

Attendance:

Sophia Liu
Daysi Gomez
Gabriella Garachini
Kyle Archer
Alexa Martin
Elizabeth Cox, Baker
Sarah Melvin, Senior House
Isaac Grosf, Random Hall
Billy Moses, Maseeh
Colin Godwih, New House
Nicholas Curtis, New House
Flora Liu, Burton Conner
Nora Enright, Next House
Meredith Bensch, Panhel
Courtney Diamond, Panhel
Caitlyn Mason, Panhel
Jack Gordon, IFC
David Dellal, IFC
Trevor Ewald, IFC
Will Popick, IFC
Lily Zhou, East Campus
Daniel Palumbo, LGC
Susan Mullen, McCormick
Yuge Ji, Simmons

Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes from last meeting of last year - 0 opposed, 0 abstaining
State of the UA- currently focusing primarily on the committees getting on track to be on their own this year. Over this year we want the committees to be on their own by the end of the month. This year we did a good job recruiting, most committees had applicants for membership.

Three big picture goals for the UA:

- 1) Diversity in community spaces
 - Suzy Nelson has been working on this issue extensively
 - We want to see if over the last few years if the average amount of space per student has decreased
 - Rainbow lounge wants more funding to be a better space for students

- 2) Transportation for Students
 - Temple University has an uber like service which could replace safe ride and could be much cheaper for the institute as a whole

- Has already been started as a pilot for 50-100 students and professors on campus
- 3) Evaluation of student support services
- We do not publish an evaluation currently of s³ or medical services
 - Could be helpful to have a evaluation of medical services similar to classes here at MIT

This past week meeting's Sophia has gone too:

- 1) Alumni Association- wants to push amount of alumni connected with Mind Share
 - Could connect more undergrads/grads back with UA
 - Full day meeting tomorrow on Mind Share
- 2) PAC (President Advisory Committee)
 - Going to encourage students to push for more community space on campus

Question:

How would you like to interact with admins and committee chairs? How frequently would you like to meet?

- Last year met once a month and that caused it to run to almost two hours and a more serious logistical discussion

Isaac:

For interacting with admins, something I've been thinking about recently is when admins try to involve students by forming a committee with a few student members on it, which is confidential in the meeting discussions. However, this causes the same sentiment that decisions are being made with a few students and doesn't involve others. We should try to be more transparent with these meetings.

- Sophia: Should we should invite admins that we are interested in to talk to Council?
- Isaac: When there is a group of people working on the project, it isn't clear how much we can tell the general public. Some admins think we shouldn't tell anyone about the decisions because rumors could begin. The extreme opposite approach of never saying anything isn't a good approach either. We should make it easier for committees to talk to the general public about what they're doing

Sarah: When meetings are scheduled it seems as if a lot of the committees meet are when we have class and the meetings are scheduled without consultation of student members. When admins would try to do lunches with student leaders it would fall in the noon block when students have class. It would show that admins care if they could stay later and make availability when people do not have class.

Sophia: Do we want to meet every two weeks?

- Jack: Suggested 3 weeks
- Caitlyn: If we met every two weeks we could make the meetings shorter, 1.5 hours

- **Vote:** Majority voted on meeting every 3 weeks

UA Budget Review:

- Session was held this Sunday to go over it
- Gabi: Generally at the end of a school year the remaining money gets split in half to the reserve and the next funding cycle. We have about 371,000 to spend this year. We are leaving 40,000 in the reserve. Committee expenditures and Finboard went up this year. Last year there was 320,000 allocated. We were able to allocate more this year.
- Vote on budget for the year: 0 opposed, 0 abstained

Committee Chair Confirmation Vote:

- Olivia will be taking the semester off, the new chair will be Nikhil Bhatia
- Previously Nikhil was the vice chair, he has only served for this semester
- **Vote:** Approving Nikhil as chair: 0 opposed, 0 abstained

Amendment to Bylaws for summer voting:

- Jack: Issue with letter V- you shouldn't be allowed to see both how people vote and change your vote. You should just be able to see other's comments.
- Isaac: Nobody should see votes until the end of the voting period in which whatever comes up then becomes official.
- **Kyle action item:** Edit amendment and we will present at next meeting

Kyle: This amendment has been brought forward because of Institute Committees. Sometimes after they have been presented and voted on, we have issues with the slate. Updates with the slate:

- 1) Committee on Undergraduate Program: 6 nominees, 3 couldn't make the time slot, we now nominated Jack Gordon
 - 2) Committee on Academic Performance: last year updated the leave and return policy and during that there was 3 members. We returned one member and asked the rotate through 2. Professor asked to have Ginette Brown back for this year. This would be removing other nominees.
- **Vote:** Nominating Jack to CUP: 0 opposed, 1 abstained
 - **Vote:** Nominating Jeannette Brown to CAP: 0 opposed, 1 abstained

Finboard Bylaws Amendment:

- Not an amendment to the constitution and just the committee therefore it can be voted on tonight
- A few changes:
 - 1) Inviting asa to be a standing member in the committee
 - 2) Wording changes
 - 3) Finboard members will have to reapply each year

- 4) Auditing clauses added: it is difficult to follow through to see if finboard groups are following up spending money on what they applied for
- Certain auditing groups will follow up groups throughout the year to ensure that they are spending only on what they applied for
 - Clauses for irresponsibility: in section 3 on the last page which is similar to what the ASA recommends for groups that do not have good financial practice

Isaac: Article III Membership- going from a 3 person group to a 10 person group seems like a big change.

Sophia: Auditing is the main thing being added. Finboard has trouble training groups well. Melissa has been thinking about wanting to audit groups and provide better support.

Nicole: Instead of de-recognizing student groups, we could have them go from funded status to unfunded status. They will still be a recognized student group with just no access to finboard funding

- **Vote:** Pass Finboard Bylaws with Nicole's proposition: 0 opposed, 0 abstained

Travel funding:

Sophia: Undergrad students have no current way to get travel funding except through their labs/departments. For instance, these students from course 4 have no way of receiving funding.

- Isaac: On subject of career fair, how much funding are we talking about?
- Sophia: GSC budget is almost double our budget. There is no oversight how that money is being spent except by the senior class council.
- Sarah: If we are more involved in the Career Fair will we have more say? There could be more ways for the UA to get involved in career fair.
- Sophia: We will be doing a report on how the recommendations from MJD are followed at this upcoming career fair.
- Nick Curtis: It could be interesting for UA to put money aside for funding projects. More popular majors have easier access to money than others. Could be nice for students to be able to turn to the UA for travel grants.
- Sophia: Our peer institutions have these travel grants and should be something we consider.

- **Vote:** Adjourning this meeting: 0 opposed, 1 abstained