Cabinet Meeting 4

November 21, 2019 7:00PM in W20-400

Agenda

7:00 - 7:35   Officers' Office Hours

7:35 - 7:45   Committee Matters Arising
Pressing Committee-Specific Issues (outside of updates below)

7:45 - 8:25   UA General Body Updates

Attendance + Committee Updates

Committee & Chairs	Committee Updates	Present?
Alumni Affairs	- Committee bonding event 12/15 - Planning a UPOP alumni mixer for IAP - Discussion of long term goals	X
Campus Planning	- Met with Open Spaces Programming, OoS, Grounds to determine next steps - Lights between Lobby 7 and Stud in progress! Meeting with electrician next week to scope out landscape - Tree swings effectively vetoed by we are not deterred! Free-standing porch-style swing for Hive garden?? - Coniferous saplings are being offered to different buildings and departments! Emails being sent out Thursday	X
Community & Diversity		X
Community Service	- Two volunteering events this week open to MIT community - Friday: Community Servings - Saturday: American Cancer Society Hope Lodge - Two volunteering events set for IAP already - Greater Boston Food Bank (1/11) - More Than Words (1/16) - Volunteering events for next semester are currently being set up - Planning a holiday-themed study break with Happy Club tentatively Sun, 12/8	X
Education	- First subcommittee meetings to decide goals for the year - Social events for students to meet potential advisors - Course 8 mixer in early spring? - Adding more qualitative info, more	X

	informative questions to course evaluations ● Addressed violations as necessary	
Events	● SpringFest ○ In contact with the agent to discuss potential artists ○ Internal conversations about changing the format of the event ● TechTwinkles ○ December 3, 7:30-9:00 ○ Working with DSL and grounds to get all the lights set up before students get back from Thanksgiving ○ Come show your support for the committee and student performers (+new mug shapes this year) ○ Sneak peak of mugs to encourage y'all to lowkey pub the event	X
Finboard		
Innovation	Another two weeks! Our three loci this month have been 1) project sprints, 2) starting work on the long-term, and 3) internal relations As a recap, we've been continuing to evolve our team to better work on big and meaningful challenges facing students. Operating with the vision of "our heads in the clouds; and hearts on the ground, serving people here and now," we have launched seven new projects focused on making a difference in both the next 10 days and the next 10 years:	X
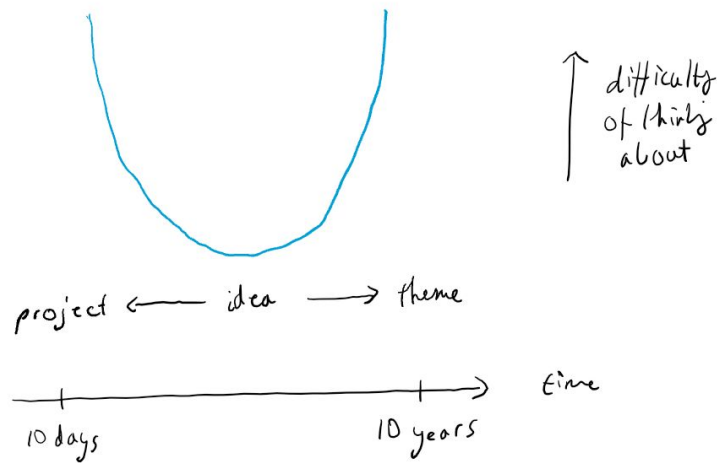
The seven-projects revolve around helping students feeling like they have the "time" to work on things they care about; being more aware of the world outside of MIT; feeling happy; not going hungry; helping students find peace; challenging ideas and beliefs; and connecting students past freshman year. Three more teams will be created.

First, on the ten-day scale, our projects have been in a "sprint" for the last two weeks, working to make a difference to students today. These projects are being deployed this week; with after-action reports being written afterwards.

