# 49 UA Council Session 13 Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2018, 7:30pm - 9:00pm in W20-400

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<tr>
<th>Living Group</th>
<th>Representative</th>
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<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>Rachel O'Grady</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burton-Conner</td>
<td>Katie Fisher</td>
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<td>East Campus</td>
<td>Tesla Wells (Milka)</td>
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<td>MacGregor</td>
<td>Eleanor Wintersteen</td>
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<td>Maseeh</td>
<td>Darius Bopp</td>
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<td>McCormick</td>
<td>Laura Bergemann</td>
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<td>New House</td>
<td>Emily Tang</td>
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<td>Next House</td>
<td>Justina Yang</td>
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<td>Random Hall</td>
<td>MJ Porzenheim</td>
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<td>Simmons</td>
<td>Edward Fan</td>
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<td>Interfraternity Council</td>
<td>Arjun Mithal</td>
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<td>Interfraternity Council</td>
<td>Samuel Ihns</td>
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<td>Thomas</td>
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<td>Interfraternity Council</td>
<td>Christopher Mutty</td>
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<td>Living Group Council</td>
<td>Nathan Hernandez</td>
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<td>Off Campus</td>
<td>Olivia Brode-Roger</td>
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<td>Panhellenic Association</td>
<td>Meredith Loy</td>
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<td>Panhellenic Association</td>
<td>Kyra Post</td>
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<td>Panhellenic Association</td>
<td>Alyssa Weiss</td>
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1. Attendance & Approval of 49 UAC 12 Minutes 7:35 - 7:40
2. Officer Updates 7:40 - 8:00
   a. Ticket Fund and Senior Ball Subsidies
   b. Shuttles
   c. Rally Against Sexual Violence and State Bills
3. Committee Updates 8:00 - 8:15
4. Councilor Updates 8:15 - 8:30
5. Budget Amendments 8:30 - 8:40
6. Vote on Travel Grant Allocations 8:40 - 8:50
7. Open Discussion 8:50 - 9:00

7:35pm Attendance & Minutes Approval
14 in favor. 0 opposed.

7:37pm Officer Updates

Ticket fund and Senior Ball Subsidies

We've been talking about a ticket fund for students who can't afford to go to social events or student organization events on campus, working with DSL and Chancellor to work this into a broader conversation about student funding. One of our long-term goals is to establish a long-term fund.

Two weeks ago students reached out to me about Senior Ball prices, which are $50/ticket, which are unaffordable for some. I worked with S^3, DSL, Class Council, Senior Ball planning committee to create a band-aid solution. Now Senior Ball has a cheaper ticket that doesn't have a drink ticket, got funding from Class Council and DSL to provide subsidies for students who have additional need, so seniors who want to go and don't have the funds can talk to a dean in S^3 and will get money to cover the cost of a ticket. We're meeting to talk about long-term solutions, will be a conversation with other students when we go through a budgeting process.

This is the first year Class Councils, UA, and GSC will present their budgets to ask for money from a large pot, hoping part of the discussion be about student organizations pooling money to make this happen.

MJ: Can we keep a cheaper ticket option without drinks because there are seniors who aren't 21?
   - Those decisions are made by Senior Ball committee but that would be great.
   - Leah: Our office advises Senior Week so can definitely make sure they are mindful of that.

We want to institutionalize it more, so students don't have to go to S^3 every time, so given your financial aid you can be designated to receive reduced tickets, so when you go to adMITone it would automatically reduce the prince. The students who fall through the cracks can go through S^3.
Justina: Fund you want to create would come out of student organization funds? What would happen for institute events?
   - Goal is to not have this come from student organizations, so from donor or office like Chancellor’s office. Can think about cases where institute events aren’t free.
MJ: Can we prioritize funding for different events?
   - Not something we’ve talked about yet but will be something we talk about, there should be some funding set aside for particular events that are most important to the MIT experience. If this was available, some Class Council events could be slightly more for everyone else, but don’t know if this is necessarily how we’re going to end up doing it.
   - Jon: Need to also figure out how much events cost per person per year.
Justina: How does Ringcomm figure out subsidies?
   - Mo: Ringcomm sends out a form that asks a set of questions that includes what ring you want a subsidy for, please explain your situation, we set aside $30-40k per year, which is how much Herff Jones let’s us. Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer go through and try to allocate as much money as possible, but it’s very obscure and there’s a need for a more legitimate fund.

