

April 23, 2013
UA Council Meeting
Minutes

(1) Guest: Chancellor W. Eric L. Grimson PhD '80 (1 hour)

- Background
 - Grew up in rural Canada
 - Just completed his 38th year at MIT
 - Computer Science and Math background
 - Worked in C-SAIL
 - Became head of EECS in 2004
 - Had to give up research when he became Chancellor
 - Continues to teach
 - Lectured 6.001 33 times
 - Taught almost 11,000 MIT Undergraduate
- What is the job of the Chancellor? All things students
 - Student life, religious life, athletics, curriculum
 - How can we as an institute make the best possible atmosphere to learn and excel?
- The Institute's Response to the Marathon Bombing & Officer Sean Collier's Memorial
 - How to help the community deal with the marathon bombing was his primary focus last week
 - Thursday and Friday were difficult times for everyone
 - At 5 am Friday morning the initial decision was made to cancel classes
 - When events escalated, it was decided to close the institute down entirely
 - Thank you, students - Grimson is so impressed by how this community has been a community
 - To the fraternities that opened their doors to runners
 - To East Campus for delivering pancakes to students stranded in the Media Lab
 - To the Housemaster in the Warehouse for cooking for the entire dorm so they could have a community meal
 - To so many more - please send Grimson your stories!
 - You did yourselves proud [paraphrase]
 - When students were asked you to shelter in place, they did. Thank you for staying where you were and following instructions.
 - Think about Campus Patrol and their leadership. They have just lost a colleague. Thursday night they were making sure that we were all safe.
 - It was suggested that faculty and students reach out to the patrol men and women they see, introduce yourselves, and thank them.
 - There was a group at SEMO that were here all of Thursday night managing the security response and planning
 - Tomorrow - the decision to cancel classes has come from the chair of the

faculty. This decision was a difficult one - we want students to get back into routine as professionals but this is also important.

- If you chose to go, Grimson encourages you to do so. It will be one of the most emotional experiences you have ever had.
- 15,000 chairs are being set up on Briggs field
- We expect 8-10,000 officers from around the world to come
- You will hear speeches from Biden, John DiFava, Reif, and more.
- We have tried to arrange in every living group to have some kind of event afterwards.
 - Be there for the people that you know well. Talk through your experience and how we need to get back to life at MIT.

Discussion with Grimson:

- Will there be changes in the way we are alerted to security crises on campus?
 - Communications were not as DiFava wanted for the gunman hoax
 - At the time, all patrolmen on campus responded to the event
 - The men were focused and trained to respond to the events, and this exposed the flaw in communication - we now have one officer always on duty in the station who alerts students to security concerns.
 - Any further changes that will be made will be done so under thoughtful consideration
 - Grimson wants a compromise between openness and safety. Our campus is very open - from free WiFi everywhere to building access.
 - After the "armed" robbery in Baker House last year, security issues arose, and the administration has been looking into how it can improve. It has not made any decisions yet.
 - The Quality of Life Survey (before the marathon) showed that students felt very safe at MIT. Grimson is not sure how that would be today.
- Faculty meeting about freshmen advising last week showed that very few faculty attend.
 - Can rarely approve minutes from previous meeting because no quorum.
 - It is up to faculty to choose when they come, administration can't force them to come
 - When there is an important issue, they come.
 - Chancellor doesn't like situation either
 - Jonte points out much of the work is done in committees, and faculty generally trust this unless something controversial comes up.
- When was MIT told the Vice President was coming from Washington?
 - He does not know the initial contact, but the invitation was finalized yesterday.
 - Security tomorrow was going to be tight anyway. Now, starting tomorrow at 10 AM, do not walk down the alley with a back pack.
 - Secret Service agents do not have a sense of humor.
- Might have to bring magnetometers back to Commencement
- When we were told to shelter in place, we didn't know what to do or what actions to take.

Are there any plans to make changes to communication during lockdowns and shelter-in-place?

- MIT will be doing many retrospectives in the weeks to come
- MIT could have done a better job at telling students what shelter-in-place meant.. Students could have been told to get food, but not play frisbee on campus.
- How will MIT approach the media presence on campus? How will MIT protect its students from being bombarded by press? Will this damage our “brand” after Aaron Schwartz?
 - Media cannot be controlled. We had no control over the media.
 - The press will speculate even though they shouldn’t
 - MIT has a VP for Communication - Nate Nickerson
 - In regards to Aaron Schwartz, there have been false statements reported by the press that made the institution take some hits that it shouldn’t have
 - The best news agent throughout all of this has been *The Tech*
 - When the Abelson report comes out, we hope that a better light will be shed on the incident
 - Grimson hopes this marathon event will be understood as a random act of violence, provided that is the actual case
 - *Grimson recommends students not comment to the media*—“It’s too easy for a reporter to take you in a direction you don’t want to be.”
- How can students help the “brand” with pre-frosh deciding to come to MIT?
 - Grimson will take it up with Stu Schmill and get back to us
- How has Grimson been able to keep up with all of these events? Has he slept at all this week?
 - If a student contacts with Grimson and wants to meet with him, he is always happy to make an appointment. It’s what he’s here for!
 - In light of recent events, Grimson has been slow to respond to some of his e-mails, but he still encourages you to e-mail him!
 - It has been a long week. Grimson arrives on campus at 7:30 most days and gets home at 9:00. He and his wife have crazy schedules, but he views this all as part of his commitment to MIT.

(2) Council Approval of Funding for the Community Barbecues (20 minutes)

- There will probably be national coverage of tomorrow’s event
- Since the event will be very large-scale tomorrow, we wanted to create an environment for smaller community gatherings
 - The places we live will be the most comfortable for us
- The UA invited you all to yesterday’s meeting at 6:00 to rapidly organize this large-scale cross-campus event
 - Representatives from the UA exec, IFC, Panhel, and ILGs worked through the night to make this event possible
- The Event: to take people away from the memorial and get them back to “everyday life.” Campus was organized into subsections. A massive amount of food will be delivered tonight and tomorrow to each of these locations.

- Logistics: for every block of FSILGs, there are 7 houses and three of them are red. The red houses are the primary locations of the events, with those in the block encouraged to go there. It is not a very exclusive list so feel free to go to any of the locations.
- Logistics Tonight: After Council we are working to get food orders to the houses. There are some concerns with the CISCO order getting in before the roads are closed.
- *Please make sure the representatives keep their phones on during the deliveries, and volunteer as much as you can to unload the truck.*
- Perishables have been picked up tonight
- Logistics Tomorrow: order between 5-6 am tomorrow coming in with the non-perishables
- Our solution to the concerns over reimbursement spread among many groups was to use the UA funds to pay for this event.
- FCI (FSILG Cooperative Inc.) took care of the SYSCO orders - they will bill us for the full amount. Vote approved!
- Andrew Dorne is selling bracelets to raise money for the 1 Fund and Sean Collier's fund. He has 1000 bracelets he's selling for \$2/each. Please spread the word to your living groups.
- The ceremony ends at 2 pm. Res Life is providing drinks and cookies in the dorms immediately afterwards. People in FSILGs are invited to LaSala. Later in the day, the BBQ events will take place.
- There will be 8,000 police officers tomorrow and very high security detail tomorrow. It will take a lot of time to move around tomorrow.
- Be there for the others you your communities. This is a day for reflection.