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<td>East Campus</td>
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<td>MacGregor</td>
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<td>Justina Yang</td>
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<td>Meredith Loy</td>
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Agenda

1. Attendance & Approval of 49 UAC 8 Minutes 7:35 - 7:40
2. Officer Updates 7:40 - 7:45
3. Committee Updates 7:45 - 7:50
4. Discussion: How do you share information and solicit feedback from your constituents? 7:50 - 8:05
5. On Demand SafeRide Feedback 8:05 - 8:20
6. Open Discussion 8:20 - 8:30

7:35pm Attendance & Introductions

7:38pm Voting on the minutes. 49 UAC 8 Minutes are passed.

7:38pm Officer Updates

Sarah

Chancellor’s Concourse
Today we had the first Chancellor’s Concourse, which is when Cindy invites the LGC Speaker, UA, Dormcon, IFC, Panhel, and 4 Class Council presidents to share information and talk about issues, which is a pretty interesting model. This is potentially replacing the Chancellor’s Advisory Council, which was a thing last year, so we’re trying to test out more models to have students interact with ehr in this capacity. We talked about tuition and financial aid, DACA, and the OneWorld festival.

Cindy gave some updates about tuition and financial aid, which was very similar to Marty’s presentation at the faculty meeting today. It’s trying to increase the number of Pell grant students (this year we’re at 20%). Total budget for financial aid is now $140 million, which is more than doubled since 2006. There’s going to be a slight increase (6%) in average meal plan cost because of dining changes, but doesn’t mean everybody’s meal plan is going up, but also removing mandatory full 19 in Maseeh.

Housing
Housing costs is going to go up, but that’s almost entirely because NH is becoming a tier 1 dorm. Still possibility of something happening to ease that change for students who previously lived there, but I don’t know who is the point person. Going to be hard because MIT’s endowment is getting hit by the tax bill. Housing is already subsidized by MIT, which is an interesting thing to know, and a lot cheaper than other Boston schools, while it is frustrating that costs are going up, it’s important to understand context.

DACA
Mark Vincenzo, who is the Chief Legal Guy (™) for MIT, met with students and S^3 dean, now less sure something is going through Congress. Also court rulings that are coming down that are saying
that renewal applications still have to be processed. If ICE agents approach anyone on MIT campus, they're supposed to be referred to MIT Police, not allowed to go into dorms or FSILGs unless they are with MIT police or have a warrant.

Considering how to do advocacy within the UA, perhaps doing a phone bank. Last year when the UA did a phone bank they were perceived as being partisan. With our policy platform we are in a better position to do something like that, looking at collaborating with Harvard student government.

**OneWorld**

Is happening! May 12th! People from the UA Community & Diversity Committee are partnering with them again this year.

Colin is scheduling a study break with President Reif, also trying to get other admin for that. Probably March 23rd, 3-4pm

**Faculty Meeting: Annual Report on Tuition and Financial Aid**

*Notes.* Provost went over tuition and financial aid related things. MIT tries to keep its tuition within the same range as peerse, Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford. Try to keep a uniform admissions yield across all income groups. Currently average student debt at graduation is $19,000 for the 29% of seniors who borrow, but 10 years ago we were at $30,000.

**Confidentiality Policy**

Tomorrow morning Mo and Sarah are meeting with faculty governance to talk about the confidentiality policy. They may ask for changes, depending on what the changes are, it may come back to Council to a vote.

Alexa

**Dining**

Aramark, Bon Apetit, and Sodexo are the three dining vendors who have filled out RFPs, will be having a 4 hour meeting / presentation next week. New system will have 200 meals a semester, instead of 19 meals per week.

**SwipeShare**

SwipeShare had 800 meals donated, over 300 meals used. S^3 isn’t going to not give someone a meal swipe because there isn’t a donated one, so DSL will make up for the shortfall, but this program makes it easier for DSL to support it. I think people already find S^3 fairly approachable. When the program first launched, there were 500 meals donated the first week, so right now trying to get people to keep donating so it’s not a one time thing.

Can we try to do this as an opt-out, so unused guest swipes would automatically be included?

