



## **UA Cabinet + Operations Meeting Agenda - Thursday, March 1, 2017**

### **5:30 pm - 5:45 pm:**

- Officer Updates
  - Alexa - in dining review meetings, that are 4 hours long, probably switch dining vendors, can't say anything for sure
  - Mo
    - Project from IAP that carried over is survey of faculty that chair institute committees to ask how the students are, some students who are new are still finding their voices, returning students are doing well. 1 or 2 things where people were missing meetings, will contact those.
    - Met with Undergraduate Officers about the confidentiality policy, provided feedback we expected, which was to change the default to confidential, will bring back to Council to pass. Emailing chairs about policy and setting up meetings are necessary.
    - Looking into sexual assault training during orientation, how we can link that with more community standards discussions within the dorms after orientation, met with Sarah Rankin in Title IX, might be best to do this through Resident Peer Mentor programs in some dorms. Meeting with VPR and Don Camilio, who is in charge of RLADs.
    - Looking to put together a phone bank to have undergraduates advocate for DACA students and workers who are under temporary protected services
  - Sarah
    - Another thing that came out of confidentiality policy, representative from UA and GSC will now be invited to meeting where the faculty chairs discuss their agendas. Will give Chief of Staff that role, gives us input to what goes onto their agendas.
    - Mostly working on CJAC the last week, just had our final in person meeting yesterday, went well. Both of undergraduate topics went well

- On advising: working with Ian to set up meetings with department heads to set up best practices. Undergraduate Offices don't have a lot of sway with departments. Also trying to create UROP projects for students to build advisor - advisee matching program for departments to utilize. Ian also has a faculty advisor who can help with that project.
- Call with organization called Calisto that has an anonymous reporting platform for victims of sexual assault. Ask them to demonstrate the platform at Council, also looking to have them demonstrate it at Cabinet, want to get feedback before bringing it to the Chancellor.
- Working with Alexa to have MIT I Messed Up event, which last ran in 2016. Had students talk about how they failed at MIT and overcame their failure. One of the changes to have students and also faculty member and maybe alum talk about their experiences.
- Met with Chancellor yesterday, talked about housing. Concern from students about pricing for New House moving from Tier 2 to Tier 1 pricing. I don't see them budging on this. Cindy and Jag still feel like we are moving in a positive direction because of the increase in doubles. For any student who felt they couldn't move back, they would accommodate individual cases.
  - What are people's thoughts on abolishing the tiered system? All of the dorms will get renovated, and when they get renovated they will move up to Tier 1. They want there to be equality between the dorms, and not have people choose dorms because they are cheaper. On the flip side it's nice to be able to cut costs and live in cheaper dorms.
  - Mo: I think it introduces classism into college campuses, but talking to people in NH seems like its being gentrified because we have one of the highest URMs. I'm in favor of standardized the prices across but would like it to be more reasonable for students than Tier 1 pricing.
  - The average income of students is pretty similar across different tiers and dining / non-dining, have thought about that a lot and monitored the trend. Housing is already subsidized at MIT and cheaper than other Boston schools. I agree that all dorms should be moved to Tier 2, but unsure if I can bring to Cindy.
  - Noah: The Tiered system also represents level of amenities, not just how recently renovated, because some dorms structurally will not be equal. Maseeh is a Tier 1 dorm, has least social space per student.

- Christine: What is housing had an external review? Have other schools and realtors assess the values of these dorms to create some sort of equity. MIT has a median cost estimate for financial aid that is a Tier 1 double, but if there was only Tier 1s that should be recalculated.
- Sarah: We could also have it change by class year.
- Tchelet: It affects more than just New House, should open up input to greater undergraduate community.
- Housing guarantees for students who take leave and then return, because that might be an extra stressor for students who take leave. Right now if you leave two weeks into a semester, that still counts against your 8 semester, you can appeal but we want that to be a guarantee. We also want to make sure students can come back to the dorm they used to live in.
- Meeting with all the new Councilors to on-board them.
- Jon
  - Working on the travel grant program, working with Marketing to get publicity materials.
  - Helping Mo with DACA phone bank
  - Working on building a resource development program for the UA, went to luncheon about resource development, talked with alumni.
  - Currently a third party review of SAO, how to make them and student leadership training better.
- Kat
  - Careers Committee is meeting next week
  - CUP will be holding a student forum on computational thinking, presenting a few different implementation options to get student feedback before it goes to the floor of the faculty

**5:45 pm - 6:00 pm:**

- Committee Updates
- Public Affairs: holding a CPW breakfast event on Friday April 13th, 8-10am, been publishing the Terrabyte, attended Cambridge City Council meeting this week, not much that would affect us, Mobile gas station on Memorial Drive, some grad students live around here, Mobile put in a request for a liquor license, large petition against that
- Events: Planning for SpringFEST, concert 4/27, reveal event is 4/3 or 4/4, met with SAO external review team, work with Marketing to get materials (video, posters, etc), will also have fun events for week, including comedy and cheesecake, DJ / rap battle with Redbull truck, swag giveaway, etc

