



## UA Council Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2017, 7:30pm - 9:00pm in W20-400

President's Questions	7:00 - 7:30
1. Roll Call	7:30
2. Approval of 48 UAC 11 Minutes	7:30 - 7:35
a. 48 UAC 11 Minutes	
3. State of the UA	7:35 - 7:45
4. Budget Proposal and Report from the Treasurer	7:45 - 8:00
a. UA Budget FY2018	
5. Discussion and Vote on Joint GSC-UA DACA Statement	8:00 - 8:30
a. DACA Statement	
6. Updates and Discussion on Student Organization Funding	8:30 - 8:50
7. Closing Remarks and Open Discussion	8:50 - 9:00

### Roll Call - 7:30

Living Group	Representative	Present?
Baker	Makenzie Patarino	x
Burton-Conner	Emma Desoto	x
East Campus	Alexandra Stanton	x
MacGregor	Abigail Harvey	x
Maseeh	Robert Bugilarelli	x
McCormick	Laura Bergemann	
New House	Emily Tang	x
Next House	Elizabeth Gaylord	x
Random House	Ryuga Hatano	x

Simmons	Jacqueline Liu	x
Interfraternity Council	Robert Binkowski	x
Interfraternity Council	Jack Gordon	
Interfraternity Council	Arjun Mithal	x
Living Group Council	Emily Fleischman	x
Off Campus	Megan Kralj	x
Panhellenic Association	Ayomide Fatunde	x
Panhellenic Association	Leigh-Ana Rossitto	x
Panhellenic Association	Meredith Loy	x

Welcome to the first Council meeting of the year :) We have quorum.

Sarah: I want to amend the agenda. We got an email today asking UA to support changing Columbus Day to indigenous people day.

**Vote to add item to the agenda:** Passes.

**7:33pm: Vote to approve 48 UAC 11 minutes. Passes.**

**7:33pm: State of the UA**

We had the UA retreat last Saturday. Look through the things Kathryn emailed out, especially the MIT org chart if you are not familiar with it, structure of the UA, goal setting presentation to get a sense of what everyone is working on the year ahead.

Sarah's agenda for the upcoming year:

1. Accessibility of wellness of student support resources. Working to bring a unified wellness center. Unifying S^3, VPR, SDS, Mental Health & Counseling in main or west campus.
2. Education: working closely with Ian Waitz, new Vice Chancellor to undergo long term project reforming and rebuilding GIRs. Will have a discussion in later Council meeting.
  - a. Do GIRs make all majors accessible to everyone regardless of high school background?
  - b. Major exploration

- c. Fulfilling mens et manus mission. Hands-on and project-based learning freshmen year.
3. Political engagement on campus: Working to improve relationship with city of Cambridge and Boston, MIT Votes 2017, learn from Public Affairs chairs that you can change registration to vote for Cambridge for local elections and then change back to home registration for midterm (2018) election. I encourage you all to get involved in those elections. The more students vote and are active in local politics when there is an issue we care about. Working more closely with MIT DC office to represent undergraduate issues more broadly.

Other projects within committees to highlight:

- Response to Senior House closure: Officers just came from Faculty Meeting where Chancellor gave presentation about her rationale and process for Senior House. Very similar to statements she's made to The Tech. Opportunity for faculty and Sarah to give comments. Allie in her role as Student-Admin Collaboration Committee is putting together a document that outlines everything that happened and gives recommendations for how things could be handled better. Looking at ways to get LGBTQ+ data, losing space on campus. We do a poor job of collecting graduation statistics for those students, so we need to get dat.
- Student Organization Funding: Jon will go over tonight
- Student Support Services have formed a committee to look at food insecurity and possibility to start a food pantry. Working with CASE to formalize a survey to make their data taken more seriously by the administration.

### **7:40pm Budget Proposal and Report from the Treasurer**

- Updated budget - emailed out
- Reserve account is backup account, umbrella account is overarching account that includes committee accounts and finboard
- Income: Ian Waitz has given us a grant for \$12,500 which is in line with what Denny Freeman gave us, and Kaplan gives us \$4,000 for classrooms.
- Things to note:
  - Spending in the past:
    - Education spent more than their budget because of grant from Freeman
    - Sustainability also got grants
  - UA Officers budget is larger this year because of \$30,000 pilot program for sources of funding

- Slight tick upwards because of new allocations, if you have any questions talk to Zach (Finboard chair)

Jacqui: how to publicize alternative sources of funding?

