



42 U.A.S. SB1

Minutes from September 20, 2010

1 Summary of Senate Meeting

This meeting was the very first congregation of Senate. Please note that it was the first of two Special Budgetary Meetings, and, thus, was a non-voting meeting. It began with quick introductions of all the people present in chambers. The UA President then gave the State of the UA speech, describing his outlook of the role of the UA, the tasks we face this year, and his plan of action. The UA Vice President summarized the basic organization of MIT and the UA. Then, there was the main discussion on the Fall 2010 Operating Budget. Each committee presented its budget, and there was short discussion over the various costs and line items with Senate. Most items seemed reasonable, and not many changes were proposed. In General Discussion, there were procedural remarks on the Senate, a discussion on the extent of rigor needed in minutes, Senate office hours, and the usage of the Student Center Game Room, a topic that will be discussed thoroughly at the next meeting. Dining was briefly mentioned by an audience member during open discussion. The meeting then adjourned following some closing logistics and a note on appointed Senate Positions.

2 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

3 Roll Call

The following members were *absent* without being excused: David Jia (MacGregor), Suan Tuang (New House), Sivakami Sambasviam (Sororities), and Christine Chen (Events Committee).

The following members were *absent and excused*: Cynthia Bouldrick (FinBoard)

The following members were *late*: Alexandra Jordan (UA Chief of Staff), Alex Wang (Baker House), Vivek Dasari (Burton Conner), Tim Robertson (East Campus), Will Steadman (Senior House), and Richard Dahan (Student Life).

The following were sent as *proxies* for members: **Edwin Zhang** for Jason Hu (Next House)

4 Welcome and Introductions

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

Hello, everyone! I just wanted to go over who is here; we have the Principal Officers, the Senators, and the Committee Chairs. The voting members are the senators and a few of the principal officers. Besides that, anyone that is at this meeting is able to speak. If you have any questions, please be



free to raise a point. The point of this meeting is the fact that this is the first budgetary meeting. That means we'll be discussing the budget, and that's the extent of what we will mostly do. This is a non-voting session. The point is to get you up to speed with what it's like to be a senator and the role of our senator.

As you see from the agenda, we're supposed to give introductions. So everyone give their name, constituency, and less than 5 words of an issue that you wish to pursue this year - don't make this a life story.

(The following is a summary of the information presented during each introduction:)

Alexandra Jordan - Senior, Course 12 and 17, Chief of Staff, Institute Committees, Bexley

Samuel Rodarte - Junior, Ashdown, Senator, Interested in Dining

Allan Miramonti - Random Hall, Course 6, Senator, Interested in Alumni Relations or Housing

Evan Moore - Freshmen, New House, Senator, Potential Course 6, Probably Interested in Housing

Anthony Farrell - Course 21L, Senator, ILG, Don't Know

Rachel Meyer - Off Campus, Senator, Works on a Lot of Stuff

Adam Bockelie - History Chair, Senior, Course 1

Bobby...- Simmons, Sophomore, Interested in Athletics

Krishna Esteva - Sophomore, Course 14, Sustainability Chair

Chris Sarabalis - Bexley, Senator, Interested in Housing

Jessica Chen - Freshman, Macgregor, Senator, Interested in Sustainability

Cody Zoschak - Sophomore, Fraternities, Senator, Interested in Dining

Cameron McCord - Sophomore, Fraternities, Senator, Courses 8 and 15, Interested in Athletics and Alumni Relations

Kathy Fang - Sophomore, Course 6, Sorority, Senator, Interested in Housing

Owen Derby - Course 6, Junior, Fraternities, Senator, Interested in Student life

Janet Li - Chair of Communications, Junior, Senior House

Abel Chiao - Freshmen, Burton Conner, Senator, Interested in Events Committee, Course 2

Michael Walsh - Sophomore, Fraternities, Senator, Course 6 and 8, Interested in Athletics

Paula Trepman - Sophomore, Baker, Dining Chair, Course 20

David Cheng - SCEP Chair

Alex Wang - Baker, Senator, Interested in Student Life

Tim Robertson - Senior, Course 2, East Campus, Senator, Interested in Dining and Alumni Relations

Catherine Olsson - Random Hall, and she just wanted to hear State of the UA



Eddie Obropta - Sophomore, Course 16, Chair of Space Planning

Alex Dehnert - AVP of Informational Systems, Interested in Finances and Technology

Rebecca Krentz-Wee - Chair of ASA, Junior, Course 22, Interested in ILGs

Betsy Riley - East Campus, Senator, Interested in Housing and Dining

Riley Brandt - Senior, Course 2, Chair of Athletics

Maggie Delano - Former UA Vice President, here for food

Candace Chen - 2014 Class Council, VP

Anika Gupta - 2014 Class Council, Secretary

Jonathan Chien - 2014 Class Council, Publicity Chair

Samuel Acquah - Next House, Senator, Junior

Yi Wu - Baker, Freshmen, Interested in Events Committee

Shuang Chen - Sophomore, Simmons Hall, Interested in Dining

Edwin Zhang, Proxy for Jason Hu - Next House, Senator, Interested in Dining

Andres Romero - Class of 2014, Interested in Dining

Daesun Yim - Class of 2014, President

Diana Hsieh - Sophomore, Macgregor, AVP of Resource Development

Ellen McIsaac - Junior, Course 3, UA Treasurer

Alec Lai - Sophomore, Course 12, UA Secretary-General

Tim Jenks - Sophomore, Fraternity Senator and Vice Speaker of the Senate

Jonté Craighead - Sophomore, Course 1, Speaker of the Senate

Vrajesh Modi - Senior, Course 2 and 15, East Campus, UA President

Sammi Wyman - Senior, Course 10c and 18, Burton Conner, UA Vice President - Vrajesh and I are working on big goals to make the UA proactive with good positive changes.

Tim Jenks, Vice Speaker of the Senate

I just want to say: we're going to talk a little more about procedure and stuff like that. One thing that we do: if you hear something that you like, you snap. That shows that you agree with it.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

I would like to request that everyone in chambers closes their laptops so that we provide proper respect to our speaker, with the exception of the Secretary and the Vice Speaker.

5 State of the UA

Vrajesh Modi, UA President



Congratulations! You won an election, and that's why you're here. 2014 Class Council, good job! I'm glad that you guys are here; it's an unexpected, but pleasant surprise. One of the responsibilities of the President is to inform everyone about the State of the UA.

In summary, we currently face an overwhelming number of challenges and a lot of potential opportunities. A lot of the challenges are unprecedented compared to past years in terms of impact and how complicated they are. Sammi and I, Jonte, Tim, and the Principal Officers have been working quite a bit this summer to put together a plan that's going to accelerate your growth and help support anything you want to get done. So, impact. As a senator you have specific responsibilities; we'll get to that towards the end. But, there's only seven of us, and there are a lot more than seven of you. One of the goals that we have instead of going and doing things ourselves is to try and remove barriers and to take advantage of the energy and passion we have in this room.

There are kind of two big themes that kind of characterizes the situation we're in. Internal to the UA, we're seeing a loss of institutional memory. As there's turnover, people forget what happened last year. Sometimes that leaves us to propose solutions that have failed before or to go down paths we've already tried. Sometimes it's a good thing because it helps us remove some constraints, but it's always good to have that memory to refer back to. The kind of specific reasons we're facing with regards to this problem is a lot of you are new to Senate and a lot are new to MIT. That can be said for Senate and Exec. The role of the UA in MIT politics and decision making and the responsibilities we have as far as representing the student body; these things are being forgotten over time. And a big piece of this I'll get to is Outreach. Part of the solution is we need to reconnect with the Undergraduates and refocus ourselves on meeting those needs.

External to the UA, the thing that characterizes what we're seeing is with regards to the corporation of MIT. I'm going to explain it with a few examples, such as student engagement, dining, and enrollment.

