



# Undergraduate Association News

## December Presidential Address

Dear Undergraduates:

We hope that your year is winding down nicely and that you're excited for the Holiday break! We have made steady progress on a range of issues since our first Undergraduate Association newsletter in November. As always, we invite you to get involved and express your thoughts.

**\* 2008 Fall Career Fair on Wednesday:** After several discussions with students, faculty, and administrators, we have agreed on an option that should satisfy all parties. We will lobby the faculty to move the September student holiday from a Monday to a Wednesday. The career fair would then occur on that Wednesday, satisfying student interest in having flexibility to attend the fair without missing class, faculty interest in minimizing interruptions and distractions to class, and administrative interest in ensuring the career fair remains financially and logically sustainable.

**\* Online Textbook Information:** We've gained the support necessary to build a system to provide you with information about each of the textbooks that are required for each MIT class prior to the start of term. A modest pilot will run in the spring and a full version will begin next fall. This would not have been possible without the generous support of the Dean for Undergraduate Education, IS&T, and MIT Libraries.

**\* W1 Complete Renovation:** One of the most important and difficult topics of the year has been renovation of W1 (currently Ashdown) which will become an undergraduate dorm in fall 2010. After several tactful conversations with senior administrators, we were able to ensure W1 receives the complete renovation it deserves, as opposed to temporary solutions which would have damaged the student community living there.

In the rest of this newsletter, you'll find updates on UA Senate legislation, dining committee work, and a few important programs we're organizing. If you have any questions or comments, or if you're interested in getting involved, please don't hesitate to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Martin F. Holmes, UA President (goholmes@mit.edu)

Ali S. Wyne, UA Vice President (awyne@mit.edu)

## Senate and Legislation Updates

### - Passed bills:

- FSILG Recycling*: support FSILG efforts to obtain recycling options in Boston
- Class Council Budgets*: mandate that class council budgets be made public by March 1, 2008
- Student Group Space*: allocate \$3000 to the ASA for student group space renovations

### - Passed resolutions:

- Academic Course Planner*: work with IS&T to build an four year smart online course planner
- Responsible Investing*: create a standing Institute committee to examine MIT's endowment policies
- Adjustment Lottery*: express appreciation for allowing Next House freshmen to participate in REX
- W1 Dining Facility*: voice our concern in the decision-making process behind the W1 dining hall

**- Dean for Student Life Search:** Formed a committee to collect student opinion concerning the next Dean for Student Life and to provide input into the search process. Expect a survey this February!

**- Website Upgrades:** Created a new webmaster position to improve UA visibility: <http://ua.mit.edu>

**- Fresh Fund:** Accepted applications to the Fresh Fund and provided funding to several groups.

**- Senate Projects:** Each senator is working on a specific project, so contact your senator for information on what they're doing and how it can benefit you!

Questions? Email [ishklyar@mit.edu](mailto:ishklyar@mit.edu)

## Finals Week Food Discounts

**Sunday:** Subway 50% off

**Monday:** Anna's \$3 burritos;  
Subway 25% off

**Tuesday:** Cambridge Grill \$1 slice cheese, \$2 topped pizza;  
Subway 25% off

**Wednesday:** Forbes \$1 off;  
Subway 25% off

\*Discounts from 4:30pm to close

Brought to you by the UA and Campus Dining. Special thanks to Subway, Anna's Taqueria, Cambridge Grill, and Forbes.

## Additional Projects...

**- Campaign for Students:** Working to align the priorities of this fundraising campaign with the priorities of students.

**- BioDiesel@MIT:** Provided \$1250 to this student initiative and worked with students and administrators to plan the swift construction of a biodiesel converter to power MIT SafeRide.

**- Spring Weekend 2008:** Brought this event under the control of the UA in order to create better organization and band selection.

**- Statement of Principles:** Working with several Deans concerning academic integrity for the entire MIT community.

**- Student Involvement:** Developing policies to ensure student opinion is an integral part of administrative decisions.

**- Advising Improvements:** Drafting a detailed report on the state of advising at MIT and the areas that need to be addressed.

**- Undergraduate Enrollment:** Investigating the areas that may need additional resources when enrollment is raised by 10%.

## **Exec Member of the Month:**

### **Chris Hoffman '08, UA Dining Committee**

**- UA Dining Committee Overview:** We serve as the primary student advocate on all dining issues on campus, ensuring the availability of dining options that provide students with quality options that meet their needs and are reasonably priced. As driven by student surveys, concerns, and demands, we are now implementing solutions to issues students have identified as problems in MIT's dining environment. Through partnerships with the Office of Campus Dining and several key vendors, we are addressing issues quickly and efficiently

**- Permanently Fixing a Broken System:** We worked with the administration to form the Blue Ribbon Dining (BRD) Committee. The committee of students and key administrators was charged by Dean Larry Benedict with completing an overall review of the dining system and producing broad recommendations. A consultant has been engaged and you should expect a survey at the beginning of the semester that will inform the committee's recommendations to the administration.

**- East Campus Dining Options:** Last summer we collaborated with the dormitory governments of EC and Senior Haus to close Pritchett Dining after it proved financially insolvent. In order to maintain options, we added evening service at Forbes Café in Stata. This spring, we will conduct an east side survey to investigate a local convenience store.

**- Food Trucks:** Food trucks are scheduled to be displaced by the construction of a cancer research building. We are ensuring they are relocated to a convenient daytime location. We are also working to permit food trucks near EC at night.

**- TechCASH Restaurant Expansion:** Based on 1082 responses to a survey earlier this semester, two local restaurants will be invited to accept TechCASH. The survey showed that Bertucci's and Pour House were most popular.

**- Star Market TechCASH:** We are reviving efforts to add TechCASH at Star Market for the convenience of students who cook their own food. A detailed proposal was recently sent to their executives and we are awaiting their reply.

**- Subway Service:** We recently spoke with the owner of Subway in order to improve service. Following that discussion, Subway now requires employees to wear name tags and has a suggestion box near the register.

**- Dining Halls:** Dining halls are being improved based on results of surveys conducted in the dining halls. We meet regularly with the chefs to share student concerns and monitor progress. Please let us know if you see any problems.

**- Finals Week Food Discounts:** We convinced local vendors to give you discounts on food during finals week.

To get involved or share your concerns, please email the dining committee at [ua-dining-chairs@mit.edu](mailto:ua-dining-chairs@mit.edu).



### UA Traveling Exec Meetings!!!

Come see what your government is doing for YOU! Attend a traveling UA exec meeting and give your input on current student policy! There will be FREE FOOD!

Be on the look out for these meetings next semester. Dates, times, and locations will be announced then.

### **Student-Faculty Dinners**

Want to have dinner with a Nobel laureate professor from MIT?

Want a free dinner with the faculty member of your choice?

The UA will host the first Institute - wide student-faculty dinners this spring. Details will follow soon.

Questions? [scep@mit.edu](mailto:scep@mit.edu)