- Officers are building a framework for publicizing, no concrete set of guidelines

Ayo: Is the grants the reason why 2018 is ~\$100k higher than 2017 budget?

- Rather reinvest unspent money with committees instead of going to the reserves. Reallocate those funds in the next semester, which is something Council can vote on. Also Suzy Nelson gave us \$50,000 from GIB.
- Events has worked with OneWorld MIT for funding. Might go through alternative system to give them a bigger chunk of money, but they are swamped right now with FallFEST.
- Leah: Events also gets money directly from Student Life Fee. Artists get more expensive every year, has not been raised in the last 10 years or so.
- Jon: Sat down with Events Chairs and they said a few thousands wouldn't make a difference.
- Leah: This year took a risk with Hasan and it paid off, since he sold out.

Arjun: Why did last year student groups underspend by around \$100k?

- Student groups on average don't spend all of their money. Right now with liability based system you can't see how much money you have, also partially funded events. We expect actual line item to be around ~\$250k.
- Also a risk of over-allocating, which is something we ran into ~4 years ago.

Do we know how much was actually allocated?

- \$319k allocated. Question is whether student groups actually spend it.

Ayo: Difference between UA Council and Cabinet?

- Councilors have voting privileges. Cabinet & Operations is all the committee chairs.

**Vote: Budget passes.**

### **7:52pm Discussion and Vote on Joint GSC-UA DACA Statement**

Curious to hear what you guys think about this statement as written. If there are changes that would make it more in line with UA's response to political issues.

- Binky: Don't see any issue with anything written here, but wish it was more MIT-centric.
- Allie: Point 21 of policy platform says "UA firmly supports efforts to allow undocumented students to study at MIT unhindered". It seems like this point was written for this scenario. GSC-centric language would be altered to reflect UA.

- Concern about MIT-centric language. Immigration ban was similar stance because would affect MIT students.
- Sarah: also thinking about prospective MIT students. Also have to consider folks who want to come.
- Ayo: Similar language to stuff Cindy and Reif sent out.

**Vote: Passes.**

### **7:57pm Updates and Discussion on Student Organization Funding**

Jon: There was a discussion about UA, student groups needed more money. Sophia Liu asked DSL to raise student life fee. Council voted on it. Student Life Fee is something that all UG, G pays for that is supposed to go toward “student life.” In reality big chunks goes to pay for DAPER’s health insurance, Mental Health, FallFest, LEF/ARCADE, UA, GSC.

- Meetings about should we change the SLF and how?
- Looked at other funding sources, which led to discussion about Career Fair funding and where money is going to: GSC, SWE, Senior Class.
- In the 1990s there was 3 career fairs run by GSC, SWE, Senior Class. Was confusing for students and employers, so MIT steps in and combines them together. Breakdown is ~40/40/20 GSC/Senior Class/SWE. Consequently these groups have gotten a ton of money.
- Having meetings comparing people’s budgets and how they are using the money because there is a clause that 15% of money must be used for professional development.
- Bigger discussion about what do we prioritize in terms of student group funding and student organization funding. What should breakdown look like between UA / GSC? UA is getting 2x money per student than GSC. What should we be spending on professional development and traditional student life activities.
- Want discussion about high level priorities. How should it be separated between UG / G, classes, UA, which should we value?
- Mo: The constituents of Senior Class and SWE don’t cover all UG, so important to remember this money comes from all UG but doesn’t cover everyone.
- All funding that currently goes toward student organizations, including SLF, Career Fair, GIB (General Institute Budget)
- Ayo: On board because CF is making money off talent and entire UG population and would make sense for that money to be equally distributed. Would love to have really nice events for all seniors, but we are a body that can establish increased equity in MIT population and going to be a hard road to convince people to change it.