You guys are younger than past years. This means, in short, that you guys have probably more time on your hands, probably a lot more energy, and are a lot more willing to learn. We have some challenges ahead of us to make sure you guys have the skills and knowledge to make sure you can get what you need to get done. The same thing can be said for Exec. In the past, Exec has had a couple of experiences on the UA. It can be seen as half full or empty. I'll get to that more in a moment.

This chart shows how we need to reconnect with the undergrads, and the role that we need to play in representing them.

I want to spend a little more time focusing and thinking about what is going on in the UA. From the perspective of someone outside the UA, people won't see the benefit unless it affects their day to day lives. Sammi will talk more about where the UA fits in, but one thing you'll see is that we have a new set of administrators at every level. They're bringing a new mindset, and it's different from what we've seen in the past that we have to adapt to. There's a cultural shift, such as the lack of transparency, and certain situations are mishandled when they could've been addressed. The other piece that characterizes this organization is the focus on efficiency. We, as a nation, just came out of a huge economic downturn, and MIT was not immune to that. A big chunk, close to a quarter of MIT's revenue, comes from our endowment, and there were some significant losses there. When we take the interest off of that, that has an impact as far as costs go. Keep in mind



the other few sources of income of MIT are alumni donations, and that also tends to decline when economy falls off a cliff. Tuition does go up but financial aid goes up more. We've been staying steady because MIT faculty are incredible. What I want you guys to pay attention to over the next 3 examples are quality, process, and creativity.

For those of you that have been around, I'll try and go through this at the right speed, so it's not boring. Two yrs ago, student engagement bubbled up as a huge issue on this campus. There was a great deal of dialogue around it. Some of it was probably a little loud dialogue, including signs and angry people. The kind of outcome was a kind of task force on student engagement. Martin and Leeland were former President and VP, and Phillpp Clay and Kolenbrander were on there. These agreed on common goals about student engagement, and there was an agreement that value was added when students and faculty (basically a whole community) was involved in the decision making process. Unfortunately, that didn't play out the way it was supposed to. One year later, the Tech had some things to say about what was happening. None of the goals have been accomplished...the committee seems intent on dragging its heels. They asked Hockfield to intervene to see if we can still salvage this committee; unfortunately that didn't work. 6 months after that, it still failed to include meaningful student input, etc. So, what I'm trying to emphasize is, I want to give a perspective for the history that's been there as far as student engagement goes. There's been an effort to try and get a student voice incorporated in the student process. Consider this in the framework of the culture change of MIT.

Everyone's favorite topic - Dining. In 2008, Dining was a big issue. In 2009, dining was still a big issue. Some of these people look familiar (like Maggie). It's a pretty big lecture hall, and it was kind of full. That was an emergency Senate meeting. That was about a year and a half ago, and people were very passionate on Dining. The Tech has something to say about it. We formed a different dining committee. The final Blue Ribbon Committee removed some of those recommendations - did not recommend the meal plan for all students, etc. Unfortunately, even with that stuff taken out, students weren't very pleased with that reaction. About 6-8 months past, we didn't hear anything. There were protests and then it was silent. The UA basically said: guys whatever happened to dining? So the UA demanded an official statement on the state of the dining reform. That kind of happened over a period of a few months. At the end of the year, Mike Bennie calls out the HDAG. Okay, obviously you guys realize that this has been a big issue affecting dorms. Process is key for dining. This was all the way at the end of last year. This was kind of taking a step back and going, how exactly are we progressing with this plan.

Enrollment - About a year ago, there was this article in the Tech about increasing enrollment. We haven't systematically explored the options yet. Liz Denys asked to have the UA Committee on Enrollment be involved in the process for determining how this process can be done in a graceful manner. Well, too late (picture of Maseeh). Between June and September, during that time I was president, so I got all the emails, but I didn't get any emails about this. As far as I know, there was no communication to the students until the fact to increase enrollment has already been made. Then, there's this page on why we're increasing enrollment, humanity, blah blah blah; it's true right? More MIT students is not a bad thing.

Okay, so, that's what we're up against. We have a plan, though; we have a plan. There are kind of two pieces to go parallel with this. Internally, we'll accelerate growth. We'll be selecting Senate guests to help develop our skills. In the past, we've had important people, and we'll still have some



of those. But, what we also want to do is to select guests that will deepen your knowledge and develop the skills of Senate and Exec. How many of you have participated in negotiations before? We're going to have the Chair of the Faculty come and teach us how to negotiate better. We're trying to get another former Chair of the Faculty, etc. There was a time that they were important; they have a lot to offer as far as skills and knowledge. They can also speak freely, cause they're not involved. An issue-based discussion format for Senate - Jont/'(e) will talk a little more about that in the meeting. This week, we'll talk briefly about what the issues are that we'll talk about next week. This way you have one week to get smart on it and have one week to talk to your constituents. Then, we come back and talk about it. We'll try and get an expert to come and talk about it or get them in the room. Have an informed discussion about the issue, and hopefully what that will result in is an expression of how the students feel about this issue. The last piece is, Sammi and I have been looking to build an advisory committee on the UA. When we go down a path that has a crocodile in it, they'll be like no, don't do it, that's a bad idea.

Tim will talk to you more on the details, but, in terms of impact, we'll have former Senate Alumni and past UA Presidents and Vice Presidents. We're going to make sure you have their contact information, so if you have any questions you can direct them that way. We're going to have an emphasis on Outreach; as I mentioned before, we want to reconnect with undergraduates. Essentially this body gets its power from carrying out what they want. We need support behind us. We're going to have meeting summaries included at the top of the minutes. Read the minutes; if you don't want to, just read the summary. Monthly newsletter: many of you saw that, and we'll be doing another one this weekend. Exec meetings at dorms, I know you, Betsy, were at the East Campus one. The next one will be at McCormick and then Baker. Any undergraduate, even if you're not elected, is welcome to attend these meetings. The officers are going to have office hours. We also recommend that each senator makes some time for your constituents, so they can find you at a particular place and can voice their concerns to you. We're working on a mailing list called ua-questions as another attempt to reach out to undergrads. If anyone has a question, we'll try to answer it. The last point I want to talk to is kind of a reminder of the expression of the way of how we see UA's role: there's balance among policy, project, programs, and events. A lot of time, Senate focuses on policy, which is not a bad thing because that's long term impact. But both in terms of making it more obvious and more rewarding for all of you, if you can see the impact of your work right away, that's where project, programs, and events come in. I would encourage you to work on some policy and some projects stuff. The long terms stuff is kind of important, but this stuff is stuff you can put on the resume. This way you can see the results of your hard work in front of you.

It is possible, these things have happened recently. We have a lot of skills here. One thing I'm going to ask for, as you'll see in the budget session: more funding for student groups - policy. Raising the amount we allocate will allow some of these student groups to go after projects. In terms of projects, you heard from Diana about the Star Market shuttle. By the way, the shuttle is free; we don't pay a dime. In terms of programs, Student-Faculty Dinners is one of the most successful programs. It's been oversubscribed last time; we had to close it! So, I'll be pushing for more funding. Events - the UA is hosting Fredfest III, this awesome concert at East Campus's courtyard. My point in giving these examples is to show that we're working on all of these simultaneously because of all the people we have in this room, and the balance between them is what lets us do what we want to do. At this point, I'll turn it over to Sammi to tell you how it works and how we fit into MIT.



