



UA Cabinet + Operations Meeting Agenda - Thursday, November 2, 2017

5:30pm - 6:00pm:

- Dean for Student Life Suzy Nelson Presentation + Questions

6:00pm - 6:20pm:

- Committee Updates

6:20pm - 6:30pm:

- Officer Updates
 - Admin Assistant (Kat)
 - Advising (Sarah)
 - Wellness Center (Sarah)
 - Student Center Improvements (Alexa)
 - Dining (Alexa)
 - Confidentiality Policy (Mo)

5:35pm Suzy isn't here yet :(That's okay. Officer updates are happening first!

Attendance: Loewen, Bamlak, Yaateh, Willy, Noah, Soma, Sophia, Szabi, Elena, Nenyne, Nicholas, Claire, Allie, Zach, Bruke, Rhat

Kat

- We have an admin assistant! He's starting next week and will be in the office Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 12-2pm

Sarah

- Sarah and Alexa met with Ian yesterday to go over advising guidelines. Will be presenting to Undergraduate Officers, who oversee all the departments, on 11/16 to go over issues CoE brought up about advising, plus issues in the survey data, raised at Council, and then talk about recommendations.

- Wellness Center: A space to unify support services under Dean Randall (S^3, Student Disability Services, Community Development Substance Abuse office, Mental Health + Counselling satellite office, VPR, CARE Team). Since talking to Cindy, realized Student Financial Services offices is moving to Kendal in the next few years, so that space in Building 11 off the infinite would be one wellness center with unified reception area. It sends a really good message to have wellness as a focal point on campus, make resources more accessible. SFS space currently under the Chancellor, so when we go to the Provost for a proposal for space, it's good that it's already her space.
- Met with P & VP of CASE to talk about initiatives to support low-income students, including meal swipe donation program, meal swipes being accessible through S^3, free ticketing system for student events, ideas around summer housing costs / UROP pay and how that equation doesn't quite work out for any money leftover to pay for expenses.
- GSC working on initiative to have grad students when going home on breaks to present about MIT and STEM with local high schools, want to partner with the UA on this issue. Are there any committees interested in picking up this project. You would organize this program for undergrads with the GSC.
 - Have to talk to MIT admissions? Can point them to that. Their idea is more like 'what does it mean to be someone who works in STEM, broader than just MIT'

Alexa

- Sarah, Neny, I met with Gus to focus on student center improvements. Focusing on small changes on the fourth floor, and then looking at a 5-year plan for the future.
- Dining: Clarified with Peter that places that currently take Tech Cash will take Dining Dollars, looking to expand that to bring in grocery stores in Central, for example.

5:44pm Suzy is here!

Passed around handouts about the DSL mission, 2017-2020 student life goals, what we are working toward, would love to hear your feedback on if we are hitting the mark, where we need to improve, etc.

We rewrote our mission when I came in just over a year ago. We were perceived as bureaucratic, untrustworthy, so we are trying to undergo a cultural shift. Trying to talk about a student-centered leadership model. Mission is "we are here for students" and our job is to help you thrive and achieve your potential. Asked staff to be empathetic, listen to what people's needs are even if it means it's bending rules.

6 big focus areas:

1. Student support and wellbeing

2. Student space
3. Creating welcoming and affirming community
4. Graduate students: separated out middle of last year, have own unique issues
5. Active Learning, social responsibility, ethical leadership
6. Leadership and student-centered approach

Really large division: 412 full time employees, 350 contract employees, include DAPER, security, custodians, S^3, food service.

Health and well-being: Moved a bunch of offices together under David Randall (VPR, S^3, SDS, Alcohol and Other Drugs, CARE Team). CARE Team put together by David Randall, have seen almost 400 cases so far because it seemed like when students needed MIT the most they dropped the ball.

Food insecurity: In the survey, 374 students went to bed hungry on one of the last seven days because they couldn't afford food. Any undergrad should turn to S^3 to meet their need. Grads should turn to Naomi Carton, Residential Life. The student group CASE formed because there was a vacuum with how MIT wasn't meeting student's needs. David is forming a coalition to market where the services are so students and their families know where these resources are. Hopefully this coalition will go forward and have a ticket fund so all students at MIT can participate freely in events and programs that might cost money. Hasn't fully formed but looking forward to the UA partnership.

Dining: We know that it's not loved, 60% satisfaction, 40% satisfied with late night dining, 1/3 grad students satisfied with late night dining. Hopefully by the end of November we will open late night dining in Walker (Rebecca's Cafe), which will be open until 2am. We have a RFP (request for purchase) for a new vendor to help you with the portability of meal plans. Because now students can't use their swipes elsewhere on campus. We want to add flexibility. We also want to increase variety of food in student center and add pantries around the campus (probably in Walker for the east side, and in Macgregor where the convenience store was for the west side). Could use swipes and for access for off campus students for food. Goal of getting a new vendor fall 2018. Also hiring a new dining director.

