

**Attendance:**

Alexa Martin

Sophia Liu

Gabriella Baracchini

Daysi Gomez

Jacqueline Liu (Simmons)

Morgan Matranga (Baker)

Rob Bugliarelli (Maseeh)

Ayomide Fatunde (Panhel)

Rex Shepherd (IFC)

Jack Gordon (IFC)

Robert Binkowski (IFC)

Sabrina Madera (Senior Haus)

Allie Stanton (East Campus)

Ryuga Hatano (Random)

Emily Tang (New House)

Elizabeth Gaylord (Next House)

Emma Desoto (Burton Conner)

Emily Crandall Fleischman (LGC)

**Minutes:**

**Vote:** Motion to approve minutes from last week: 3 abstaining, passed

**State of the UA:**

- MIT 101 slideshow goes over org chart at MIT, and general things to know as a student leader
- Mission of the UA is to improve the sense of education at MIT and serve undergraduates
- We have struggled year to year with continuity and this semester we are looking to improve transitions for next year and will keep you updated on this
- Our documents are all on the website
- The council bylaws are important for council members to understand what you can and cannot motion during council meetings
- If you ever feel uncomfortable about something the UA is doing you can report it to the judicial review board
- UA Council includes four reps from IFC, three from Panhel, one from ILGs, and one from each dorm, which makes 19 members
- Council serves as a check on the UA and advocates policy issues for their student groups
- We have upwards of 18 committees that are fairly specialized within the UA

- If someone comes to you with a concern we can point you to a committee that can help address this concern and start new projects
- Finboard is a committee that funds most student groups on campus
- Key issues for 2016-2017:
  - Transportation: Over the past summer we were contacted by a company that implements an uber like service on campus. Daysi has been working on this and we are starting a pilot soon that mimics Harvard's system. In this system students can call the service from 7 pm - 2am to their exact locations within a geo grid with an average wait time of twelve minutes
  - Diversity and Community Spaces: Our community committee has been working to meet with every cultural group on campus and we would like to have something comprehensive as a basis for us to advocate on
  - S^3: Students often do not feel comfortable going to this service and we are trying to implement a course evaluation like system for S^3 employees. S^3 had a greater than 80% satisfaction rate and the 20% is likely because of a poor match between the student and the counselor
  - Student Life Fee: Our student life fee is higher than those of our peer institutions except for Stanford. This past fall we voted for an increase in the student life fee. We are working with Suzy and Peter Cummings to fix our student life fee to be more aware of what we are being charged for
  - Advising: There is a sense that an advisor is a five minute check point and we want advisors to be someone who you are more comfortable and close with. Dean Freeman is working on implementing a different advising system
- Transportation initiative is going well
- We are getting a temporary administrative assistant
- We are hoping to improve communication between the UA, students, and admins

### **UA Committee Report**

- We have two different types of committees: operations and cabinet
- Operations includes events, finboard, involvement, marketing, resource development, and technology
- Cabinet includes alumni affairs, campus planning, community, education, innovation, public affairs, special projects, student-admin collaboration, student support and wellness, and sustainability
- More detailed info about each committee and what they are working on is available on the powerpoint

## **UA Budget Approval**

- The way the UA budgets their money is by budgeting it for the entire year in the Fall
- We budgeted about \$400,000 this past Fall which includes all of the UA and student groups on campus
- We fund student groups in four cycles during the Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring
- We have about \$33,000 left over from the Summer and Fall cycles which we can reallocate to student groups and to the UA
- Wellness was allocated \$6,000 at the beginning of the year but spent nothing so we took \$3,000 from them
- Marketing asked for an additional \$500 which puts them at \$1,500 for the year
- Involvement was given an additional \$500 which puts them at \$1,000 for the year
- Special Projects was given \$300 which puts them at \$300 for the year
- The reserve account is a savings account that we do not want to touch
- The umbrella account is a savings/checking account where we fund everything out of

**Vote:** to approve reallocation: 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, passed

## **UA Politics**

- After the executive ban people are very frustrated on campus and it is hard for the UA to know what to do and how to respond
- Sophia signed onto a letter opposing the executive ban on the specific issue that affected MIT students re-entering the country
- There is no exact mechanism right now for what policy issues the UA would advocate for
- Moving forward Sophia wants to explore with you as a group how the UA should respond to policy issues
- The GSC has a specific policy platform for what they specifically can and cannot advocate for
- How would you have responded to the executive ban as the UA president? How should student government be involved in advocacy for political positions? What is the role of student government?
  - Robert: Unless it specifically affects MIT students, we should not advocate for it
  - Ayo: In terms of advocacy, we should have more structures in place and better means for our students to participate in politics
  - Jack: I agree with Robert and I liked the way this particular issue was handled. Being proactive, I somewhat like the idea of a policy platform but I don't like the idea of us doing it right now. Though we were all elected to represent our student groups, we were not elected to develop advocacy for the UA
  - Trevor: I think the most important thing is being on a semi regular basis for political advocacy

- Jacqueline: I think it's important in dorms too because we have our dorm residents to worry about and when political issues arise we need to know how to react. The issue would come up again sooner or later so if the UA already has a something in place then we don't need to keep coming back to this conversation
- One pager Sophia signed:
  - Allie: I like this because it stays aware from morals and instead says this is wrong because it affects MIT as an institute negatively

**Vote:** to approve document: 1 abstaining, passed

- GSC Policy Platform:
  - Ayo: All the policies on here directly affect MIT students
  - The GSC cannot advocate for anything that is not on this platform
  - Anything we would pass to advocate for in the UA would pass through Council
  - Sabrina: Now is a better time than ever and it would be good to have a platform for us to be able to respond to policy on. Council should be the ones to discuss and propose policy ideas because we represent more of the student body than a committee in the UA does
  - Jacqueline: It is our role and job to be involved in this and to represent our student groups

**Vote:** to meet every three weeks, 4 approved, failed

**Vote:** to meet every two weeks, 8 approved, 3 abstained, passed

### **Open Discussion:**

- Friday the 28th of April is the date for Spring Fest
- Many people in Random dislike how CPW is getting more micro managed and controlled
  - CPW schedules were crunched for time
  - In Burton Conner they were elected the day before the events were due and felt they didn't do as good of a job as they could
  - IFC and Panhel are experiencing a lot of control over their events
  - Every Time MIT takes something away it feels like there is no way for us to ever get it back: there is a monotonically decreasing function of fun

**Vote:** to adjourn meeting: 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, passed