

**Status of Orientation Changes**  
February 17, 2011

Dear Undergraduate Students:

Over the past several weeks, many members of the community have expressed concern over the proposed changes to MIT's Orientation program. The student response at the special meeting of the UA Senate, which was intended to communicate potential changes and provide a structure for giving feedback, was largely negative. Two weeks ago, presidents from all of the dormitories signed an open letter in support of Residence Exploration (REX).

We understand that students care very deeply about Orientation and REX and that students regard these programs as vital parts of the MIT experience. Therefore, we are writing to clarify what has been decided for this year and what the process will be to review Orientation for future years.

**Fall 2011 Orientation Program:**

The schedule for Orientation 2011 will mirror that for 2010 with one small exception. To save MIT resources, International Orientation will be later, which may create an overlap with the Advanced Standing exams (ASE). If any international student wishes to take an ASE, an accommodation will be facilitated by the Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming (UAAP) with the International Students Office and the department.

To be clear, the schedule for REX will be identical to last year's schedule. REX will not be shortened, and overlap between REX and other programming will not be substantially increased from last year.

As in previous years, the UAAP will collaborate with the Division of Student Life (DSL) to work out the details of the Orientation program. As part of this process, DSL will convene the SLOPE committee, a longstanding group of students, housemasters, and staff that plans the student events and activities. This committee includes representatives from the UA, Dormcon, IFC, Panhel, LGC, ASA, and SaveTFP.

**Beyond Fall 2011:**

For future direction on Orientation beyond fall 2011, the Deans for Undergraduate Education (DUE) and Student Life (DSL) will form a committee this spring to review all Orientation programs. The committee membership will include students, faculty, and staff. Student representatives to this committee will be nominated through the established UA nominations process, and the UA will ensure that all stakeholders are represented on the committee.

We all share an interest in open communication and a process in which all voices can be heard in a representative way. We understand that there are multiple stakeholders in Orientation, including students and faculty, and we will continue to work together to ensure a successful Orientation for the Class of 2015 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Vrajesh Modi, UA President  
Christina Johnson, DormCon President  
Prof. Daniel Hastings, Dean for Undergraduate Education and Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics  
Chris Colombo, Dean for Student Life