

UA Council Meeting 10-7

Attendance:

Matthew
Alex Zele
Sophia
Sonja - EC
Eric - Random Hall
Obasi - IFC
Taylor - Panhel
Caitlyn - Panhel
Adrianna - Senior House
Daniel - LGC
Mary - McCormick
Trey - New House
Alana - MacGregor
Sam - IFC
Brandt - IFC
Sydney - Maseeh
Paul - BC
Mandy - Baker (Panhel)

Motion to Approve Minutes from Last Meeting

Unanimously approved

State of the UA Update

Matthew: "So I wanted to talk about... the internal UA... internally we've had four resignations since the beginning of the year so, we wanted to kind of see... that's obviously a problem... how do we course correct... are people enjoying their experience in the UA? ... On a scale from 1-5 we asked them if they were satisfied in the UA and if they felt supported as a committee chair... We went through the feedback and three things came out... 1.) Feeling of being micromanaged... 2.) Lack of funding... 3.) Communication style, specifically with myself... 4.) Administrative things, the report every week, how they go about getting allocations of funding... We took this feedback and are spending this week and weekend to review how we do things... tomorrow and Friday and Saturday I have meetings with each of the committee chairs one-on-one... We're taking this very seriously and the hope is that once we emerge from this week and out of next Tuesday we'll have a much more refined structure.

Overarchingly the problem as I see is that we were very focused on the external, how undergraduates... we didn't have a strong vision on the internal...

The next thing was the Costco card... last meeting I wanted it to be done by this meeting... that clearly hasn't happened... the reason is because the terms of use have changed... I spoke with Michael yesterday and instead... we're gonna piggy-back off of GSC's

Costco's cards for now and use them for this year... It doesn't solve the problem for next year because both the GSC and us will have to figure out how to use Costco cards...

The third thing is... where we're at in terms of the investigation... so, the audit, as I mentioned, is supposed to come out in October... the review committee is still in the process of being formed, and that's really up to the two people that are gonna be chairing that, Peter Cummings and Dean Robinson... so they're pulling together the committee and I've met with them extensively about... what the charge... they're putting together the membership... we want to come out with a quality report... we want quality versus getting it out in December... That's where we are with that. That's progressing, it's still in the formation stage... there's not a ton of updates... stuff's happening... on our side, we've moved forward on the reform side... are there any questions?"

Paul: "The current system of the graduates to access the Costco cards is what?"

Matthew: "You go into CopyTech... you type in your information... it verifies your information and it checks out the card in your name."

Secretary Confirmation

Matthew: "The next item is Secretary confirmation vote... the process (See Appendix I)..."

Alex: "So, I don't really know what you have in front of you about me, but I'm in SK, I live at the house right now, actually, and I haven't done anything involved with the UA yet, and I'm super excited to try it out."

Matthew: "Are there any questions concerning this nomination... we do need $\frac{2}{3}$ approval..."

Secretary Confirmation Vote

Unanimous Pass

Committee Chair Confirmation

Matthew: "(See Appendix II) Looking forward, I think it's great to have a freshman as the head of the Involvement Committee and they're freshmen and they're excited..."

Committee Chair Confirmation Vote

Unanimous Pass

Bylaws Amendments

Matthew: "There have been no changes..."

Approve bylaws as written (motioned by Obasi)

Unanimous Pass

Budget Amendment Overview

Matthew: "So, the reason this amendment is coming your way is that Dean Freeman is paying for the Student-Faculty dinners, so that frees up our budget a little bit... We have a lot of talent

in the UA and it's a pressure for them to do this fundraising... I underestimated the logistical and capacity in general that committee chairs have to do these things... and the amount of initiation it takes for a committee chair to lead a group to fundraise... There's a lot of frustration, understandably so... is there a way that we can give the student groups additional money and also get the committee chairs money... so I went through the committee expenditures and cut out everything that up to this point a committee has not talked about or they are no longer doing their original plans (They are at \$8655) ... I took out the committee fundraising and saw that we were left over with an extra \$6,000 above what we had before so I put that into student group funding. The committees no longer have the pressure to fundraise, although they're still encouraged to fundraise... but to do their basic operations they don't feel that pressure anymore... I also set aside \$1000 for the bulk... cards with the GSC. Are there any questions? (See Appendix III)"

Motion to Approve the Budget as Amended by Paul

Unanimous Pass

Government Accountability Committee Overview

Matthew: "... it's very common in other government structures... that they have this in the government structure... it gets people to have the access and everything necessary... a good way to think about is as a Council we have a lot of responsibilities and one of them is oversight... a second thing that's easy for us, for example, when this audit comes out... there should be people outside besides me looking at this document... a group of people where I can take sensitive things and tell me whether or not it makes sense for this to be confidential... The third thing, up to this point, there's been no one besides principal officers outside of exec that has access to everything... the actions of a few people without any checks led to this kind of thing happening... we need a group of people that has access to these things... political interests are in favor at this time of going in and doing that... those three things are goals with this committee... (See Appendix IV for structure).

Sam: "...The only stick if they release a lot of documents is 'we remove you'..."

Obasi: "... There are only so many accountability structures that we can have... the things that the UA has are unlikely to have too much personal information about students and such..."