Shuttle

Shuttle committee met again, will put out a survey the first week of May to ask students about the grocery shuttles and on-demand shuttles, currently reviewing a draft of the survey, sending feedback. Going to go out to all students, please encourages your constituents to take it.

Meredith: PanHel had frustration because it was happening the same time as the baseball game (6-9pm?), which caused lots of traffic.
Arjun: People used it, easier to direct to.
Justina: For future CPWs, I met a prefrosh who was at Next and wasn’t comfortable walking back to East Campus, would be nice to have one running continuously around campus, didn’t know if a resident could call an on-demand saferide for the prefrosh.
Olivia: Shuttle goes around in a circle, so on-demand brings me to where I live in Cambridge, frustration came from implementation.

Sexual Assault Violence Prevention Bills

We had a rally at the Massachusetts Statehouse last week. We met with Title IX beforehand to talk about the issues they had with the bill and communicated that to the legislators in the statehouse, more graduates than undergraduates at the rally.

Title IX issues in the bill there is someone designated as a “responsible employee” that is supposed to direct the student to Title IX, and at MIT almost all faculty and staff except confidential resources, are expected to report anonymously to Title IX. This bill would require responsible employees to give a bunch of information to students, Title IX doesn’t think it’s feasible to train 13,000 people to do that, just direct them to Title IX to get more reliable information. There was language that any
policy change about Title IX would have to get feedback from District Attorney and local police, which was an excessive hurdle, I believe that’s been removed.

Smaller concerns was working with local rape crisis centers and having formal partnerships because some students like to go to those instead of universities because it is more independent, don’t want those organizations to lose their independence.

**Faculty Meeting Today**
Presentation from DC office about research funding and how MIT stands to benefit or not from the current budget. There is going to be an increase in research funding, not a cut, for the coming year, but could change down the line.

New 11-6 Major Urban Studies and Planning with Computer Science
Was presented at the faculty meeting today, will be voted on next month.

Students from the MIT and Slavery class presented their research from the fall, lots of faculty engagement and good questions that were asked. They will be putting up more of the research findings [online](#). They generally want more students to come to the events surrounding it and take the class.
- After the original talk some talk were interested but not able to make it, not very much publicity since then.

**8:03pm Committee Updates**

Public Affairs: ran CPW Breakfast, ran out of food by 8:30am, had lots of people attend, lots of committees there too, went great.

Alumni affairs: is having a panel for alumni who work in sustainability.

Education: working more with the Vice-Chancellor’s office to pass along student-faculty dinners, might be on hold because of re-org.

Technology: Will be a survey on the MIT mobile app, build MIT app store with all of the student-made apps like Firehose in one place.
- Admissions site is also getting redesigned, Petey is interested in having something like that on the new website.

Innovation: 26-110 is renovated, has bananas, sleeping areas, coffee, etc now going to be open for the rest of the semester, got funding from Suzy’s office, ideally become long-term space for students, also doing other little space experiments, like the ping-pong table in fourth floor stud commons.
Sustain: working closely with OneWorld organizers because event is OneSustainableWorld. Garden project

Community Service: hosting UA community service event next weekend at fresh pond to volunteering in the morning outside and then working with children with nature activities. If you’re available to come it’s a good bonding experience.

Finboard: Travel grant applications, also bring fresh fund to finboard, which is money we set aside to give to brand new student groups to get off the ground outside of finboard cycle, historically ASA has owned this money, so trying to bring it back under finboard.

Wellness: Red flag campaign for intimate partner violence, also photo campaign, survey on tutoring that went out today, share with constituents, continuing to getting free sanitary hygiene products - Bathrooms frequented by students, like outside big lecture halls, but not frequented by general public, converted vending machines to free, now getting stock to put in them

**8:10pm Councilor Updates**

Edward: Bon Apetit has been looking for feedback non-stop, if you have any opinions they are pretty open to listening right now, making a big effort to come to Simmons. Printers are down, but IS&T network is almost done.