- Bon Apetit might not like that because just for this program we’re allowing rollover. Maybe if it’s not Bon Apetit next year.
**7:55pm Committee Updates**

Marketing: working on a new UA logo, redoing the UA website  
Campus Planning: working with Suzy and Gus on small student center renovations, also libraries  
Wellness: Last semester worked on the mural project, painting will start really soon, launching free sanitary hygiene project  
Sustain: Dorm Electricity Competitions, space for a new community garden  
Involvement: wants to plan a party for the UA.  
Alumni Affairs: summer mentorship program so when students go to different cities they get paired with an alumni  
Innovation: BetterMIT hackathon and innovation week, looking to start new projects  
Technology: TEDx in April, improvements to the mobile app and new on-demand system  
Public Affairs: more involved in Cambridge City Council, sending a rep to their meetings  
Community Service: working on Day of Service, which is the same day as the MIT Day of Action  
Events: Have a SpringFEST artist, will do artist reveal after Spring Break

**8:00pm Discussion: How do you share information and solicit feedback from your constituents?**

Katie: BC is looking for a new Head of House, made a new mailing list for updates.

Sarah: Something that worked in EC was ec-inform, Allie when she was president would send out a synopsis of UA meetings, Dormcon meetings, and admin meetings, similar to ua-inform. Another thing I’ve seen is live polling during a UA meeting, especially if we’re talking about something more controversial, if you have a house mailing list have a live poll to influence to how you vote.

MJ: My suspicion is that it varies due to community size. If I emailed everything I wanted to say to r-h-t, everyone reads it, but maybe emailing everything to ec-discuss wouldn’t make sense. Maybe also useful to talk to your exec, sharing information to exec would be useful. Idk what’s communicated during IFC and Panhel meetings, but in whatever smaller student government group you can share information verbally and that might get more people to listen.

Justin: Some people at Next have been getting annoyed at the level of traffic on one of our mailing lists, but then only people with certain strong opinions would be on the list, if people have advice that would be helpful.

Emitang: Since we have presidents for each of NH’s houses, I talk about things during president’s meetings and made it clear that everyone has a direct line of access to me. I was thinking about a NH slack channel, might be better than an email list, but haven’t yet done our retreat.
Sarah: It’s important for you guys to be representatives and for you guys to be a bridge to your constituents, because all undergrads should be represented by this group, so you should actively think about how you share information and how you get feedback.

Alexa: Also if you read the agenda beforehand and see something interesting, please encourage people to come to these.

Sarah: I want you guys to feel like you have agenda-setting power. If there’s anything you want to put on the Council agenda for a discussion or a vote. Email Kat beforehand, send us a topic before the Monday before Council.

8:08pm On Demand SafeRide Feedback

There is an email list called saferide-feedback@mit.edu that students can email if they have any issues or suggestions for the system (this has saferide@mailman.mit.edu, which is only admin, Alexa, and Sarah). I know there has been some issues with implementation and how students are using it, if you have feedback. I think we are also trying to do a survey to get a broader sample.

Arjun: People didn’t like that you needed an app for this, which is trivial. Route efficiency seems to be crazy, people have been picked up on campus, taken across the river, then come back and pick up more people before being dropped off. People also had wait times of upwards of 15 minutes at 1am, which is longer than the wait time for the SafeRide.

Emily: If there are multiple SafeRides picking people up, it’s nontrivial to figure out which one you’re supposed to be getting into, because you need to go up and ask the drivers which one you need to get into. You can’t use it without having a smartphone, if you are out somewhere if you’re phones dead or don’t have your phone on you.

Not knowing which one is yours, waiting for a SafeRide, shuttle came up, would wait for the one they had called, even though they were all going to the same place. It’s frustrating to see someone drive by and they couldn’t take you.

Arjun: Should have optimized for MIT and Boston.
  - Harvard also used this one, which is why we began using it, and then in the middle of last fall they told us that it’s really not that good, but it’s too late for us to switch, now I believe they’re switching.