Sammi Wyman, UA Vice President

Hi, I'm Sammi, and I'm the UA Vice President. How the UA fits into MIT, and how you can succeed. This is the general, very high level structure on how MIT runs. Up here, it's the MIT Corporation - the chairman is John Reed, and he's new. The corporation is essentially the Board of Trustees. President Hockfield is actually accountable to the corporation. Internal to MIT, the person in charge is President Susan Hockfield. She has traditionally been very outward facing; she sets big goals, and she does a lot to reaching out from the MIT community and less on the internal goals. President Susan Hockfield has these following people that report to her directly. We have Gregory Morgan in charge of MIT Legal, Newton - VP for Resource Development, and Kirk - VP for Institute Affairs. Kirk is someone you might see. He traditionally has done a great job interacting and communicating with students and has been a great resource. Terry Stone is the VP and Treasurer, and under her is finance and human resources. The Provost, Reif, is the head of all the schools. Reporting to him are all the individual deans that contribute to academics schools. Chancellor Clay is the arm that deals with undergraduate programs, division of student life, etc. The Dean of Undergraduate Education is Daniel Hastings, and the Dean of Student Life is Chris Colombo. Those are the type of people we associate with most.

Dean of Undergraduate Education - that is headed up by the Daniel Hastings. A variety of people are under him. The ones we deal with most are under Educational Delivery. The UAAP is the group that runs Orientation and the Freshmen Advisory Program. Julie Norman, who is the Senior Associate Dean in that department has been a great resource to the UA in the past. We also have the OME, Experiential Learning (including edgerton center and alternative learning program), the teaching and learning laboratory, and the Office of Educational Innovation and Technology. Also, in the Office of Curriculum Support, we have the Registrar's Office, who we've been working with to move registration online, a big part of our campaign. Also, the Office of Faculty Support, headed by Diana Henderson, can be a great resources. We'll be working with her via SCEP a lot. The general contact is through SCEP, for those that are interested.

We also have the Division on Student Life, which is the other big place that the UA ties in on different issues. A lot of these people are new, which means we haven't had a lot of time to build relationships with them. This sometimes can permit a little more of a challenge. This is the place where some older senators would be a very good resource if you're running into some problems. The Dean for Student Life is Chris Colombo; he'll be by later in Senate. We have under him Peter Cunnings who deals with admissions, tutition, etc. as he manages a lot of the finance for DSL. They also have DAPER, managed by Julie which deals with athletics and the PE program; this includes rooms, booking of rooms, etc. We also have the Office of Religious Life and Residential Life. The position is yet to be filled for residential life. We'll have to work on transitioning them into MIT. We have a lot of projects that traditionally work. I'm sure a lot of you will get to know that person. Also under that is dining. The director of that is Rich Berlin. Many of you may have met Rich; he was one of the people speaking at those house dining forums. He's been there throughout all of this turmoil, so he will definitely continue to be central to that. Under Residential Life includes Housing; director of housing is Dennis Collins. Also, Residential Life programs is also under here. Also under this office is the FSILG office, so the former Assistant Dean for FSILGs also left at the end of last year but was replaced by someone internal, if you're looking at a project that specifically impacts the FSILGs. Over here on the far right is Barbera Bake for Student Development and Support. Under her includes Community Development and the Office of Studnet



Leadership and Activities. They're a great resource for activities and mentoring and leadership. Her and her office will be a great resource for us.

As you guys might notice, there was no mention of student gov's. Obviously, we're not part of the Institute. We can't say something and get them fired. All of the power that we have is through negotiation and talking to the right people, and that's why I told you all about the system. The feedback you bring from your constituents is important too. There are plenty of experienced ppl that can always help you, if you don't know who to talk to about a certain issue.

I'm going to talk a little bit about the student governments. The GSC is our counterpart, the equivalent of the UA for grad students. We've been collaborating with them a lot, and I think that's a great start for students in general.

So, for our own student government, we have 3 branches. Senate, where we are, telling what students think about certain issues. They will tell Exec what to do and what the students want. We also have a Judicial board; JudBoard interprets our constitution for us and lets us know their decisions. It's like the US Government. The officers of the UA are the President Vrajesh, Vice President, Sammi, etc., and you guys will get to know them very well.

The Senate is pretty straight forward; Exec is a little bit more complicated. The President oversees all of Exec. Under him are the other four officers. The AVPs, committee chairs, and class councils report to me, the Vice President. The Chief of Staff talks to Institute Committees. The Treasurer manages finances. And the Secretary-General works on external and internal communication which is a big part of our goals this year, and obviously he also takes minutes.

In order for big changes to happen, the faculty need to vote on it and pass it. There are Institute Committees with students and faculty that discuss multiple topics in order for this to happen. All sorts of issues have different committees, and the UA Nominations Committee nominates student representatives to help us nominate students for these committees. Alex will be working with us to make sure we know everything that's going on with those committees.

What is your job? You have three main things. The first is communicating with constituents. You are here on behalf of your constituents. We make decisions based on what you guys bring back, so that is very important. You're also responsible for UA involvement, so you either join an Institute Committee or an Executive Committee or you can take on an individual project. If you wish to go on an individual project, you need to submit a proposal. Obviously also come to Senate. You need to be here and tell us what your constituents think.

In order to communicate with your constituents, you should send weekly emails updating what we've been doing to your constituents. You will also have an constituency fund to create events. You can have food to get people to come down and ask them questions or listen to their opinions. We also recommend casual office hours; you can say that you plan on being in your room at 4 PM for an hour doing psets and anyone can come, etc.

Here's an example of a great email. What happened, what I did, how I voted, and what you can do. Short and very informative for everybody.

Also to participate in policy, you might have to sometimes do research. You obviously have to contribute to the discussion, and when something comes up, you should write legislation about it.



The next steps - what are you supposed to do now? We just threw a lot of information on what should you do. Today we'll talk about the budget. This week, we'll talk about the W20 game room; talk to your constituents to see what they want to do. You can decide on your UA involvement. For anyone who hasn't, you should also send an introductory email to your constituents - who you are, where you live, and that you'd be willing to listen. You should also meet with other senators from your living group. You're required to have 1 constituency event required per semester per senator. You should start planning at some point this week. Also, remember that all of your officers and senate members are available. We're really excited that you want to get involved, and as want to help you out. Our office is in there; we're in there a lot. Just come in and introduce yourselves. We want to meet you all and we want to help you out. Welcome to Senate, and thank you very much.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

So I think what we're going to do right now is to have a short 5 minute recess. Please pick up one of these org charts. Grab a cookie, too.

Recess Starts: 8:34; Recess Ends: 8:41

6 Discussion of the Fall 2010 Operating Budget

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

Alright so, as I mentioned to start with: the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the operating budget for the upcoming semester. How that's going to work is our treasurer, Ellen, will give a general statement. Then, the committees will defend their budget. If you wish to speak, raise your hand, and I'll add you to the queue. When it's time to speak, we'll go down the queue list. I think that should be all the procedural items. Laptop policy: if you only have the budget open, that's fine. Please be responsible. Acrobat Reader shouldn't keep morphing into Facebook. With that said, I'll turn it over to Ellen.

6.1 Introduction

Ellen McIsaac, UA Treasurer

There's this first page that has an overview, then another page on specifics. Overall, if you look at the UA core budget, you'll see that they've increased a bit compared to previous years. We're spending more money on more projects. In addition, please notice our income contains a \$30,000 reserve withdrawal. We want to take some of our reserve money to help students out. That's one of the reasons for the big withdrawal from the reserve. One of the biggest increases is in the Senate Constituency Fund. Sammi mentioned earlier that you'll need to run an event per senator per semester. You'll also notice that Athletics has decreased significantly. That's because of Athletic Weekend. In the past, there have been rain days. Communications has a huge increase on money because we're trying to help spread our communication. The other big change is we added the VP of Resource Development's budget.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President



We'll have the committee chairs review the specifics.

Ellen McIsaac, UA Treasurer

I can go through the operating costs and Exec. Then, the committees can defend.

Alex Dehnert, Assistant to the Vice President on Information Systems

I noticed that there was decrease in semesterly allowance. Can you talk more about it?

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

I actually don't know why there was a small increase in allowance. I will ask Peter about it more.

Ellen McIssac, UA Treasurer

While we're on this page, I'll also note that we've been given 10,000 more dollars to help improve the program. I'll go over operating and Exec stuff first.