- Binky: Not a fan of splitting evenly among all classes because end of the day companies aren't coming to Career Fair for freshmen. And we can give freshmen career development but like the idea of seniors can have nice things.
- Ayo: Numerically companies want more internships.
- Yuge: More effective to talk about what people want to spend this chunk of money on. Career Fair is source of income.
- Loewen: Graduated scale would be good between years. Could step down from seniors to freshmen. Having freshmen understand how Career Fair works and more info sessions about that.
- Allie: It feels like where that money goes and more about ethics and principles about who is the middle man. As it is right now with GSC, SWE, Senior Class, if you are an UG male who is not a senior you are not represented, while UA / GSC theoretically covers everyone.
- Sarah: Broader than that. We have this big pot of \$2.2million, how do we prioritize with both UG, G. At MIT we don't have a fund for students on financial aid to get scholarships for ticketed events. I want to prioritize a chunk of money so if you automatically go to events for free if you are on financial aid. Outside of current structure of where this money is coming from, what goes toward career development.
- Rhat: Perception I have is toward getting jobs and not going to grad school. Something that is nice is resume polishing, interviews, trained to present at conferences, money to travel to conferences.
- Ayo: Funding for applying to grad schools, GREs are really expensive, getting an engineering certificate.
- Jon: Lack of roadmap UG have. If you are not a community that give you guidance about research, UROP, jobs, then people are really lost. People falling into Course 6 trap. Having a career advisor would help give guidelines, like government sponsored labs recruitment is in 2 weeks in January, non-profits aren't coming to CF because they can't pay for it.
- Mackenzie: So much is targeted at course 2 or 6. As a course 9 there's no chance in going to Career Fair. Should have more guidance and more development.
- Sarah: Career Fair shouldn't be the only time we think about professional development. What are we spending on formal professional development services. How does resources and staff at GECD compare to peer institutions? We don't have as much of a robust program, and it has fallen to student leaders to provide these services, which isn't our jurisdiction.
- Is there a financial incentive for major advisors to be better?
- Ayo: Two separate questions, ideally 2.2 million only goes toward student organizations and then look at pot of money going to formal career development

services. 2.2 million is already lower than peer institutions. It's going toward student life not professional development. Let's come back to just prioritize funding for student life issues.

- Rhat: Do you have data for what students think they need money for? Leah: GECD might have the data but I don't think so.
- Jon: GSC's pressing financial concern is housing. They have so many people. Mo, Kat, I talked to Isaiah Borne about Career Fair, he interacts with GECD, and they are super understaffed. Giving the admin more money would ultimately benefit students more rather than spending it on ourselves. Would also help students and subsidize spending for student groups because both groups are effectively paying for those events.
- Megan: Career advising will also benefit people going to academia. Academic advisors are helpful in choosing courses to complete a degree, there are certain skills I was told to take (ex. Numerical computation) that were the reason I could get a UROP.
- Ayo: Caution against giving admin more money because we pay tuition. I think SLF should remain our money.
- Mo: GECD falls under Chancellor and Ian, but not Suzy. Ian is going through massive restructuring of his office. So status of that office is in flux. Raising those concerns to Ian would make a difference.
- Ayo: Concern that the money should come from him, not from us.
- Jon: Money from CF is inherently variable because economy. If our funding is directly linked to that, we take a hit. However, if our money comes from GIB directly and we get same percentage every year then MIT will take that risk so we don't.
- Neny: In the spirit of brainstorming still, who spends money to improve spaces?
  - Ayo: Some owned by CAC, some departments get money to renovate, general MIT buildings fall under Chancellor
  - If we could have ~\$40k to make changes to spaces then we could make changes that would make students happier.
  - Probably through DSL, they've looked at small changes in the student center and walker cafe
  - Historically student spaces projects have been undertaken by DSL. Small things can't think good reason why we can't be involved if it is something we would like to prioritize. Big scale changes aren't within the scope of budget
- If the 15% is taken out, have a committee oversee how to spend it based on community feedback. I don't see why it should go to any of the groups in the first place. Shouldn't be any issues about that.

- Jon: Is that 15% big enough to make changes? Professional professional development vs student run professional development. If it was up to us to run advising and pay for GREs.
- Neny: Since there is already an agreement to allocate 15% why don't we try doing that for a year and then iterating.
- Rhat: Food insecurity conversation. Can donate meal swipes. If you can allocate money to bring back market in Stata, farmer's market on Kresge or on west campus.
- Ayo: On spaces, a lot of the dance and arts community needs spaces. Professionally develop in the arts, getting dance instructors to come by, visitors. Visiting dancers instead of scholars.
- Leah: Professional leadership development staff. Focus is on housing for DSL but leadership development is also important. Trying to get more feedback from students on what they need. Having more money for programs for staff to put on.

Sarah: Should there be parity between UG / G funding? GSC is frustrated that graduate students get so much less money? To what extent should the UA be an ally to GSC?