Justina: Not being able to call a SafeRide if you don’t have a smartphone should be weighed more than efficiency, because the purpose of the SafeRide is to have a way to go somewhere late at night.
  - I have a memory of a meeting where there was a phone number you could call, but I can’t remember. Maybe we can explore a system to be able to call or send a text message. It doesn’t help a dead phone situation if you’re not with other people.
Mo: Is this replacing all three Saferides or only Boston East?
   - All three, but only after 11pm.

MJ: Run the bare minimum of the typical ride, but say the wait is pretty long for the one that is pre-scheduled to help the situation where you can’t call one.
   - This is something that was brought up in early meetings, can talk with them again about it.

Sarah: Are there other ways to get feedback?
   - Put email address on the SafeRides. I don’t know if we can do that before this committee meets again.
   - Could have a discussion with food, publicize it on undergrads
   - Put physical forms on the SafeRides themselves people will fill those out while riding.
   - QR code with digital form.
   - Add a feedback mechanism in the app?
   - Update email to undergrads reminding them about the email for feedback
   - Most people I talked to didn’t realize there was a way to give feedback
   - Have an MIT wide discussion on how to engage with people you are representing and how to get feedback
   - We can run a google survey right now, but if we have a formal survey by IR people on the committee will take it more seriously
   - A study break with administrators working on it will probably draw more students
   - Lobby 10 booths with lollipops
   - Any way you can make people feel special (i.e. bring Cindy), feeling like they're going to talk to the person in charge, make students want to be involved
   - Framing it like “we’ve heard your opinions and feedback and want to hear more” also helps draw people
   - Make people RSVP

We can draft an email to undergrads with an anonymous form, then we can send the information from the form to the email list, also have the email list in the email. We’ve had office hours in the past, but people don’t generally come to those, also people don’t like coming to study breaks on the fourth floor.

**8:30pm Open Discussion**

Kyra: I found myself on the Costco shuttle this weekend, not supposed to run this weekend, but the website didn’t say that. Idk if it was an extra special Costco shuttle. It just did four loops through Cambridge first before it goes out. Baseline knowing when it’s going to come is nice.

Tesla: It takes 35 minutes to go to Trader Joe’s on the shuttle from East Campus because it stops at every single dorm.
- You want the shuttle to hit every dorm, and the shuttles also serve graduate dorms and other areas of Cambridge where grad students live. Do you have ideas for making the route shorter?
- Katie: 1 hour to East Campus, 1 hour to West Campus, so people might have to plan it a bit more but would be quicker.
- Eleanor: Can also do every other dorm along dorm row, fewer stops.
- Justina: If you reduce the number of stops you should increase wait time at stops, shuttles as a rule tend to spend way less time on stops. It seems like all routes try to go to as many places as possible, is it possible to have two directions running opposite each other. Even if you take the tech shuttle it may take you 3 minutes in one direction and 17 minutes the other direction.

We send a survey asking would you use a shuttle, not do you use it.

MJ: At the last Random house meeting, everyone said their habits had changed for the worse

Tesla: Cindy and Suzy approached me to set harder guidelines for how admin interact with dorms. Cindy was specific to start some committee with Suzy to talk about rubric for when admin should get involved in dorm policy, and when dorms get involved with hall policy. I personally think we had two cases that were handled very differently, toplessness and smoking ban. Allie said you can’t tell us what to do because it is a hall discussion, one of them has a social justice banking and had a lively debate, while the other was admin stepping in and saying no. It would be nice to have something that protected us, if taking away smoking fell under the umbrella of things that admin couldn’t take away.

- Katie: BC is also having a meeting about this.
- Sarah: With the smoking policy change I think that was handled fairly well within a committee structure, a lot of students were engaged with that committee, and students were heard. The last meeting of the committee had a very different tone than the decision. Talk to SAC, which is chaired by Allie, cuz they have done a lot of work to think about guidelines mostly on the student side, might be able to be a more neutral party for a bunch of different dorms and provide guidance as you go into this.

- Katie: Cindy was also interested in how we divide the authority between exec and halls.
- Sarah: NH also has a similar structure without the negative publicity.
- Justina: If you talk about dorm policy this should be something all dorms contribute to.

8:41pm Adjourned