6.2 Budget Defense and Goals

Ellen McIsaac, UA Treasurer

There's office discretionary and some basic costs. One thing is a scanner; as many know that reimbursements have been switched to a scanner system. Also, we have higher food costs because of meetings in dorms, dinners with dorm Execs, which will be hosted approximately weekly for communication, etc. Also, the UA, Dormcon, Panhel, IFC, LGC, and GSC will meet periodically to talk about issues. Then, we have discretionary funding.

Tim Jenks, Vice Speaker of the Senate

Is discretionary funding for the Alumni Committee, that conditional? If Senate decides to not renew that committee, what will happen to the allocations?

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

It will be lead by 6 voting members of exec.

Alexandra Jordan, UA Chief of Staff

The Chief of Staff is a new role. The role is bimodal. First is to work with the Institute Committee to make sure we are understanding what is going on and what we should be doing. It will include me meeting with each of these reps. Some people have multiple seats, out of 50 openings, so there are about 30 people. These meetings will include food and serves to open a dialogue up about what we're doing and what's been going on. The second part is to take on the role of the special projects committee. Farmer's Market, power cords, printers on first floor, etc. are part of that program. Right now, we're trying to get more outlets and power cords for the seating areas outside of this room. Basically, we're making better use of the space in the Student Center. That's being cofunded, and if you implement it, it will be done immediately. Otherwise, if further projects come along, those will be taken out of either Senate or Exec discretionary.

Rachel Meyer, Senator for Off-Campus Students

Do we want to do questions now or later?



Vrajesh Modi, UA President

By category.

Rachel Meyer, Senator for Off-Campus Students

Is there any investigation into how much we'll benefit the students? \$500 is a lot of money,

Alexandra Jordan, UA Chief of Staff

There's no way I can actually measure that, but \$500 is not a lot of money to potentially improve that living space. Ultimately you will decide to approve it or not.

Chris Sarabalis, Senator for Bexley Hall

Do you have other methods of finding information from the faculty and the institute committees, so we can understand what is going on and to form these ties with the higher ups?

Alexandra Jordan, UA Chief of Staff

That is my job. I will communicate with the committees and give you the information. Then, you guys will discuss it and give me feedback. Hopefully this will give me a sense of what is happening on the student side and the admin side. You can send an email to ua-chief, and I'll respond to you within an hour or so.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

Diana?

Diana Hsieh, Assistant to the Vice President on Resource Development

I'm the VP for Resource Development, a position that was brought back this year like Chief of Staff. It was there in the UA constitution, but no one did anything with it. Basically what resource development is is it's dealing with groups outside of MIT, like relationships with Shaw's and doing stuff with the Trader Joe's shuttle. The \$4500 is the total cost for semester. It's being funded by Baker and DormCon, so we're only paying \$1500.

Alex Dehnert, Assistant to the Vice President on Information Systems

Correction, the Chief of Staff was established last year in a bill, not an existing position.

Diana Hsieh, Assistant to the Vice President on Resource Development

Thanks. Also, we'll be working on many relations in terms of entertainment and food, such as working with more food vendors.

Allan Miramonti, Senator for Random Hall

Is there going to be a plan for where the money will come from?

Diana Hsieh, Assistant to the Vice President on Resource Development

The position is for development, so the budget should not be that big. Many of the projects I'm planning are very small in budget.

Allan Miramonti, Senator for Random Hall

Is this running yet?



Diana Hsieh, Assistant to the Vice President on Resource Development

Yes.

Allan Miramonti, Senator for Random Hall

Do we have any info on how many people want to use it?

Diana Hsieh, Assistant to the Vice President on Resource Development

The shuttle was actually full on Sunday; it's actually surprising how many people want to use it.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

Any more questions from this topic on the assembly? Alright, thank you.

Tim Jenks, Vice Speaker of the Senate

I have a quick comment. If you're a freshman, don't be afraid to speak up. You do have the power, so don't be afraid to speak up. Nobody is going to hound you. We want your opinion.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

If you see that something needs to get done, you should also raise it up. You can ask how they intend to get things done with such a small budget.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

Alright. I guess, for Senate. Food at Senate meetings: we try to have food available to people that are part of the committee and those who are just attending the meetings. It is standard tradition to have Pre-Senate Admin dinners. Essentially what this is is we'll invite an admin speaker out to dinner with a few members of the UA. It's an opportunity for us to work on those kind of important relationships to help the UA get things done. This will get new senators familiar with some of the administrators. The Fall Retreat, which will be brought up later, consists of line items for transportation and hotel fees at Cape Cod.

Alex Dehnert, Assistant to the Vice President on Information Systems

I noticed that under transaction record, there's a retreat listed. Is that the same?

Tim Jenks, Vice Speaker of the Senate

We fronted \$2000.

Allan Miramonti, Senator for Random Hall

The food is listed for 40 people for 10 meetings. Don't we have more than 10 meetings?

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

No, we have 8 regularly scheduled meetings and 2 budgetary meetings in the fall. The other is the Senate constituency fund. That is the pot of money that allows you to go out and interact on a personal level with your actual constituencies.

Will Steadman, Senator for Senior House

I have a question about the retreat, what do we do?



Tim Jenks, Vice Speaker of the Senate

What the retreat does is, it's historically something we do, and we take some time to talk about what we want to do and what goals we have. We're going to talk about goals, policies, and visions we have for the year. It's basically a way we can hit the ground running. It takes 5-6 meetings to get the senators comfortable talking, so it's something we do to get comfortable with ourselves and our goals for the year.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

If you're available the weekend of Columbus Day, you should definitely try to be at the retreat. It's a great opportunity to meet other members, figure out strengths, and to get closer with each other.

Alec Lai, UA Secretary-General

Confirmation: what's your name please?

Will Steadman, Senator for Senior House

I'm Will, senator for Senior House.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

The people that go will come back with 6-8 months of experience. Basically for two days, you'll learn a lot about MIT and the UA. If you miss the retreat, it's not going to be the end of the world, but you'll miss a lot. Both times I've gone, though, it's been tremendously valuable.

Jessica Chen, Senator for MacGregor

For the constituency fund, is that \$150 per senator? How does that work?

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

How it works is, you guys get \$150 a senator to each hold an event once a semester. It can be any project that accomplishes the same goal.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

One comment about money. If you're a passionate senator and if you used up all your money, come talk to me or Sammi. We'll find a way for it to work if you really need more money. The purpose of the discretionary funds is to support these unanticipated things that come up. For example, if something in particular comes up and you need to have another meeting, let us know, and we'll find a way to make the money work.

Tim Robertson, Senator for East Campus

If you combined the abilities of 2-3 senators, you now have a pool of \$450 that can do a lot. You can get hundreds of people to come by. Has the senate considered working en mass?

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

Can you be more specific?

Tim Robertson, Senator for East Campus

Partnering senators from many living groups that throw a big event.



Janet Li, Chair of the Committee on Communications

We do have an event in the past called DormStorm when UA members have gone around the dorms to talk about UA topics. We might change what we're doing, but I'll talk about it more in the communications budget.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

I'd like to add to that. The ideas have been floated in the past, but we've never had people come together and do it. If this is something you're interested in doing, I would encourage you to put together a plan, and we'll talk about it.

Rachel Meyer, Senator for Off-Campus Students

I don't see why you doubled the amount per senator. Even if you're not going to combine events, I feel like \$150 is a lot of money. I felt like \$75 was a lot of money, and \$150 is enough to feed like dinner to 200 people.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

I guess that brings up an important point. Again, this is a non-voting meeting of Senate; we can't propose amendments to the budget. If you have specific concerns, email ua-senate; you can bring it up at Senate, and, at the next session, we can make amendments to this budget. We have 3 openings on the Special Budgetary Senate Committee, by the way, which is a committee of 3 members of Senate and a few members of Exec, there to revise the budget and present it at the first official Senate Session. So, to respond directly to that again, we put the increased amount in to see if the assembly would be really excited to take up the cost. If the assembly is more fiscal and wait, that's something we can absolutely do.

