jaya K. Seconds

10:12PM Update on diversity council

- Kelvin G. adds that there is a timeline of August to start progress; ideation of charter and bylaws are currently underway
- Open to all student groups (identity based, interest based, etc.)
- He adds that he hopes to give an additional update at the next council meeting
- ICO background
 - Diversity and Equity at MIT
 - Will be crafting a 3-5 year action plan; thinking about the future
- Danielle presented a question of what structure can support this effort?
 - Kelvin hopes to enlist students from all communities to garner feedback from a variety of sources

10:17PM Motion to Adjourn.