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
o 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
  o Re-inventing funding is to go towards a new logo from an outside agency
  o 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
  o 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%
  o 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
      o Removing logo from budget: Approved
• Vote on Budget: **Budget Approved**

**Fin Board Allocations:**
• Send comments to the officers
  o Will be discussed during exec tomorrow night
• Open Discussion
  o Athena Printing – should not use our budget by spending that of another
    ▪ Will the allocations be posted?
      • It will be posted online
        o Please remove the Athena printing comment
  o 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:
  o 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
  o 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
  o 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 Houseteam; 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
  o 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
  o 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