

UA Council Meeting Minutes 10/28/15

Attendance:

Daniel (LGC), Mandy (Baker), Obasi (IFC), Liz (Panhel), Sam (IFC), Robert (IFC), Jacob (IFC), Paul (BC), Kate (Simmons), Sonja (EC), Eric (Random), Adrianna (Senior House), Trey (New House), Alana (MacGregor), Githui (Chief of Staff), Matt (President), Sophia (Vice President), Alekhya (Treasurer), Alex (Secretary), Mary (McCormick), Liquing Chang (Maseeh)

Approval of minutes from last meeting-- unanimous approval

State of the UA Report:

monthly report now every 3 weeks; report sent out yesterday; internal changes have been well-received so far by the committees and a survey will be sent out at the end of the month to get quantitative data; education committee is bringing in undergraduates to discuss new major/minor/concentration options with Dean Freeman; feedback on career fair meeting will be held sometime in the near future with Deans Colombo, Freeman, and Ortiz; new sexual misconduct committee with student support and wellness committee; questions? Elaborate on Dean Freeman's ideas on expanding majors? Answer: look at data-- course 6 has taken off; concern that students are taking course 6 not out of interest but due to popularity of major and employability (I.e. Career fair) and undergrads becoming too homogenous and thirdly are we still able to give quality education-- quality of degree due to large number of students in major; sounds very focused on course 6-- any focus on smaller majors? Yes-- focusing on if students are focusing on majors and want and if not, why not?

Judicial review board (Olivia):

If read the constitution, we want to bring back trust in judicial review board and give transparency as to how a decision is reached; what's written is very much in the draft stage; role of chair was never defined so we decided that the chair will have no more powers than other members; currently working on web platform for undergrads to see previous complaints and current decisions-- own software not used-- will serve as an archive; discretionary power to review cases-- if 1 thing a case is necessary, will hear; default to consensus-- if no consensus will vote by majority but 1 person cannot ever make vote; so, any 2 members have infinite power over the UA-- all 3 of us feel uncomfortable about this-- we would like a check on the judicial board; this is probably not up to us but feel free to email me; this is presented to get feedback, get you thinking about this; we plan on getting a final draft by next council meeting-- we would like council approval; currently can vote but vote is somewhat meaningless; are you proposing that in you will have a check from other officers on judicial board? No, this document is meant to clarify how we operate but in effect this is what we all agree to and how we operate

Funding Sources Update:

sustainable funding and money that have but not guaranteed from year to year (baseline vs non-baseline) are the two types of funding that exist; we intended to spend down surplus by using it to incrementally increase student life fee slowly because the UA has been taking in less money than it is giving out to student groups because there was a surplus but that is no longer the case; Nov. 17th is the budgetary deadline for MIT and we intend to propose an increase of the student life fee so that we have more sources of sustainable funding; even if R&D does a great job this year, there is no guarantee that will be the case in future years and then we will have to underspend when allocating money to groups; A: have a discretionary fund over 3-5 years and increase the student life fee slowly or B: increase the fee now at one time; currently is \$304 and is applied to all students-- undergrads and grads-- so an increase of \$10 brings in ~\$140K for the organization; another part of this is shuttles and ASA and Costco; GSE is picking up the tab for us this year and this is a one-time thing and next year this will not happen so we need money sound for next year if we want undergrads to be able to participate in them next year; is difficult for me to say, but I think it is necessary; the fee has not gone up in the last 10 years but groups are growing exponentially, etc. and so if anyone has comments or questions or feedback... Kate: is this something we vote on or is it something you do? Matt: You can say no at this meeting; this year we won't increase by more than \$12; you don't need to vote for me to do it but you can vote it down; we don't have another council meeting before the deadline but we can have another meeting if wanted beforehand; we met with Peter this morning and I plan to have a workshop to discuss and if people want to, we can meet and discuss it before the deadline; Paul: does the fee all come to the UA? Matt: No, there is a breakdown-- when we have it I will send it out to you; they're DAPER, UA and GSE, Mental health, and spring fest/fall fest; Sadun (from audience) reads aloud breakdown from 2010; Obasi: 2014 breakdown is posted on the UA website; Paul: I move that we don't make a decision on this at this meeting; Matt: next wednesday...? it's veteran's day... would next wednesday meet for everyone? or meet on veterans day? I will send out a form to determine a time-- we will meet the week before the deadline

