



UA Cabinet + Operations Meeting Agenda - Thursday, October 5, 2017

5:30pm - 5:40pm:

- Officer Updates

5:40pm - 6:00pm:

- Committee Updates

6:00pm - 6:30pm:

- Discussion
 - Student Funding
 - Advising Data

5:36pm Welcome

Sophia, Ann, Jose, Ashti, Elena, Soma, Noah, Willy, Malte, Bruke, Nick, Allie, Joaquin, Loewen, Zach, Michael, Yaateh

Antonella Masini, Antares McCoy-Villaneda, Stephanie Chin

This is the first Cabinet + Operations meeting in the dormitory (East Campus), trying to have more visibility and engage with more students, please send us your feedback.

5:37pm Officer Updates

Sarah met with Ian Waitz (Vice Chancellor) to talk about his working group that is planning a class in the spring to redesign the GIRs and first year experience. He's going to have undergrad and grad students take this class and look at different design groups, trying to figure out what that class is going to look like. Talked about the final project to this class as a presentation to the faculty as a recommendation.

Loewen: so would this class replace a GIR or...?

- No this class is a design class in the spring to take a look at what we are doing well in terms of the first year and what can be improved
- This is a very interesting class in terms of student leadership, learning about design processes, education policy

Antonella: What year would this be implemented?

- It depends on when it is done, because recommendations need to go to faculty for a vote
- Part of the reason we are doing it this way is so we have a better political strategy when it gets to the faculty, we can show that it was rigorously evaluated.
- Timeline of a few years

Jose: any prerequisites for the class?

- Nope

Ian also has bunch of data for people's perceptions of **advising**, asked the UA to create a best practices guide for advising, probably be something CoE might be interested in, but want an initial discussion about our thoughts.

Continue to have conversation about **student organization funding** and student life fee and career fair which we are going to go more in depth. One more meeting with that working group.

Also working with Allie and SAC to start a conversation with Cindy, Suzy, other stakeholders about **closure of Senior House** and how do we learn from this and make recommendations to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Mo and I met with the new associate dean in the **Office of Student Conduct, Tessa McLain**, who staffs the Committee on Discipline. Tessa will also be doing a listening tour to the UA and other organizations to talk about her, her background, and changes she wants to see in the process. How to improve the disciplinary process for students who go through that.

5:45pm Committee Updates

Events:

- FallFEST happened, turned out really well :) sold out show

Alumni:

- Have team together, meeting with head of student - alumni relations tomorrow to discuss collaboration
- Student Ambassadors program just changed to alumni association, talking about overlap with having their own speakers series, going to collaborate

Wellness:

- Application for the murals for MIT Mental Health & Counselling
- Tell everyone you know about it, closes next Sunday

SAC:

- Met with committee yesterday, informed them about our goals
- Meeting with Kim in Chancellor's office to talk about factual info to Senior House report
- Going to senior team, and Faculty Policy Committee, going to CJAC (Corporation Joint Advisory Committee---corporation members, students, faculty) works on different issues to go before corporation and senior admin, everything in CJAC is confidential, but two topics are building off of SAC / disciplinary process for dorm communities, and student debt and financial aid

Community Service

- Trying to figure out what community service happens at MIT
- Joint events with LSC, social action series (documentaries)
- Getting a logo, public image

Public Affairs

- Had first meeting, Nadya Okamoto, sophomore at Harvard running for Cambridge City Council, coming to MIT campus Thursday 5pm, workshop on civic responsibility and what you stand for
- Voter registration booths Wed - Fri, staffed by UA Public Affairs and MIT Vote 2017
- Had a meeting with PKG about funding alternative spring break trip to send people to MIT DC office to meet with legislators, talking to people in Poly Sci, if you had ideas about a program like this, let Elena and Ashti know

Innovation

- Collaboration with Technology, interviewed committee members
- Makeathon on how to make MIT better (ex. Dining, shuttle system, student support), outlet for brainstorming ideas
- Q: how many ideas to pursue, last year we looked at upvoting system for ideas?
Something to think about
 - Having an open format, pitching solutions
 - Prizes, also bringing in UA committees to help make sure things are executed
 - It also takes more efforts than you think it will to get things done
 - Andy Trattner had an idea for "hack UA" or hack the student government, been involved with other hackathons
 - UA has to be careful about funding because Finboard doesn't do prizes
 - PKG is very willing to give money for social issues
 - Also Colin Codner knows about grants
 - MindHandHeart, Baker Foundation

Finboard

- Fall funding went out, going through appeals
- Writing a document for best practices

Technology

- Talked to innovation about student life hackathon, facilitate dialog with UG about what their problems are
- Trying to get Technology more on the sides of how to implement those solutions, collaborate with IS&T, SIBP
- Initiatives we haven't prioritized, sat in with SIBP meeting, trying to push back community outreach on cyber awareness for this month because haven't had first meeting yet, but interested in pursuing

Community & Diversity

- Focusing on freshmen year experience, pre-freshmen fall transition
- Dr. JJ Jackson, Ed Bertschinger, working with OME for the cultural center on campus, support group for URM during the freshmen year
- Unconscious bias training, integration with community spaces, continuing multicultural celebration
- Sarah: LGBTQ services does a first year dinner program for those that identify as LGBTQ, now that folks from OME in the same space, could be some ideas sharing
- Proposal in BSU recommendation for diversity seminars, both admin and students were against the idea of requiring more coursework, but working with Dr. Jackson to identify alternative solution that doesn't burden freshmen experience
 - Talk to Ian and his first year core group, did the recommendations fail because people didn't like the premise or something else?