Tim Robertson, Senator for East Campus

I just want to say that I didn't mean a lot like a negative thing. Once you go from \$150 up to \$500, your buying power is increased by three times what you could purchase. I was just making the point: it's a lot to get 30-40 people, but you can affect 500 students in one go. That's the entire dorm population. I was just making that point: you can be more effective.

Chris Sarabalis, Senator for Bexley Hall

You can also increase the frequency of events.

Tim Jenks, Vice Speaker of the Senate

On DormStorm in the past, we have allocated a lot of money. It has usually been kinda a flop, just going to say, but that's more on the part of the individual senators. If you all want to do more, I would encourage you to do so. But, if you're going to increase the amount, you really have to publicize it well. It would be great if you were to increase it and to have that drive.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

Alright any more questions on Senate-related line items? Alright.

Rebecca Krentz-Wee, President of ASA

The ASA budget basically covers the two midways and dealing with logistics, lockers, and spaces



throughout the year. That type of thing.

Allan Miramonti, Senator for Random Hall

Is this on par with what we usually have?

Ellen McIsaac, UA Treasurer

It's the same as last year.

Alex Dehnert, Assistant to the Vice President on Information Systems

You can see the more specific information last year. There are bigger breakdowns.

Rachel Meyer, Senator for Off-Campus Students

It's the same budget.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

I'm surprised no one's asked the question: what is the ASA?

Rebecca Krentz-Wee, President of ASA

The ASA is the Association of Student Activities. We work with student groups on a lot of this stuff.

Allan Miramonti, Senator for Random Hall

Does GSC give money?

Rebecca Krentz-Wee, President of ASA

Yes.

Allan Miramonti, Senator for Random Hall

How much?

Rebecca Krentz-Wee, President of ASA

I can check.

Alex Dehnert, Assistant to the Vice President on Information Systems

People have talked about the discrepancy between the two in the past. It makes sense for undergraduates to make that contribution.

Rachel Meyer, Senator for Off-Campus Students

GSC this year contributed \$5300.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

Any further questions on this line item? We'll move to Riley.

Riley Brandt, Chair of the Committee on Athletics

I've mentioned in the past that we've held Athletic Weekends. We're looking towards new ways and projects to promote sports. We also concluded last semester, with a report that we submitted to DAPER, that we're going to try and follow up on that report by addressing some of the student



concerns. Our expenditures this year are just for food in meetings. We're trying to focus more on policy this year as opposed to big events. I heard a few senators were interested in athletics, so please do send me an email. We'd love to have more.

Evan Moore, Senator for New House

May I ask what the Athletics Weekend was like in the past?

Riley Brandt, Chair of the Committee on Athletics

We've had events with free T-shirts and free food with 4 games at a time; it brought a lot of people to the games. The problem is they were drawn to Athletics Weekend and not so much the teams. In addition, bad weather resulted in poor attendance. People got free pizza and left, etc. We were promoting a single weekend more than a specific activity. We hope to partner with the Student Athletics Advising Board to do more this year.

Janet Li, Chair of the Committee on Communications

So, I'm Janet Li. I'm the Communications Chair. If you look at the line items. For our meetings, usually each of our meetings have some food there. For DormStorm, basically we'd go to many dorms and try to get students engaged. It's kind of been a flop in the past. People would stop by for food and not really talk as much with us for the UA. We're working on changing it this year. If you guys have ideas, definitely come talk to me. I'd also really love to have you guys help us. Also, newsletters will keep people updated. In addition, dorms will have community conversations; dorms will invite a professor or administrator to talk with the students. It's a really great way for people to get to know each other.

Allan Miramonti, Senator for Random Hall

The newsletters - how are they being distributed?

Janet Li, Chair of the Committee on Communications

Did we put one in every mailbox?

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

We considered it, but we just put a stack of them at each of the Tech locations. I think, in my opinion, there might be a better way of doing that.

Allan Miramonti, Senator for Random Hall

What are the outprint numbers?

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

2500.

Will Steadman, Senator for Senior House

How big is the newsletter?

Janet Li, Chair of the Committee on Communications

4 pages.

Will Steadman, Senator for Senior House



Can you put it in the Tech? Is it online?

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

It is online. In the Tech, we do have an update; it's sort of like a Twitter.

Rachel Meyer, Senator for Off-Campus Students

As far as the newsletters go, I question how much more useful they're going to be over the UA Updates. Also, how much more sustainable is it to be printing monthly newsletters?

Alex Dehnert, Assistant to the Vice President on Information Systems

You mentioned the UA update as a Twitter. I recall that last year's was like 2 paragraphs long.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

I think the one last year did include more prose, but it didn't seem like very many people were reading it. The goal is to now have people submit questions, and it will be like shorter responses in that space. More conversational. Also to talk to Rachel's point. I think they're both fair points. I think Sammi and I noticed there is lack of outreach which motivated it, I agree that printing is killing trees. I agree that it's a good question to investigate.

Andres Romero, Audience

When I think about a newsletter, I think the paper is to get out to the constituents. I see a paper, and I read it. Eventually, if I'm constantly really interested, we can merge into an online system. It might be a temporary system for now. You can put it next to the Tech. You can probably put it there, and I'd pick it up.

Allan Miramonti, Senator for Random Hall

I feel like there's a general opinion of the UA that we do jack squat. And I would like to change that opinion. I feel like in the long run that will give us a bit more push.

Will Steadman, Senator for Senior House

Since \$500 a month is a significant amount, I feel like you can spend that on meetings more than newsletters. If you have a meeting, I feel like you can spend more useful time there talking.

Shuang Chen, Senator for Simmons Hall

Is it possible to slide the newsletters into the Tech?

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

I will look into it and see how much it costs.

Alex Wang, Senator for Baker House

Like Andres was saying, I feel like if you pick it up, then you'll read it. But people tend to avoid links. Maybe it can be used for further information.

Owen Derby, Senator for Fraternities

Why do we choose monthly?

Vrajesh Modi, UA President



We tried many options, and we ended up choosing monthly.

Owen Derby, Senator for Fraternities

But, you also have the Tech.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

There's a huge difference in readability.

Tim Robertson, Senator for East Campus

Sustainability is an issue, the additional cost of printing and the amount of people. It is an effective way, though, because I don't read the Tech online. I like to have a physical newspaper. I think we need to show that we're aware that we're spending these costs effectively. It's yet another way to communicate.

Diana Hsieh, Assistant to the Vice President on Resource Development

I just wanted to emphasize the difference between what we have in the Tech and the newsletter. Very few people actually read the UA blurb, but the UA newsletter was seen in a lot of friends' rooms. The newsletter is very different from a Tech blurb.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

Alright, just as an update to the assembly. Discussions of the assembly can be time-limited. Since we're running over time, I'm going to time limit further statements from members to one minute. I may enforce that on other items, but definitely on communications.

Jessica Chen, Senator for MacGregor

I just want to say that if you really want to add it to the Tech...It's not just making it available, it's also telling them that it's there because I don't know if people will know that.

Chris Sarabalis, Senator for Bexley Hall

A major advantage of having it online: it can be accompanied with a forum. I think it's a really good place to get an understanding of what the people think. It's a very powerful method of getting feedback.

Rachel Meyer, Senator for Off-Campus Students

My comments are on the other items in this section. Just comments on DormStorm: last year we organized events outside the Student Center that targeted non-dorm committees. As somebody that was part of organizing DormStorm, I would not qualify the entire event as a flop. And as far as community conversations go...I think just having that event is counterproductive and not what community conversations was supposed to be.

Jason Hu, Senator for Next House

You said earlier that you use Twitter?

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

The UA used to have a Twitter key, but, last I checked, it's become obsolete. The point I was making was the UA Update is probably more like a blog or Twitter post than a long article.



Jason Hu, Senator for Next House

What about a Facebook?

