

March 12, 2013
UA Council Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Attendance

Exec Update

- We just launched the brand *new* UA website: ua.mit.edu
 - Still working on additional content
 - Stephanie Yu, chair of our Technology Systems Group, did a great job!
- UAP/VP Debate will be Thursday at 7 pm in the Student Center
 - The two tickets will respond to questions from a moderator
 - Remind members of your constituency to come
 - Elections start Monday at 9 am online
- Spring Fest
 - Macklemore tickets sold out as of Friday
 - Still looking for volunteers (which would free up more tickets)
 - Announcement for our opener will come soon
- Midnight Study Break
 - Will be Thursday at midnight in 20 Chimneys
 - Theme will be *chocolate*
 - Come and talk with fellow undergrads
- Administrator Meetings
 - If you have any questions that you would like to be presented to any of the administrators at MIT, please e-mail ua@mit.edu
 - Here is the [schedule](#) of the meetings

Institute Committee Nominations

- The UA appoints students to be members of institute-wide committees
- At the end of the semester, we will appoint new members
- New vacancies have arisen at the beginning of the semester, and we currently have a list of nominations
 - Most of the students who applied for these positions (which were advertised across campus) are interviewed
 - We look for true student representatives
 - We need *your* vote to approve these selections
 - *Vote Approved*

Community Conversations Proposal

- The UA wants to fund dinners for head community members to come to the dorms to talk to students over dinner
 - It has been done in the past with great success but was discontinued
- To be run by Student Support Committee
- It helps students to get to know faculty in a practical setting
- The whole dorm would be invited

- We would be open to having this happen at all living groups
- Vote to approve the budget of \$2500: *budget approved!*

Violence Prevention and Response (VPR)

- VPR is taking an initiative at MIT to make the community more aware of the resources available to them
- Ideally would like to distribute them through the MedLinks
- Request for \$1000 to print placards and place them in public places around spaces
 - *Budget Approved*

“visUAlize” Proposal for Student Problem-solving Sessions

- Our AVP for Engagement and Member Development would like to invite MIT students to come together and brainstorm solutions to issues on campus
- Events would be separated into the topics of Policy, Events, and Projects/Programs
- All ideas would be recorded regardless of practicality
- Great opportunity for brainstorming across campus
- *Please advertise through your living groups*
- Vote to amend the budget line item to match this description: *Vote Passes*

Election Commission Budget Proposal

- Debate is on Thursday
- You should have received an e-mail
- We need a budget for food: \$300 for 30 pizzas
 - *Budget Approved*

Introduction of Dinner Discussion Topic: MITx

- How will MITx interface with our education? Will we offer credit for classes student take on edX? Are we going to offer ASEs to people take these classes? How will we guarantee the quality of our education? What credit would be offered if you take an edX class through another university? Should it be considered ok to have the “flip classrooms” where the lectures are online and to be watched online?

Discussion Quotes and Comments

- “I learn a lot better just by going to class. It holds me accountable.”
- “I learn better in class. Eliminating face time with professors would be detrimental to my understanding of the material.”
- “Professors leading recitations [in the flip classrooms] as opposed to TAs might not work, but at least you’d get face time!”
- “With a video, you have the opportunity to be distracted. In real lectures, you have to be more attentive.”
- “Currently many students prefer going to lecture as opposed to watching the OCW videos which shows that some students prefer that lecture engagement to the video alternative.”

- “How would this affect the course credit hours and problem sets?”
- “There’s less of an appeal to come to MIT and pay 50k a year to sit in your dorm room and watch videos you could see anywhere.”
- “I like that my professor knows who I am - when I have a problem that facilitates a better conversation.”
- “Professors are a great resource and mentor for students throughout your academic career. Being able to see them is a plus!”
- “For most classes, if there are videos, they should only be a supplement to the class. Only video lectures would only make sense for very big classes where interaction would be kept to a minimum.”
- “Classroom based participation would not exist anymore! While this may not make sense in a lot of the classes, it would be worth mentioning for classes where participation actually matters!”
- “Flip model may offer less of a disconnect between the lectures and the p-sets. If you get the lecture and begin to understand before going to the professor’s class where he discusses the p-set, that could be helpful.”
- Closing: If you know classes that are doing MITx related things, please e-mail Ravi and Naren to let them know your thoughts!
 - The process for the committee is to write a report by April that goes to some other committees that will hopefully act on the report. Once the committee has talked more, we can revisit this discussion in Council.
 - Please solicit feedback from your living groups and send it (in whatever format) to Ravi and Naren.

Final Notices and Wrap Up

- FinBoard allocations are sent out (see e-mail from John Kongo)
 - You have four days to raise your objections
- Next meeting is the Tuesday after Spring Break (4/2/2013)