Sustain

- First exec meeting a couple meetings ago, all 7 subcommittees have met, going into second meetings
- Trashion is scaling up, show is in December, everyone else is finalizing subcommittees, had first GBM, went well, had 30-40 people
- Trying to do a large project with ESI, admin, impact larger part of community, brainstorm on that, continuing on
- Send a feedback form for all undergrads, trying to see what people want
 - Tangent: Kat is making guidelines for emails to undergrads@ to try to limit traffic
 - Making a calendar of all UA events, put a centralized list on MIT app
 - Why are we publicizing our events the same amount as other free events?
 - Please give us a heads up with when we need to publicize these emails

Education

- By next meeting will have all the projects assigned, have a lot of new members so might be slow off the ground
- Working on committee on education office hours where people can gripe to us about the state of education at MIT so it is more personal, they are listened to
- Student faculty dinners signups will be up in the next week or so, would ideally send an email to undergrads@

Marketing

- We are waiting to hear from everyone, if you have projects (logo, banner, poster, text critique), shoot me an email and I'll be more than happy to get that through the pipeline
- Trashion is starting soon, there is footage from last year we can use
- Can also do designer spotlights for further publicizing
- Q: Last year you mentioned a form for projects?
 - Will be doing a form, in the interim shoot me an email
- Willy has created really nice logos, part of larger UA wide marketing strategy to change our brand / image
 - Vaporwave aesthetic
- Q: what inspired in the colors?
 - Purple carries over from red from existing logo, green is spunky
 - Student government is about representation, want to show that campaigning is starting to change
- Careful that the UA changes logos fairly frequently, our current one is only ~2 years old
 - This is going to be an image overhaul, not just logo change
- We're really bad at social media, @Kat will send social media information over
 - Need to refine the UA Facebook, Twitter, add Instagram

6:21pm Do we want to talk about student funding or advising data? Advising

- There is a gender difference--males report higher perception of advising, which is not true of peer institutions.
- Engineering advisor is lower than school of science satisfaction
- People have best experience their freshmen year, then low point in junior year
- Positive association with GPA and satisfaction with advising
- Positive view of admin correlated with advising
- Survey aggregated some comments: better trained advisors, more frequent meetings, having more formal meetings over lunch / dinner, better matching in research interests, subfield, better matching in terms of gender / race / other factors that affect your experience, having more caring advisors, showing more initiatives, easier to switch, more career advice

What should be advising best practices to share with Ian Waitz and departments?

- At least one event their advisors done with advisees, you need to spend x amount of hours, different advisors have different perspectives (ex. Take 4 classes or go easy as possible), useful to have range of perspectives
- Can anyone who wants to be an advisor just volunteer?
 - At departmental level there are requirements, but faculty opt in to freshmen advisors and there's more training associated with that, they don't get paid more

- If you are known as a really bad advisor it affects your tenure decisions, but doesn't majorly affect performance
- If advisors aren't teaching it puts them out of touch with students
- If students had more say in positive reinforcements that affect tenured decisions, better supported, don't seem super certain
- More training throughout the years, not just freshmen year to combat lower satisfaction
- Several factors that come into play when choosing advisors: ex. Research, background, race, when I was choosing it was just a list of names, super inefficient, better way to summarize about them
- Standardized form for departments, mutual match, you fill out what you are looking for, ranked a set of advisors, on the back end match it
- Sloan doesn't have matching or student input, you are automatically assigned, so standardizing student choice would be a nice thing
- Having a rule for professors going on sabbatical, was just reassigned, happens more often than people think
- Opportunity to meet advisors at meet and greet beforehand, advisor mixers
- Speed networking for advisors to help with selection process, gain more personal interactions, having more regulations for level of engagement
- Course 3 you fill out a form, don't know how it was matched, probably by last name
- A better form of collecting feedback than emailing out to ec-discuss.
- Requiring all courses to follow certain sets of guidelines. CoE is working on finalizing report of advising best practices. Feedback from departments:
 - Hesitant on unified system
 - Smaller departments do more personalized matching, but larger ones might be more random
 - Best practices come with caveat that it's hard to convince departments
 - We have more leverage with Ian
- Course evaluation with advisors: issue when talking to Ian is because advisors has so few advisees, there is concern about retaliation
 - GSC did aggregated data, but is probably not feasible for undergrads
 - If an average is 15 students, don't know if you want that
 - Can have evaluation trigger after student graduation

How do people feel about this setting (talbot lounge) vs UA Senate chambers? People prefer this

6:38pm Meeting adjourned