- Yuge: UG experience is fundamentally different because for G students departments spend lots of money on them. No comparison for UG.
- Sarah: GSC funds grad student orientation. Including mandatory Title IX trainings. While for UG that money is coming from MIT.
- Binky: Allies in getting Title IX training covered by MIT.
- Sarah: From numbers two years ago, UG get around ~\$200 / student / year, grad students get ~\$80 / student / year. On UG side going to: student groups from UA, Class Councils, SWE. Coming from SLF, GIB, CF. Graduate side: all money comes through GSC.
- Megan: Huge advocate for equality for UG / G, graduate students do play important role in educating UG. TAs spend hours working with UG behind the scenes.
- Binky: They get paid for that.
- Allie: We should be allies with the GSC. We pay tuition and PhD students get paid by MIT. They pay the SLF, but we put money into the institute, they put in work but get a living wage.
- Binky: Can I opt out?
  - Sarah: No, it funds DAPER and Mental Health.
- Ayo: How was it brought up by the GSC?
- Sarah: They feel like there isn't graduate student life at MIT. A huge part of it is the funding they receive to give to student organizations. It's important to keep in mind that most clubs are both UG & G.
- Allie: Are they semi proposing if money comes out equal?
  - They want more of it, which means UG would get less.



- Allie: The number of UG is set every year, is very regulated. For grad students it's not true, that line keeps increasing. If we go into that model I'm afraid of UG part being smaller and smaller.
- Ayo: I don't see the point of graduate student life.
- Neny: What percentage of what goes to who? What do graduate students want?
  - \$80/student/year doesn't include department funding.
  - GSC also doesn't fully allocate money to groups that request it.
  - Jon: The GSC is all of the UG clubs, Class Councils, UA, Energy Club, etc. The GSC wants to do less, and are spread thin, have to do a lot of different things include running orientation. If the admin took better care of them is an easier proposal for us to support.
- Rhat: What's wrong with splitting SLF between UG / G?
  - There are clubs we fund collectively, hard to separate what is UG student life and G student life. We both pay into Mental Health and DAPER.
  - We haven't been able to change it at all. It would also raise the UG SLF because more of burden is on us. We have better access to Mental Health. We get big chunk from GIB, so more support from MIT admin, while GSC gets more support from CF. LEF/ARCADE is used more by undergrads.
- Zach: Suggest as we consider CF being run by independent party. GSC forgoes profit in exchange for money going to MIT to have more constant funding. In exchange, we could agree to increase amount of money we give GSC from SLF.

**8:48pm: UA issuing a statement in support of changing Columbus Day for indigenous peoples day.**

There is a committee at MIT working on this. Gustavo Burkett who is the new Senior Associate Dean for Community and Diversity reached out to UA asking for our support. It would be a statement supporting their efforts.

Ayo: Do we publish it as Columbus Day anywhere?

- In the MIT calendar.

Arjun: Who initiated it?

- It came through lots of different smaller cultural subgroups.
- Lali: They were asking for feedback but got lots of feedback from vocal supporters of keeping it Columbus Day.
- Neny: Conversation was how many indigenous people we have?
- Allie: Is this an outward statement?
  - No, it's going to an internal committee.

**Vote: passes.**

### **8:52pm Open Discussion**

Ayo: On the professional development on the grad side, equitable division of resources is better than graduated on. The best time for professional development is freshmen year, not senior year.

Loewen: If you weight that heavier freshmen year they are already pros by senior year.

Emma: It's really hard to change your major senior year. If there was more resources about different majors and tracks it would be helpful.

Allie: Unrelated, at the faculty meeting, Bill brought up interested point about DACA. Random people at MIT don't have clout when talking to senators, but alumni do. Is there a way to direct statement toward alumni, through Alumni Affairs.

- Loewen: More info session about resources on Infinite Connection.
- Rhat: How much dialogue we have with DC office?
  - Sarah: spoke with new director with DC office over the summer. Want to model our relationship with how the GSC has it. New director is particularly interested in student issues. We see issues that are affecting UG students.

Rhat: Recognizing financial barriers to student life that exist. If we could all come back next council meeting with more ideas.

- Working to propose this system for people to get free tickets. If you have ideas for how that could be implemented. Is there a need for a food pantry? How can we execute it.
- In terms of survey data we are working closely with CASE. They had good questions we want to formalize.
- We asked Suzy Nelson to reach out to financial aid to get an estimate.
- Ex. look at Harvard go through ticket office, if your name is on a list you get a free ticket. A lot of our peer institutions have these programs.
- Very uncomfortable and embarrassing. We already have an online system, can do it through certificate. It automatically knows you get charged \$0.

SWE, etc groups that charge \$10 dues would be great if those were waived.

Nenye: Search for conferences people can go to as examples.

**9:01 adjourned.**