Second, on the ten-year scale, we've been thinking a lot about how we can help our teams

better conceive of and make a difference on a time scale that covers half of our lives(!). With the conclusion of our sprints, we now focus on infrastructure and policy. To that end, we have organized a dozen small dinners made up of 3-4 UA Innovation members with one MIT custodian/staff member/faculty who have been here for 20+ years, to seek background and inspiration about large problems and slow change. These will be taking place over the next two weeks.

Third, internal relations: we have been working to make sure that everyone on our team feels safe and welcome. We've met with UA CoS Rishi (10/31) about this, led a discussion at our last UA Cabinet (11/7), and spoke with the whole UA Officers team (11/18) about this issue UA-wide.

Internal to our team, we have held a discussion on our community values (11/11) and starting making changes including: i. drafting a change to our bylaws to include our community values, ii. changing our meeting structure to reaffirm these each meeting and make sure we're all in a shared headspace where we can feel vulnerable and weird (two precursors to "innovation"), and iii. more proactively checking in with our team.

These past two weeks, we've also put together our own delivery network for bananas (14.1% cheaper than MIT's with a drastic reduction in bruising/waste); added sheet music to our piano; worked with the DSL communications office about the 100K banana celebration last month (10/31); met with DSL and ORSEL about the Walker Quiet Space; starting meeting around the Innovation Challenge with UA Technology; connected with UA Alumni Affairs to talk about the possibility of collaborating; and have been continuing our collaboration with UA Sustainability.

Involvement	- UA Winter Social (Dec 4)
	     - Hot Chocolate
	     - Gingerbread House Making Competition
	- UA Internal FB group
	- Members have set individual goals for the end of the semester
		X

Public Affairs	–First newsletter sent to mailing list –Terrabyte to MIT App –Coffee with councillors series	X

Sustainability	–SP Thrift popup occurred today 11am-4pm in Stata
	  –150+ people showed up 1-4pm today and filled out the survey!
	  -next popup: Dec 6th @ Coffeehouse Lounge, all day; in collaboration with GSC for clothing collection
	–Outreach subcommittee had a UA Sustain social event
		X

	on Sunday to prepare for Splash class, and will be teaching @ Splash this upcoming weekend -SP first Waste Audit completed; Launch evaluating replacement of diesel engines with electric for boats -Zero Waste distributing 3000 utensil sets at dining halls tonight 5:30-8pm (in collab with Bon Appétit)	
Wellness	- Mural is being relocated to the basement of Walker so it can be finished; continuing the search for a permanent home - Tutoring Survey data is being analyzed and gathered into a report - Participated as community sponsors in the DFA Hackathon (provided a problem space)	(excused)
Technology	-Boba and Tech Friday -working through BetterMIT prep with Innovation -discussing online advisor	X

Minutes

- 7:38 Meeting Starts
- Reorganization
  - Committee should be geared towards policy focused initiatives rather than short term initiatives
  - Still exploring ways to do this
    - How can we pivot existing committees or reorganize them in other ways
  - Rationale: Mahi and others ran on policy/institutional change and we want to follow through with this
  - Currently, the UA runs as a conglomerate of many student groups
    - But the vision of the UA as a whole is student government
  - Combination of long term infrastructure and policy
    - But how do you balance this
    - Spin off on things students like without being repetitive
    - Should we create student groups for these events?
      - How do we keep them alive when they are not part of the UA
    - How to free up committees to do policy work?
    - What does policy look like