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

We do have one. We hope that this will make people want to come to the UA.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

I think we'll move onto dining at this point.

Paula Trepman, Chair of the Committee on Dining

The most important thing with the dining changes is talking to students and gathering feedback from the students. There used to be an Au Bon Pain last year in Johnson. They have left starting in June. One thing we can work on is filling that. Also, another thing is we want to get some communication between all the dorm dining halls, making sure that food quality and nutrition is maintained. Also, I want to work with Krishna on sustainability with dining, such as composting. I'm excited that a lot of you are working to get involved.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

I'd like to open to questions, but only about the budget.

Andres Romero, Audience

I think that the budget you have is a little low faced with the tasks that are coming. I think that a lot of people don't know what is going on, and you'll definitely need more funding to do your communication.

Paula Trepman, Chair of the Committee on Dining

I asked for more budget, and I can also ask for some from the Exec Discretionary funding.

Sammi Wyman, UA Vice President

We were planning on releasing a report and such to the public in the near future. It's true that if we want to hold additional events, we'll use discretionary funding to help us out.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

Any further discussion on the budget? Thank you very much, Paula. History, is Adam here?

Adam Bockelie, Chair of the Committee on History

Our budget is similar to dining as we have a line item for meeting food. We also have a line item for archiving. The history committee has to archive all the old meeting minutes, legislature, etc. The library has a service that you can pay them to scan a bunch of paper, so we're planning on scanning all of it in order to move it to an online repository.

Betsy Riley, Senator for East Campus

The UA is getting a scanner itself, right?

Adam Bockelie, Chair of the Committee on History

But the library will allow me to not stand there for a long time.



Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

There is a housing line item, but, as that committee currently doesn't have a committee chair confirmed by Senate, I don't think it's really relevant to discuss it, yet.

Sammi Wyman, UA Vice President

I just want to mention that we'll be bringing a new nomination for Housing Chair next week. After that, if you approve, he may ask for more funding to accomplish his tasks.

Will Steadman, Senator for Senior House

Could I find out who this committee chair is because I'm interested in this committee?

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

Daniel Hawkins is the new proposed Chair. You can email him at ua-housing-chairs@mit.edu. We tried to recruit for it in the past, but there was no one that was particularly interested. I think it was with the recent announcement of W1 that so much interest has started. If you were here last year, you recall that Daniel was formerly the Vice-Chair on the Committee on Student Life, and he's giving up that position once he is confirmed.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

Committee on Nominations is next.

Sammi Wyman, UA Vice President

The way that the Committee on Nominations or NomCom functions is: we spend a day on nominations and interviews and a day on decisions. We have a small budget for food for the committee members that have to be there all day.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

Any discussion on the Nominations Committee?

Shuang Chen, Senator for Simmons Hall

What positions do we nominate for?

Sammi Wyman, UA Vice President

The seats on the Institute Committees.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

If there's no further discussion, we'll move on to Space Planning.

Eddie Obropta, Chair of the Committee on Space Planning

The deal with space planning is, a lot of things are kind of research oriented. For example, the Game Room in the Student Center is not used, but we wouldn't have to spend a lot on developing that. The typical costs will be in food for meetings. The other thing is picnic tables. When you want to study, instead of staring at a wall, you could be sitting outside on a picnic table. The idea of that is to encourage outdoor settings. \$400 won't give us 5000 picnic tables, though, so we'll be looking into local companies; we can think about etching their name on the table, and hopefully we'll have some donors.



Vrajesh Modi, UA President

I just want to make some clarification. The Game Room is the room that used to have games in it. When you walk into the Student Center, on the left is LaVerdes and the right is MIT Federal Credit Union. That's the space we'll be discussing next week.

Eddie Obropta, Chair of the Committee on Space Planning

The reason you might not know about it is because it's not awesome yet.

Will Steadman, Senator for Senior House

Do you have specific locations in mind?

Eddie Obropta, Chair of the Committee on Space Planning

There's some, like Killian Court has these big wings that come down. There's also like those concrete benches, and there will be picnic tables.

Allan Miramonti, Senator for Random Hall

What about Hayden courtyard?

Eddie Obrpota, Chair of the Committee on Space Planning

What about Hayden courtyard? Yea, exactly. That's kinda just fallen off the radar, and it's still zero.

Alex Dehnert, Assistant to the Vice President on Information Systems

What about Athena Clusters. Have you talked to IS&T about that?

Eddie Obrpota, Chair of the Committee on Space Planning

There's some kind of committee that has been delgated to look at tAthena clusters.

Insert random brawl of confusion about the committees

Alex Dehnert, Assistant to the Vice President on Information Systems

It would be good if you talk to Vrajesh more about it.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

Okay, we'll move on to Student Life.

Richard Dahan, Chair of the Committee on Student Life

First of all, if you look at our budget, you'll see some discrepencies. We used to have a big mentoring program on PLUS. In any case, that costs a lot of money. We've successfully gotten SAO to pay for that, and we'll require no funding. A few other policy things that we'll be working on that won't require funding: We'll be going through stuff that needs to be finished. For one, we had a survey about MIT shuttle services. We'll continue analyzing it and generate a report. We'll continue, as mentioned, to work on the Athena clusters. We also have simple technical things like improving easy techincal fixes. Those are a few policy issues that don't require money. Last year, for all the new senators, there was a committee called the Special Projects Committee. We don't know if it's under CSL to do these things. What we will try to do is generate cool ideas. Be on the lookout for



that. We've also been talking about the food trucks, etc. Any questions?

Allan Miramonti, Senator for Random Hall

Congratz on getting the whole PLUS thing funded elsewhere.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

Sustainability - Krishna?

Raimundo Krishna Esteva, Chair of the Committee on Sustainability

I think the budget items speak for themselves. There's basic meeting food and postering. We'll be doing a number of activities, but any questions?

Alexandra Jordan, UA Chief of Staff

Not a lot of you said sustainability is on the list of things you want to join, but it's a cool committee that does a lot of cool stuff. You should consider joining.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

Alright if there's no further discussion, I'm not sure who we'll have to talk about ElectComm.

Tim Jenks, Vice Speaker of the Senate

I'll do it. ElectComm already spent the money, so yeah. It's not anything completely unrealistic, and they did put in a lot of time. They run their own server and everything.

Alex Dehnert, Assistant to the Vice President on Information Systems

Is there a reason you're paying for the server location all together now instead of over three increments?

Tim Jenks, Vice Speaker of the Senate

I don't know; I guess they just decided they want to pay for it all now.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

I think they wanted all the pay for it now.

Alex Dehnert, Assistant to the Vice President on Information Systems

I'm pretty sure you're wrong about that...

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

Alright, I got an email, though, asking for it to be paid in full in the fall.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

If you have any questions, feel free to send further mail to ua-senate.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

I have an email here saying that IS&T will process the billing by Sept 2010. I can forward you the email.

Rachel Meyer, Senator for Off-Campus Students



For Events, can you make sure it is changed to be funded by the Student Life Fee?

Ellen McIsaac, UA Treasurer

Nods

Liyan David Chang, Chair of SCEP

We have requested money for food at meetings. I just want to note that SCEP meetings are closed; we do talk about professors and students in order to handle violations, etc.

Allan Miramonti, Senator for Random Hall

What does SCEP stand for?

Liyan David Chang, Chair of SCEP

Student Committee on Educational Policy

Rachel Meyer, Senator for Off-Campus Students

Does that imply you have 12 meetings a semester?

Liyan David Chang, Chair of SCEP

Yes.

Rachel Meyer, Senator for Off-Campus Students

Is that accurate?

Liyan David Chang, Chair of SCEP

I believe so.

Rachel Meyer, Senator for Off-Campus Students

And, you do have a full meeting every time?

Liyan David Chang, Chair of SCEP

I believe so. SCEP typically has a big food budget but never spends it all.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

It is listed on here. Alex, I don't know if you want to say anything.

