

UA Council  
February 26, 2013

Announcements

- State of the UA
  - Exciting announcements - Macklemore for Spring Weekend
- New chairs of the UA Events Committee are Danielle Yuschenkoff and Lindsey Osimiri
- Sustainability committee has a display in Stata
- Visiting pairs form needs to be filled out - will be sent out with minutes this evening
- Meeting with President Reif and PTAC
  - Will be releasing a report soon
  - Discussing possibilities for engagement with the president in the future
  - If you have any issues to be raised to the president, please let Jonte know
- New UA Website to be launched this weekend
  - Announcement will go out to undergrads@
- Working to recruit for all of our committees
  - If you know people who are interested, please tell them to e-mail [ua@mit.edu](mailto:ua@mit.edu)

Budget

- Vote: Budget Approved
- Updated copy of the budget will be posted to the website

Discussion:

- Input discussion for CJAC: Objectives for Residential Life at MIT (FSILG RAs, RLADs, and Housemaster System) - brainstorming
  - Feedback system for housemasters as we currently have for professors
  - Housemaster System
    - House Masters understands students very well - living with students helps
    - Monthly house team meals and meetings are great
    - House Masters should have final say over their dorm
    - House Master search can be long and grueling, perhaps needs more input from students
    - House Masters need to be more involved and communicate with their house team more, follow up with responsibilities
    - House Masters tend to hold monthly or biweekly events
    - Maseeh has a puppy and associate house masters
    - MacGregor sees their House Masters' and Associate HMs during a dinner every semester
    - Next House has monthly meetings with the house and HMs
    - Some feel that they see their HMs during the events they do during finals and want that to be more distributed throughout the semester
    - Some want more support for freshmen specifically

- Asking students is very important
- Dorms vary widely - if you want structure, Maseeh is the way to go; if you want anarchy, check out Bexley!
- FSILG RAs
  - The “mutual selection” process works
  - People like that they are alums of the house often
  - Don’t want it to become like the RLAD system
  - How to handle risk and mental health training?
  - Sorority perspective: RLADs are hired professionals, RAs are more like GRTs. They were able to speak with multiple different RAs to see who would be a good fit
  - ILG perspective: since ILGs are small, usually RAs are not alumnus; MIT provides them with a short list of candidates. They wish that the job were better defined and marketed so that groups have more choices.
  - Some are disappointed by the centralized nature of the application - applying through the office as opposed to applying for the specific living group may go against the individual nature of the living groups
  - What do you want your RA to do?
    - RAs can be useful to resolve disputes between residents
- RLADs
  - Senior House and EC don’t have RLADs
  - Helpful in running and planning events
  - Perform roles that have not been filled by GRTs and House Masters
  - Dorms did not feel that the process for selecting RLADs was transparent
  - The decision to select RLADs was flawed and needs to be changed to allow for student opinion
  - Mental Health task force started by the Chancellor (which had students on the committee, not provided by the UA) that recommended that dorms needed more of a support system
    - House Masters’ had most of the decision if they wanted to have an RLAD
    - RLADs were provided with a place to live within the dorms
    - All the dorms (with the exception of Senior House) will have an RLAD
  - Some feel that having an “administrator” live in the dorm with them is uncomfortable
  - Others find their RLAD to be an advocator for the students and a great resource
  - Every dorm is different - many feel that their House Masters have an amazing relationship with their students and don’t want an RLAD forced upon them
  - Students feel it will be hard to have a shared RLAD that will represent the different cultures of their dorms

- GRTs
  - Helpful with a hands-off approach
  - They are there when you need them
  - Great for baked goods and a good conversation
  - Love how they pick who becomes a GRT because the residents want them there
  - Search process is hard
  - Need a way to give feedback about their GRTs (currently there is no way to do so)
- General comments moving forward:
  - Student input is very important
  - We want student input to be taken seriously by the administration
  - Each living community is very different - find people who respects their differences

## CPW

- In the past few years, the admissions office have made a decision to apply an event registration to the FSILGs and the Dorms as separate groups during CPW
- What effect is this having on your ability to run events that pre-frosh will be interested in?
- Open Discussion:
  - The cap is limiting the ability to let pre-frosh understand the dorms. Ex: New House has 9 separate houses!
  - We *want* pre-frosh to feel overwhelmed (like MIT)
  - RBA binding dorms find CPW to be the one event to get people excited about the dorms
  - Dorms not on Dorm Row find it hard to attract pre-frosh to come and are upset at the limitation
  - We would like to see the survey data to work with admissions to fix glitches without setting the cap so low
  - Students felt that they were not consulted in the decision making process
  - If only a few prefrosh come to an event, it's not necessarily a bad event - they can be more valuable to get more one-on-one time
- We will be inviting Admissions to an open discussion to our next Council meeting
  - Generally, things will not change for this year but we do have a say in what happens next year!

## Ending Announcements

- UA Branches are every Sunday at Area 4. UA does a \$7 subsidy, and you are always invited! RSVP to [ua-chief@mit.edu](mailto:ua-chief@mit.edu)
- Chief of Staff manages over 20 institute committees - he will be running a UA Working Group on Mondays at 7 pm. All are welcome to attend.
- Election petitions are due tomorrow at 5 pm
  - If you know anyone running for UAP/VP or Class Council

- We are having an office clean up this Friday
  - After the clean up, we are getting a couch and Keurig machine and a full-stocked fridge
  - It's a great place for you to relax as a lounge
  - If you want card access, e-mail [ua@mit.edu](mailto:ua@mit.edu) with your student ID number