MJ: If you’re interested in Peapod things, we put the money people used back in Random, so you too can have a Peapod!

Darius: Dining group has made a decision about the dining vendor, has been sent to Suzy for consideration, so should be announced this week.

Justina: Next is getting started on IS&T network project to upgrade our internet, requiring closing a few of our lounges in the dorm, so staff and students moved belongings out of the lounges, were expected to have access, expecting water fountains to move to an accessible region before lounges are closed, but currently they are closed off by plastic so you don’t have access to the lounges.

Milka: Back in November we voted through with an overwhelming majority to have toplessness in public spaces in the dorms. People got distressed about this, but had good productive conversation, thought everyone was on the same page, figured out workarounds to make all the administrators happy. This also resulted in administrators finding out that East Campus has clothing optional halls, through lots of work we got people to see this as a complex issue. We met with Suzy who seemed okay with it a few weeks ago. Finally someone decided to talk to facilities and they are sad about it, and don’t like seeing naked people. We’re trying to figure out a solution that isn’t a blanket temporal ban on nakedness that doesn’t put any facilities workers in uncomfortable situations.

- Random is also mulling it’s options and is talking to internal facilities people, not MIT.
Katie: Trying to make a certificate-based guest list, instead of google form, please let me know if you have a webmaster or web skills.
  - Baker: hires webmasters, can change the guest list fairly quickly.

8:19pm Travel Grants

Council and officers thought it would be useful to put a $1,000 cap because it covers most expenses for students. Do you think we should ever go above the cap due to financial aid circumstances or otherwise?

Edward: what is the reason for travel grants?
  - A lot of it is going to present your research at a conference that your lab can't cover travel or conference fees.
  - 80% of students need less that $1,000, which is fine, but some students are asking for aid for international travel
  - The other type is national conferences for professional development that may have career fairs with better mixes of companies

Arjun: Inclined to enforce the cap given that you are already hitting your budget.
MJ: Presumably you apply because you have financial need, if you exceed the cap for people who exceed financial need when everyone who is applying has financial need.

If you only fund something 80% and student can't come up with other 20% and can't go, should we fund beyond the $1,000 cap?

Finboard’s recommendations was above the cap for some people, so we can go back and talk to them about keeping it under the cap. I think what we should do is have a structure in place to guide students to other funding sources.

So we’ll talk to Finboard, anonymize the form, and send out the allocations for a Council vote for the next few days.

Leah: How does the GSC do this?
  - They have graders. They grade everything 1-10 and then rank everyone.

Some is individual research, professional development, but some other events are more questionable. Was hoping for a more holistic process, will be incorporated and communicated going forward. Please try to vote right away once we open it.

Miscellaneous Updates
Leah: I’m losing two staff over the summer to grad school, so 1 position is posted, also looking for a director of student organizations, recognizing that you all are at a very busy time, so wanted to make you aware that those changes are happening to get student representation for the search or when candidates are coming to campus.

Mo: Meeting with Faculty Policy Committee tomorrow to talk about the confidentiality policy, which is one of the last hurdles. Also talked about bystander training about sexual misconduct in dorms, looks like that is going to happen, meeting with Don Camilio and someone from VPR on Friday to develop curriculum. Sending out applications for new institute committees on Thursday, will stay open until April 29th, then me and my successor, who will be chosen by Alexa and Kat, will do interviews and then submit to the nominations committee, then successor will present at the last Council meeting. Institute Committees are a great way to get involved, not uncommon for Councilors to be on Institute Committees, please talk to me if you have questions about committees or the process.

Please pub that to your constituents, but if you know there are students who would be good, ask them personally to apply because that’s the best way to get people involved, and you probably know better than anyone else who would be good in these roles.

Sarah: Was trying to get Callisto, which is a program that does anonymized sexual assault reporting, to come to Council but they cancelled last minute. It doesn’t seem feasible to have them come to a Council meeting before the end of the year, so we might have them come to a different event. I would like more feedback before I bring this up to Title IX.

**8:43pm Meeting adjourned**