Alex Dehnert, Assistant to the Vice President on Information Systems

I dunno; I sort of see myself as Support Services. If you have problem with the website or there's coding required, I can help with that. I don't really expect to buy and administer more hardware, so I don't really expect to have many expenses.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

I think you've reached the end of the budget. Thank you very much. I think what we'll do now is, we'll return in 5 minutes and hit an abbreviated discussion and closing remarks. I made the decision to let all committee chairs speak of their committees and roles instead of sticking very carefully for the outlined times in the agenda. I'll definitely like feedback. Please email ua-senate-officers about



that, or speak to me afterwards. Let's take the 5 minute recess now and come back around 10:11. Recess starts at 10:06 PM; Recess ends at 10:11 PM.

7 General Discussion

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

I'm going to pass around this around; you guys just heard a budget presentation with descriptions from each Chair. I'm going to pass around a sheet that has descriptions of all the Committess. I'm also going to pass aruond a sheet that has all the expectations of being a senator. I guess I'm just going to roll into Procedural Remarks.

7.1 Procedural Remarks

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

There are three main responsiblties. Firstly, you have to attend all Senate meetings and contribute your living group's opinions to the Senate. If you are absent for three meetings unexcused, you will have been considered to have resigned from your position. We'll need a statement for why you're absent and who the proxy will be from your living group to represent you. It should be semi-official. If you can do that for us, it will help us greatly. Anytime there's an absence, we are required by bylaws to notify your constituency. Records appear in minutes and on the websites.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

There are three good reasons to miss Senate: emergencies, exams, or your job/career depends on it. Other than that, we all have too much work. Please do plan ahead. We need the body to be here for the Senate to function.

Owen Derby, Senator for Fraternities

Who are you going to notify for fraternities and sororites?

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

I think the course of action we're going to follow is notifying the IFC and potentially your actual fraternity.

Alex Dehnert, Assistant to the Vice President on Information Systems

Sorry, what was the question?

Janet Li, Chair of Committee on Communications

Who are you going to notify?

Alex Dehnert, Assistant to the Vice President on Information Systems

Constituency President.

confusion



Vrajesh Modi, UA President

I think it's okay.

Tim Jenks, Vice Speaker of the Senate

I'm going to talk about constituency communications. So basically, your role as a senator is to not just come up with your own opinion but to talk to your living group, so we can pass on your living group's ideas and opinions instead of your own. We have the constituency fund which you heard a lot about. Really, communicating with your constituents is all about you. Contrary to what you think, I found that people actually do care about a couple of issues. So, the best way, we're going to talk about this a lot more at the retreat, too, is to just be active and send emails to your dorm lists. When you do that, be sure to copy ua-senate-officers, so we know that you did that. As soon as Jonté forwards the agenda to y'all, if you can tell your dorm's constituents in a quick summary and invite them to come, that would be great. Use the Senate constituency fund. I don't feel like I need to go into much more detail about that. You do have to do one event. It's mandatory so also just talk to your dorm email lists.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

I was just going to add, you're required to send one email a week, but that's an awkward number to send. Under that, if you send an email about an agenda, you wouldn't be able to send an update on what happened. You can send an email on Sunday talking about what's going to be discussed on Monday. Then, send another email after the Monday email summarizing what happened. Add a link to where the minutes are, since we're going to be approving the minutes at the meeting.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

I would like to request everyone to close their laptops. With that said, the last item is that you guys are actually involved with doing things outside this room. You need to go out and take opinions and turn it into action. That involves joining a committee, interviewing, becoming student representatives on an Institute Committee, etc.

7.2 Senate Minutes

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

Discussion. How this is going to work is: We're going to have a topic; we will ask for questions and counterpoints. I'm going to enforce, from the start, a one minute time on the floor. We had a problem with approving the minutes at the next meeting because it's awkward. Generally you have a meeting and over the course of next week, the minutes are reviewed and the minutes are approved at the next meeting. We're moving to a system of approving it at the meeting so you can inform constituencies or approve or authorize draft minutes to be distributed.

Alex Dehnert, Assistant to the Vice President on Information Systems

I'd prefer the latter route. I think for many Senate meetings, it's long. I think it would be better to do draft minutes.

Allan Miramonti, Senator for Random Hall



I'm curious on how Alec feels about this, if he feels this is a good idea at all. My concern is why we would approve draft minutes at all.

Alec Lai, UA Secretary-General

Um, so I'm currently still typing minutes as I'm talking, and it's about 19 pages long now single spaced. I cannot guarantee that all the words will be remotely grammatically correct by the end of this. So, yeah...we'll have really draft minutes if you want to approve them at the end of this meeting.

Rachel Meyer, Senator for Off-Campus Residents

Okay so, I guess my first question is whether verbatim style minutes are even appropriate or necessary in the first place. And I think a third alternative I would like to suggest is whether or not to give 48 hours, so Alec has some time to get ready and people will have 48 hours to approve this. I don't think the first draft is something you want to be public.

Alex Dehnert, Assistant to the Vice President on Information Systems

Rachel's suggestion sounds good. From what Alec said, the first suggestion sounds like it will spend a lot of time fixing grammar.

Tim Robertson, Senator for East Campus

Is it really appropriate to record everything we're talking about? I'm just curious what he's typing.

Alec Lai, UA Secretary-General

I take out all the fillers, and usually I just summarize what everyone just said, making sure to cover all the key points. Sometimes, though, it's easier to just type a sentence all the way through, especially if it's going very fast.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

Alec answered.

Will Steadman, Senator for Senior House

I also agree with the previous 48 hour statement.

Jessica Chen, Senator for MacGregor

Are the minutes for records or to just summarize what's going on?

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

Traditionally, we haven't had summaries. We traditionally only have minutes, so we know who said what and for transparency.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

So, Tim is going to send out two template emails, one for pre-meeting agenda and one for minutes format, as reference. You should develop your own style. Traditionally, the minutes are so long that you should summarize it in your prose. Certain issues for certain dorms have different impact. You can also say what you voted for. Does that answer your question?

Owen Derby, Senator for Fraternities



I just wanted to touch upon, the summary, what are they for?

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

I don't think that they need to be approved with the minutes. The summaries will be content generated by Alec, that won't require approval, like the UA Updates. I do think we should approve the actual minutes. Once that gets approved, what people said is on the record.

Owen Derby, Senator for Fraternities

I was just wondering if the summary could be a separate document.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

I would hesitate to say if it should be replacement for the minutes, but if someone is skimming, it can be useful.

Alex Wang, Senator for Baker House

I would gladly help him out, because with google docs others can help him out with his minutes. It might be more accurate to have two people typing, and it would be less work for Alec.

Tim Jenks, Vice Speaker of the Senate

I don't think it's a good idea to do it at the meeting. We should look over it as a body before we approve them. It's not like we're hiding anything if we bring it out a week later. We wouldn't want to misquote things hastily. I do like the idea of getting the summary out very quickly. That way, you guys can use it. If you have problems about bias, you can send out your own summary.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

The original question about minutes was trying to decide the best way to do minutes. We can't take a vote on it because it's a non-voting meeting. Established policies do not say that we will let them go out as a draft. I would recommend that if you want inform your constituents this week, you will send out your own email. I will go ahead with the queue.

Rachel Meyer, Senator for Off-Campus Residents

I guess my only remaining point is that I don't think we should make Alec type up summaries.

Alec Lai, UA Secretary-General

My only response is that I think that I should still write a summary to sum up everything in the minutes. It would be like an abstract for a science paper. I do think, though, that senators should write their own minutes because they know their living groups better and can better express their opinions in the correct form.

Richard Dahan, Chair of the Committee on Student Life

I do think a special summary by the senators should be made. No one is going to read a set of 20-page minutes. So, it's good to have summaries.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

I believe most people have exhausted their one minute. Therefore, I will move on to the next topic if there are no further comments.