Space. Lots of deferred maintenance. New dorm on Vasser with 450 beds for undergrads, Kendall Site 4 also opening in 2020 with 450 beds. Grad students are upset with increase in needs for grad beds. Off campus apartments have also increased in rate by 6% a year. It's becoming increasingly difficult to find and afford apartments off campus. The Clay report in 2014 said we need 450 more beds, which is the Kendall site. Now there is a preference for living

on campus, so we will be building 500 additional beds for grad students, which is a huge commitment.

Short term

We can't always get what we want, but we can get what we need. Students are usually pretty good with paint, whiteboards, windows that open, etc. While we wait for long term renovations we should continue to fix the spaces for students. We did the Multicultural Center in Dupont next to the student center. Moving the Rainbow Lounge from basement of Walker to Blue Room.

New House

When NH went offline, it was very hard for those displaced students. We went around to all the dorms and asked what they need to help NH. We've been giving dorms perks (kitchens, GRT apartments, etc) to help make that transition earlier.

Visiting Committee

The Corporation splits itself up and assigns itself to different departments, including DSL. They come around every 2 years to do an expansive renewal. Two renovations that came up are the student center, which got added to the queue because it is such an important space, and the wellness center. Admissions will move to the space in the new grad dorm.

Szabi: What's the system for determining what small renovations are happening? Like outlets, carpets, etc.

- I went to Next House and they said furniture in lounges was dilapidated, so that is one way. I used my eyeballs and saw the LCC in the basement, and the fourth floor wasn't renovated since the 1960s. I talked to Phil Walsh, and he pulled together 8 students. I told Gus to take a leadership role for the student center. If we could the fourth floor of the student center renovated, figure out storage, fix lounge, the student center could have its own advisory group.
- Maybe it's a sitting committee of the UA. A student also sent me an email saying you can't throw a frisbee on the east side of campus. So asked if can turn tennis court by Walker to grass, see it as a student space.
- Would be better if there was a systematic way where students identified things that would make a difference their lives.
- Talk to Gus Burkett, oversees SAO, CAC, all the student activities, eager to do work on the student center.
- Neny: This exact point was raised at our meeting with Gus. He said a lot of it was decided by Corporation and long term mission. Need to know if renovation or restructuring was on the table in the next 12 years, then we would be comfortable making changes.

- The Visiting Committee can give you some wind, but it needs to be priorities by the senior administration. We do have a 2030 capital renewal plan to address deferred maintenance. We have resident halls lined up in the queue and have money earmarked with that. Knowing about how institutions work, if 50% of funds for a project appear, the project could jump ahead. We should keep on keepin' on. We've spent \$8.5 million on the stud already, vents, putting kosher kitchen in, elevators, etc. Should talk to Gus about our priorities being paint, creating storage, furniture, moving things around, etc.

Elena: How does the 2030 plan get affected with increased student enrollment?

- We won't start renewal on any residence halls until 2020 when new dorms. We need to have the beds to increase undergrad enrollment. New dorm isn't intended for a swing dorm, it's to give us extra capacity. We've done rapid renewal studies on all the dorms, which is a way to understand the nature of the renewal and how urgent it is.

6:02pm Committee Updates

- **Alumni Affairs:** partnering with Alumni Association, bringing together alums and students.
- **Community Service:** working on finding opportunities in the area, partnering with dorms and living groups to inform students.
- **Technology:** improving MIT Mobile App based on student feedback, implementing On Demand Safe Ride, Student Life Hackathon.
- **Innovation:** Mind Hand Heart funding, nap pods, speaker series, student life hackathon.
- **Education:** collecting feedback on advising, first year experience with Ian, starting Monday launching CoE office hours to talk to us about their academic issues
- **Sustain:** trashion, 7 subcommittees, increasing composting, large scale project on campus, want to work on building a large community garden, have your own plot of land to grow vegetables and also space for scientists to use
- **Wellcomm:** Mural contest for Mental Health, revamp a program that puts liaisons between people in Mental Health and Counselling and dorms and fsilgs, next week holding forum with 30-40 fsilg reps to get feedback. Looking to pilot free sanitary hygiene products in bathrooms. Campus-wide tutoring center.
- **Special Projects:** Implementing Living Pink survey, getting a coffee table for the UA office, also doing a mixer to do art for the office.
- **Public Affairs:** boost civic engagement, working with MIT Vote 2017 and GSC EAB to do voter registration drives, help with voting on Nov 7, have speakers come, creating policy platform
- **Campus Planning:** Get a website up for suggestions and ideas to help with transparency to help students see what ideas were there. Think about guiding principles for campus

planning because often committees only have a couple students. Trying to establish something similar to the architectural principles. Working with Student Center stuff, 2nd floor Stratton Lounge to make it more presentable, also 2nd floor dining.

- **Marketing:** Hype video for the Trashion show. New logos and brand image changes coming.
- **Community & Diversity:** Policy front looking at diversity seminars and unconscious bias training, improving multicultural center
- **Finboard:** Piloting semester long funding, talking to SAO, hopefully increase allocation for student groups to spend, try to randomly audit student groups and help with financial best practices.

6:35pm Meeting adjourned. Thanks so much Suzy!