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  -
    - Working towards initiatives that cannot be solved with single event
  - Mahi: Pass on the vision of what the committee should look like into what MIT should look like
    - Disconnect with officers and committees
    - Alleviate this with better communication
    - Should be looking into issues that are bigger than the UA and MIT (5-10 years from now, what should it look like)
    - Need the groundwork now for the future of MIT and the UA
    - Should be able to go to the committee chairs for expert advice on their sector
  - This will be followed up by a committee specific conversation
    - Overall forward thinking
    - Both structural and expectations question
  - Want to understand what direction committee chairs envision
  - Are we trying to find a balance between policy and short term initiatives?
    - Not about the scale of the event, but about whether or not it is pushing towards a more of a long term goal
    - Possible that small scale events will eventually be phased out
    - Dependent on the culture of the committee
    - The change may be scary/sound extreme but structural change can have a great impact
  - Structural changes
    - Could have a conversation about how to absorb or cut a committees
    - ex. No public budget for committees or rationales
    - In addition to cultural changes
  - Events are a way for student leaders to emerge
    - Learning how to file rfps, book rooms, etc.
  - Mahi: wants unification
    - Committees are independent but communication and working together would be beneficial
    - Day to day operations of committees should not change too much
    - But interaction with committee chairs should have some policy focus
  - What are the expectations for committee chairs?
    - Different for each committee

- ■ Shouldn't matter which committee members are on institute committees as long as it is reported back (at the committee's discretion)
- ○ Overall, want better communication
  - ■ Better for retention if we understand our greater purpose
  - ■ Committee chairs should be community leaders beyond their committee roles
  - ■ Act as experts like the actual white house cabinet
  - ■ Tap into other groups as necessary
- ○ Will require different amounts of effort from different groups
- ○ We should have these conversations on committee level with our committee members
- ○ UA Events could be structured in a new way
  - ■ Shouldn't have a large policy focus since that is not the intention of their committee
- ○ Very low turnout for UA elections
  - ■ How is the UA viewed by students (is this an organization that they trust)
- ○ [committee] Garing idea at first, but good to have a framework for how we can do better
- ○ Other points to thing about
  - ■ How to do committee chair and officer transitions
  - ■ Marketing and involvement previously supported internal ops
    - ● Value is there but in another place
  - ■ Using ASA or student model where necessary
  - ■ Communication is needed to make this reorganization successful
- ○ What is stopping us from communicating?
  - ■ More about having the same goals and direction as an organization
  - ■ Can't just "improve communication and transparency" doesn't work if we don't have similar policy focuses
  - ■ We should get to know each other [committee chairs x officers] better
    - ● Retreat or mixer, etc.
- ○ How do we know if the next person will carry on this transition?
  - ■ Can't guarantee this
  - ■ Have to be the change we want to see
  - ■ Need to start the change so that the status quo is the default

- ○ Equally unproductive if we all have the same meeting with one administrator or if just Charlotte and Mahi do
- ○ Should push ourselves beyond the UA we have inherited from past presidents
- ○ How do we market this change to our committee if policy isn't interesting?
  - ■ Look at the broader goal of what you are already working on
  - ■ If the policy goal is exciting, people will show up and care about the outcome
- ○ Innovation: hosting 15 dinners/lunches with committee members and faculty and staff (custodians, professors, admin, etc.) to understand where they stand
- ○ What is the value of us being in the UA?
- ○ The mission statement will come out after thanksgiving
- ○ 1st week of December we would like to have committee feedback
- ○ Mahi will type up something that committee chairs can share with their committees

- ● UA Culture & Conversation around Sexual Harassment Reporting
  - ○ Community & Diversity committee will complete a diversity audit
    - ■ Also working on a mission statement
    - ■ Formalizing values of committee and how to remove/add members
  - ○ Creating accountability when it comes to reporting and addressing these issues
- ● UA Annual Report
  - ○ Sending out committee budgets on sunday to increase UA transparency with student body
  - ○ Include a mission statement to justify why we are using undergrad money for this
  - ○ UA report will allow student feedback on the use of these funds
- ● UA involvement
  - ○ Social on Wed. December 4
  - ○ Creating internal facebook group
  - ○ Gingerbread house making competition
  - ○ Opportunity to get pictures for social media at photo booth

Thanks for all the work that you do!
- ● 8:41 Meeting Ends