7.3 Senate Office Hours and Work Nights

This is not a topic but more a suggestion. I would suggest that you come visit the office and work here to have principal officers or more experienced members help you with legislation. It's nice to work here on occasion.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

To echo what Jonte said, I will buy you food if you're willing to be proactive and to commit to this program, since you're working so hard.

Rachel Meyer, Senator for Off-Campus Students

When will you be doing this? Sunday's too late to get anything on the agenda. No one would come on Friday with psets, etc. I know last year I tried to do this, and it ended up with basically me and the Speaker sitting down and writing whatever we want.

Jessica Chen, Senator for MacGregor

I was just confused if this were the office hours that you were talking about? Wouldn't it be better if those were near our constituencies?

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

The intent of work nights is not for office hours with students but officers to powwow with other senators and UA members. The intent wasn't to have legislation ready for the next meeting. It's to work on ideas and to discuss.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

At some point, the discussion will move to a mailing list, ua-senate.

Tim Robertson, Senator of East Campus

It's really good to have a location where you can meet face to face with others in the UA. You can convey the opinions of your dorms, stress the necessity, etc. If we can have some time period, I would really like to take advantage of that.

Sammi Wyman, UA Vice President

This is kind of what I said earlier. Vrajesh and I are very often in the office, so anytime you're in the Student Center, definitely come by. We'd love to talk to you about things.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

If you send an email, and it's vital, we can make time for you within the next 24 hours. If it's really urgent, we can probably find a way to make time for you in the next couple of hours. If you don't want to wait till Sunday to bring something up, send us an email and we'll figure something out.

7.4 Student Center Game Room

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

If there's no further discussion, we'll move to the next topic that we've talked about.



We have the room downstairs, the Game Room, and we need to figure out what to do with that under-used space. We can still have a small discussion if you will find it valuable. I encourage you to go back to your constituents these next few weeks to ask them for what they want to do with that room. It's important that your constituents express their opinions so we can use the space correctly.

Sammi Wyman, UA Vice President

Eddie was under the impression that this discussion was going to happen next week, so I'd prefer to move it to next week.

Rachel Meyer, Senator for Off-Campus Residents

Just as clarification, the space doesn't have water and is there now for people to do whatever they want with it.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

Everything that Rachel said is true, but I wouldn't use those constraints as deal breakers for generating ideas. I agree that there are certain constraints on the space now, but I wouldn't only think of ideas in that restriction.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

I would like to note: it is sometimes good to read between the lines. That's why we have office hours and minutes.

Sammi Wyman, UA Vice President

Also, it's your job to come up with policies and ideas, and it's our (Exec's) job to find out how to make it happen.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

Within reason.

Shuang Chen, Senator for Simmons Hall

I think it's a good idea to send out a survey to see what people want.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

Surveys have certain amount of value if we're down to a certain number of choices. However, right now it is far too open. That's why we hope you will bring back opinions from your constituency, so we can have a better understanding of what we want.

Samuel Rodarte, Senator for Ashdown/NW35

There have been past surveys on the student center; you may consider looking into that.

Alex Dehnert, Assistant to the Vice President on Information Systems

May I suggest to table the discussion?

Will Steadman, Senator for Senior House

Will we be able to do something, or is there a danger for it being taken back?



Rachel Meyer, Senator for Off-Campus Residents

There's a continual danger of it being taken back.

7.5 Other Topics

Andres Romero, Audience

I do have something, as a constituent. I'm a freshman, and I don't know much about this. But, I would like to bring dining to the discussion in the near future. I hope to learn more from the UA, so I can properly choose my stance.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

Can you be more specific?

Andres Romero, Audience

My main concern is on the pricing and how it compares to what we spend now.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

Where do you live?

Andres Romero, Audience

Next.

Alex Dehnert, Assistant to the Vice President on Information Systems

There's been a lot of information released, and I'd recommend you to ask for information on ua-discuss.

Andres Romero, Audience

Well, it's not just me, but I would like other people to get more information, too, so we can make an accurate stance and perhaps do something about it should we keep our current opinion.

Rachel Meyer, Senator for Off-Campus Residents

We're aware of this. You may not know, but we are aware of this; I don't know if this is the appropriate time to discuss this, though.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

I would also recommend you to talk to your dorm president and dining chair at Next House to get more information.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

Alright, I'm going to move on.



8 Closing Remarks

8.1 Appointed Senate Positions

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

The tradition is Senate appoints the following positions, including Senate Ex-Officio members of the Nominations Committee, the Parliamentarian, and the Seageant-At-Arms. Also included will be the Senate Budgetary Committee.

Essentially, if you are on the Nominations Committee, you would interview the candidates for certain positions. If you are the Parliamentarian, you will make sure you will follow Robert's Rules of Order. Lastly, Sergeant-of-Arms escorts people in and out of chambers and makes sure the doors are closed. Other than that, that's essentially what those positions are.

8.2 Logistics

Tim Jenks, Vice Speaker of the Senate

Alright, the retreat is October 9th and 10th, so you won't get hosed and can still get psets done. We're leaving Saturday morning at 9:45 AM; we're going down to the resort at Cape Cod; and we're going to be spending the night there. We'll be doing lots of great programming during the day and getting new senators oriented to their new positions in order to become more effective. We're going to break out into smaller sessions, and talk in an informal setting on our goals.

You all should've filled out a survey from Jonté. I need a preliminary response, at the very least, on who's coming by tonight so I can contact the resort on how many people are coming. If you can't go, then, well, you just can't go. If you didn't fill out that survey, you can maybe send me an email this night - ua-vicechair@mit.edu. You'll be getting a whole schedule once we get closer to the retreat. Monday, October 4th is the absolute deadline. That's all I have on the retreat right now. I came in knowing nothing last year, and when I left the retreat, I definitely thought I knew what was going on. It's a great experience, and we pay for everything - transportation, hotel, and dining. You should come. Any questions on the retreat?

I also want to talk real briefly on the UA-lists. I'll send an email to the UA-list about the UA-lists to save time. If there's anything controversial that you would say in closed session, where we'd normally kick people out, you can send it to ua-seante-members@mit.edu. Otherwise, it will go public eventually pending Senate's approval.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

UA-senate-members is for confidential stuff. Ua-senate does go public, and a lot of people will know about it.

Tim Jenks, Vice Speaker of the Senate

Website, use the website. We'll try and keep it updated. We'll have sample LaTeX, updates, etc. Use the website. Also, use the fridge in the UA office.

Alex Dehnert, Assistant to the Vice President on Information Systems



If you send mail to dash members, you should include why your sending it, otherwise it can get forwarded to the whole list. A brief explanation of what the topjc was and why it was kept confidential is necessary. 40.UAS.12.2.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

Last couple things: next meeting is 7:30 here, next Monday. If you want somethign to be put on the agenda, you need to send it to me by ua-officers by noon that Saturday before the meeting. At this meeting, you guys are going to take the oath of office, and you will be given senate binders with anything you would want to know about Senate. We'll be trying to work on that over the next week or so. By the time the retreat rolls around, we hope you will be a fully functional assembly. Please communicate with your constituents, and bcc senate-officers so we can keep track that you actually sent one.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

There's an Exec Meeting on Wednesday; you're welcome to come to these meetings. Nothing super special happened today that Exec will deal with. In general, stuff you task on Monday will be talked about on Wednesday. This week is going to be at McCormick at 7 PM on Wednesday.

Janet Li, Chair of the Committee on Communications

It's also a good chance to learn about committees.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

Last thing, you'll have all the information. We'll start functioning in Parliamentary mode with motions and such next week.

Vrajesh Modi, UA President

Also, Exec meetings are strictly one hour; we stop at 8.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

Oh yea, sorry for exceeding my intended cap for today.

9 Closing Roll Call

The following senators *left early*: Yi Wu (Baker House), Samuel Acquah (Next House), Cody Zoschak (Fraternities), and Anthony Farrell (ILG)

10 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alec Lai



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