Paul: "I imagine it's Council's responsibility to nominate people that we think are trustworthy..."

Sonja: "This is not really a concern with this document... but there should probably be a plan with how this kind of accountability... what the process will be to make sure... they use it... if we want them to do this and do it right... there should be a plan... it doesn't need to be in this document but by the time the committee exists there should be a plan..."

Sam: "My thought is mandating a yearly audit which doesn't release any information but they need to be able to look at a lot of documentation at least once or twice a year."

Obasi: "So, speaking as a student who did not have formal audit training but who has had to audit documents... it's a very non-trivial task... so there needs to be a formal... framework... if only to improve efficiency..."

Paul: “Along the lines of membership... what are the Council’s thoughts on including two members of Council and one member of JudBoard.”

Taylor: “Is there bandwidth for that?”

Matthew: “...JudBoard is not tasked with holding me accountable, Council is... and JudBoard might have a conflict of interest... I’ll send out an email and discuss what this will look like... Is there any business that anyone wishes to discuss?”

Obasi: “What is the status of the Institute Committee nominations?”

Matthew: “The way that this works is that you need to have five people object...”

Taylor: “We had that... on behalf of IFC and Panhel we did... I’m bringing a concern that this is the second time that we’ve brought names to the COD... not only does that look bad to the officer board, it looks bad on Council... I just want to reiterate that these channels of communication should be look into more carefully...”

Matthew: “Yeah, that’s unfortunate and unacceptable... I take complete responsibility for that...”

Alana: “Just one other question about government accountability... I’m not sure if it’s a good idea to choose them in the spring semester... because it’s a new Council... “

Sonja: “So, the Council will turn over for the spring... so there will be no one on the position in the spring...”

Matthew: “There’s some wisdom in it... we’ll think about it... if we can think of a better structure... I’ll be reaching out to council to find people that are interested in fleshing this out more...”

Move for adjournment by Paul

Unanimous Pass

Appendix I



Undergraduate Association Secretary Confirmation

We had a total of 14 applicants for positions, of which 10 applications indicated an interest for Secretary.

We performed group interviews with all applicants, with the exception of 2, for whom a time did not work out. We interviewed them individually.

For Secretary, we took candidates of interest and interviewed them individually before making a final decision.

The traits we are looking for in a Secretary are organization, outgoing nature, passion and leadership potential.

After this process, we are nominating **Alexandra Zele '18** for the position of Secretary. She is a member of Sigma Kappa sorority, where she is also a National Correspondent. She is a part of lightweight crew, the Debate Team, and an Associate Advisor. Her five core values are Honesty, organization, kindness, competence, thoughtfulness. As Secretary, she hopes to improve undergraduates' knowledge about the UA and its activities/goals, increase awareness and understanding of equity and equality during and post- students' time at MIT, and to aid students in augmenting their awareness of current events.

Appendix II



Committee Chair Confirmation

We had a total of 14 applicants for positions, of which 10 applications indicated an interest for committee chair.

We performed group interviews with all applicants, with the exception of 2, for whom a time did not work out. We interviewed them individually.

Further, we are nominating **Keertan Kini '16** for Chair of the Alumni Affairs Committee. He has always been very interested in the UA, having come to all of our Council meetings in the past, as well as serving as a Council Representative for Simmons Hall before spending last semester abroad at Cambridge, England. He is involved in many groups around campus, and has lots of leadership experience.

Finally, we are nominating **Adam Theriault-Shay '19** for Chair of the Involvement Committee. Adam is a clear stand-out facilitator, which was well-demonstrated during his interview. He is also a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity. His passion for the work of the committee, coupled with his proximity to freshman excitement and idealism, makes us hope that he will bring a fresh new perspective to how students can be involved in student government.

Appendix III

[Link is here](#)

Appendix IV



Undergraduate Association Council Committee on Government Accountability

Name

The name of this committee shall be the Undergraduate Association Council Committee on Government Accountability.

Mission

To regularly review the operations of the Principal Officers and committees, to ensure that they are operating in a responsible manner that is consistent with all applicable governing documents and acts of Council, to review information that Principal Officers believe to be sensitive and not released to Council, and to make Council aware of any issues or information it deems relevant at Council meetings.

Structure

The chair of this committee is elected by each Council at its first meeting in the Spring semester.

The membership of this committee will be as follows:

Three (3) members of Council, including the Chair, to be elected at the first Council meeting in the Spring semester.

In addition to these members, the following positions will meet with the committee as required by the Chair:

The UA Principal Officers.

The members from the UA Council will be elected via the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the first meeting of the Spring Semester, and voting will occur by ballot.

Committee members may leave the committee via resignation or removal. For a committee member to be removed, a motion for removal must be made in a Council meeting, and a majority vote of Council is required. A new member will be chosen according to the election processes specified herein at the meeting when removal occurred.

General Operating Procedures

The committee will have direct access to any and all internal documents and records of the Undergraduate Association, including those considered confidential. It may review such records at any time. It may also request information related to the UA from Principal Officers and committee chairs, which must be provided in a timely fashion.

The committee will meet at least once in the period between Council meetings.