- Alumni Affairs: within the committee members create smaller events in their dorms, doing info session to help undergrads make use of alumni resources, working with Alumni Association on the Better World campaign
- Technology: did wrap up work on BetterMIT, booked venue for next year, sending out mobile app survey, pushing Tedx talk to next semester because of licensing
- Wellcomm: focusing on recruiting the past week, hoping to hear from other people how to get a diverse group of people to join that is representative of campus, meetings with IR to draft survey about tutoring resources on campus
- Sustain: 10 new members, having our first GBM on March 11, lots of hs outreach events, CPW booths, Earth Day planning, reorganizing committee, we usually have 7 subcommittees, became 5, combined Dorm Electricity Competition will turn into a education event with ESI, merge with Special Projects, events on campus on climate policy, Suzy Nelson was very excited about the community garden, meeting with Julie Newman, director of sustainability, David, Mark
- Education: set out a survey about advising, will hopefully give us a good idea of what students want, currently working on creating a system on giving feedback to advisors that is still anonymized and protects students, launching student-faculty dinners for this semester, thinking about other ways of doing student-faculty engagement, let us know if you have any ideas
- Innovation: Added 5 new members, working on a chief of staff position, making a report from the makeathon, plan to release around spring break
- Marketing: doubled their committee! Working to plan SpringFEST, travel grants, targeted roll-out with website and social media around March 10th, thoughts on how to overhaul the website to make it more useful to us and MIT population, could be more useful on saying what we're working on, keeping people up to date. How do people feel about UA swag?
  - Sarah: I don't think we should spend money on swag for ourselves. I think the sweaters were subsidized before? There was leftover UA Events money that subsidized some sweaters.

**6:00 pm - 6:30 pm:**

- Discussion
  - CPW
    - The CPW Midway is in Johnson Rink from 1:00-3:00 PM on Saturday, April 14, 2018.
    - Breakfast on April 13th, 8-10am in the student center, thinking about catering from Dunkin Donuts or Panera, order 180 bagels from Panera, coming out to ~\$360. We have Sustain, Campus Planning, Diversity helping out, Sarah

- This kind of event wouldn't have a lot of people come generally, but there are very few events during CPW, so they tend to be very popular and run out of food
  - We could call it a student government breakfast and invite people from other organizational breakfast.
- Student organization transitioning
  - I think it's important to think about transitioning now, some of that is documenting what you're doing now, and having a way to easily hand off projects that won't conclude at the end of the year, or projects that will repeat in the coming years
  - Another thing to think about is who's going to be taking over, a lot of the committees internally elect, so have that on the minds of your committees
  - We're not always the best at transitioning, a lot of things fall by the wayside, projects aren't continued until several years later
  - Leah and other folks in SAO will also be running workshops in the SAO, would be good for you or other folks in your committee
  - Soma: Sustain was having commitment issues with members, one thing we did this semester is have a lead training session, that was helpful for new leads, telling them about delegating
- Student organization leadership training
  - We had a bit of leadership training for chairs in the fall during the retreat, but didn't do anything for committee members
  - Soma: I would like a one-time thing where each committee talks about how they organize and lead their committees
  - Loewen: Could be cool during the transition, have people who are leaving and new folks in the role.
  - Sarah: Can do that as one of the last Cabinet meetings, have new and old people talk about transitioning
  - Ashti: One of the hardest things is having multiple transitions, keeping track of side contacts that we've developed, sometimes new leadership will get new emails, we don't know who they are, things committee worked on previously get dropped
  - Mo: My predecessor brought me to meetings with common people he met with, said "this is the new me", started building that relationship early.
  - Sarah: If you're meeting with people regularly, as soon as you know your new person, start bringing that person to meetings. Trying to develop a document with every issue that we've worked on, at a very high level, what is a general idea, what are the projects. Having a mega document for

your group that you can keep track of can be useful to develop a history for people going forward.

- Ann: If you can't meet the person, email introductions are really helpful. When we were bringing on the Tech Twinkles team, people introduced us to the faculty, which was super helpful.
- Yaateh: A lot of our committees have google drive that we could archive. Would be interested in heading up that shared Drive. When I started this semester we hardly had anything, talked to JOseph, started from scratch, was pretty tough. But if there was resources on what a UA committee should be like.
- Sophia: Interested in keeping track of all the projects the UA has worked on in the last five years.
- Tchelet: Having a excel sheet with all of the UA contacts.
- Jon: We'll try to do that for the resource development project, have no just MIT emails but also gmails.
- Ann: There was an issue with the Calendar for the UA Calendar, instructions on how to book spaces, or how the office works.
- Loewen: This is the funding structure, this is how you reserve spaces, how to recruit, basic stuff that is relevant to every committee