

UA Council Meeting
September 25, 12

Attendance: Baker, Burton Conner, East Campus, Maseeh, McCormick, New House, Next House, Random Hall, Senior House, Simmons Hall, Panhel (3), President, Vice President, Chief of Staff, Treasurer, Secretary

Exec Update:

- Discussion of Fin Board chair (Jonté)
 - Jonté followed up with John
 - Fin Board is in an ok state
 - John (new) is very able and excited to be getting work done in regards to the allocations
 - We will address issues as they arise
- 2016 Class Council Elections (Laura)
 - Concluded on Friday
 - New Council!
 - 40% of the class voted
- MIT 2030 (Patrick)
 - Discussion of what to add to presentation that will be given on behalf of the undergrads
 - What students want to see in Kendall Square
 - Discussion of on-campus renovations
- Recruitment (Jonté)
 - Still ongoing
 - Want 12 committees with at least 5 people on each
 - Please submit recommendations!
 - You are leaders in your living groups and have exposure to a number of students on campus with UA leadership potential
 - Campus Policy Leaders Program
 - Train the next generation of leaders for UA
- Q & A
 - We should invite those who ran for class council to be a part of the UA

Approval of Minutes:

- No objections raised with respect to last week's minutes
 - Minutes will be released to the public sometime tonight or tomorrow

Fall 2012 Budget:

- Changes as of last night
 - Elections Committee line item was added
 - \$600 to keep vote.mit.edu running

- PR funding was decrease
 - Food for meetings went slightly up
 - Study break money went down
 - Event support fund went down
 - Re-invent image funding went down
- Q&A
 - Re-inventing funding is to go towards a new logo from an outside agency
 - UA Retreat - \$5500 for a 30-person retreat
 - Traditionally retreat has been conducted every year at Cape Cod
 - Last year it was a one day event at Endicott House
 - Team building, brainstorming, and planning for the upcoming year
 - Pervious years' discussions have been very productive
 - Institute-wide budget planning taskforce was discussed previously
 - Dining discussions
 - Training sessions for Senate
 - Council meets only once every 2 weeks, and there is a disconnect between council and exec; goal is to decrease the barrier
 - Traditionally retreat has been \$1000 less; factors for the increase has to do with our original plans to have the retreat during the career fair weekend so a late decision had to be made regarding the timing; also, it had to be planned around CCLP the following weekend and we had to change the date again
 - Spring retreat was \$4000
 - We want to take money out of the reserve; if we have more money available, student groups will have more money allocations
 - What percentage of the money do student groups spend?
 - Last semester it was 40%
 - Semester before it was 30%
 - Motion to remove the funds for purchasing a new logo
 - Motion seconded
 - There will be a lot of student involvement on what people want to have in the rebranding
 - Rebranding image includes the new website; a new logo to go with it may give off the image that the UA is opening up to the opinions of the students
 - Logo represents a company; changing that changes the face and gets rid of the way that it is bound to the past
 - Companies usually charge \$3,000-4,000 for a logo; we have a discount for \$2,500.
 - The logo can be used for a considerable amount of time into the future
 - Why not have a student competition for the UA logo?
 - Reasoning: if we hold a competition and pick a clear winner, then we don't have any incentives to work around with it afterwards

- The company will give mock-ups of many different designs as opposed to one singular pick
 - More promotional items with the logo?
 - Yes – that is the plan for the future
 - We didn't order new shirts because we wanted to wait until a new logo became solidified
 - Removing logo from budget: Approved
- Vote on Budget: **Budget Approved**

Fin Board Allocations:

- Send comments to the officers
 - Will be discussed during exec tomorrow night
- Open Discussion
 - Athena Printing – should not use our budget by spending that of another
 - Will the allocations be posted?
 - It will be posted online
 - Please remove the Athena printing comment
 - Mystery Hunt – were told that they received \$0 funds for “out of cycle”; they find this unfair given that Mystery Hunt is in January, but purchases occur in November/December
 - Should it be sent to appeals?
 - Task the fin board chair to review this for either appeals or for the main cycle
 - Council votes on appeals as well

Residential Dining (Ravi)

- Presentation on issues that residential life and dining is currently facing
- Three things:
 - Residential Dining
 - To consider students with special dietary needs
 - What students think about the dining plans
 - What students want to see in the dining plan
 - More flexibility with the swipes
 - Have “dining dollars” so students could eat elsewhere
 - Dining would have to cost less than off campus food in order for students to be more interested in it
 - Quality has been decreasing over time
 - More options for vegetarian, vegan, etc
 - Career services
 - Concern that students prioritize internship/job search over classes
 - It's possible to work with career services to change the time that interviews are scheduled to be more flexible for students
 - CI-Ms

- Concerns from specific departments about the extreme amount of work that's expected for the given number of units
- Some classes take way more time than the units indicate
- Should take a random sample of students asking realistic time spent per week on a class

IAP Subcommittee (Ravi)

- Designed to propose changes to IAP
- Discussion on for-credit classes during IAP – are there too many? Too enough? Only pass/fail? Credit limit too low? Courses with classes required during IAP?
- Open Discussion:
 - Mission – have a nontraditional curriculum
 - Students should be able to take classes for credit during IAP if they want to
 - Some classes during IAP are required for a concentration
 - Sometimes provide great lab experience
 - Great for externships
 - Credit limit seems arbitrary
 - Foreign language classes are valuable and popular; should expand the number of classes offered for students to meet the high demand
 - Credit limit doesn't hold value
 - Keep IAP sent up so that it fosters intellectual exploration as opposed to “getting ahead in the major”

Residential Life Area Director (Jonté)

- New Residential Life personnel in each dorm, assists Housteam; leaked in early June
 - Summer – worked together with DormCon to see where we can become involved
- Meetings with Chancellor, Deans Colombo and Humphreys
 - They had a working group after the student deaths last year that the UA was not informed about
 - Worked through the student concerns and problems that arose
 - Advised them how to interact with the students
 - Worked with the deans to develop a survey for distribution
- Open discussion on student engagement process:
 - Concern expressed over how the administration handled the process
 - Survey will be run as soon as technical issues are resolved
 - What is the purpose of the survey?
 - Goal is to give each of the individual dorms a say in how they run their support system; say what student thoughts are on the RLAD position
 - Will send responses back to the house team so they can review the structure

Closing Remarks

- Retreat October 8-9, 2012
 - Great opportunity for you to meet one another in the organization
- We are working right now to have pictures taken for all of the officers tomorrow night
 - Pictures will be posted in the infinite display and online
- Website will be up and running within the next two weeks
- Send recruitment recommendations to ua-recruit@mit.edu !!!
- Movie on the lawn this weekend
- Fall festival next weekend