Audit Report Results:

take this home and look it over; 5 things I wanted to highlight: audit group did not find any issues with misappropriations of UA funds; 2nd-5th things are the observations that they make (see attachment); Alekyha is currently working on how do we check the numbers that SAO has, etc. (observation #1); overallocation percentage-- not done this year due to lack of surplus; budgets made without proper info necessary; budgetary model-- committee believes we should come up with a better budgeting process-- we will be working on this; reading of observations 3 and 4-- recommendations on how to go about changing process; want to use obs 3 and 4 for bylaws committee; updates will be given on Alekyha's project; not confidential-- may share; I think they are good obs and recs, and I have given them to you to look over; Questions? Obasi: I don't think you're summary of obs 4 was articulated quite well enough-- I have no idea where

the UA wants to be financially in the next 5 years-- will the reconcile properly and what do we want things to look like in X number of years; Matt: makes sense; update on process: very close to finalizing review committee from DSL-- just need a faculty member to put on-- and they plan on having a report out by April 4th of next year

Gov. Accountability Committee Overview and Vote:

I don't intend on us voting on this tonight-- Obasi emailed and we have not met and so his input has not been given on this documentation; concerns I have tried to mitigate: people being voted on at first meeting (so far, I have kept as the 1st meeting because my hope is that council will know each other before the 1st meeting and be able to vote); accountability (i've added in a few more removal mechanisms (see attachment)); confidentiality (by unanimous vote things may be shared with others outside of the committee and if it is done, there becomes an automatic consideration for removal by committee); can't fine people or send people to COD; I like what someone said last meeting-- that there is a certain degree of trust between members of the council; thoughts on additions? Is there comfort voting since there are no thoughts or questions? Sonia: sentence before general operating procedures? Matt: reads (see attachment?) Obasi: Does Liz count for three people-- because she is the only one here from Panhel? Sophia: I think that she technically only has one vote. Olivia: If it is a single vote, you have one vote. You have more if you're here as proxy for others; Obasi: How do we tell about proxy? Matt: You need to tell me 48 hours before the meeting and the proxy cannot be a current member of the council; Kate: Is someone elected chair at that meeting or does the committee choose the chair and what is the role of the chair? Matt: You're right, I haven't defined the role of the chair-- I'd rather vote in three weeks once I've added the correction.

Summary of Climate Action Plan by UA Sustainability (committee chair Linda):

see powerpoint presentation attachment

Questions/comments: Paul: Wasn't one of the proposals that an Ethics Advisory Council be formed? Linda: Yes, but in the recent plan, there was no mention of it. MacG rep: There was no definitive government mention... Linda: Right. Obasi: Has this draft of the letter been sent? Matt: Yes, it was not a policy letter-- just questions. MacG rep: What do you mean by the committee and the UA supporting the spirit of the letter? Linda: We wanted to remain as neutral as possible since many students people and the committee are not completely satisfied with the plan, but we want to support the administration and ask questions to get more answers. Liana (from audience): We'd like more information on the plan before supporting without coming off as combative since there was not a lot of information given in the plan. Paul: How many undergrads vs. grads on the first number about how many students signed the petition-- is the majority of students concerned about this? Linda: I don't recall, but I can look it up and get it to you.

Marketing Committee Logo Overview (Alberto):

presentation attached-- except new logo for reveal purposes
had a focus group and asked people to describe the UA-- see attachment; and then we asked them to describe their ideal UA-- see attachment; projects that marketing is working on to change the image of the UA to be more like the UA students want and show students that their friends/ peers are really a part of the UA, including an informational music video and a video byte; want to make UA more relatable and an organization for people to come with questions; set to premiere Nov. 9th (music video); Sam: How do you do that humble-y? Liz: I really dig this idea. I'm picturing someone talking to you so they don't have to read it and have it be funny. I love this idea. Alberto: *shows new logo* people didn't want it to change that much, so we modernized it and changed the font; we also like that it can be shifted for different events (see attachment) and we're going to buy polos with the logo for people to wear in the videos; funding is coming from the Bush Fund; presentation will be secret until unveiling on the 9th

Any business anyone would like to discuss? Sophia: How many of you do you think have spent more than \$10 in the past year getting into or out of Boston? Majority of council raised hands. Sophia: If you raise the student life fee by \$10, the shuttles could be paid for over the weekends. Alberto: I think Northeastern and BU, there tuition covers infinite T usage... why don't we raise tuition by \$60?

Paul: I move for adjournment. Obasi: I second.

Meeting adjourned.