

Attendance:

Alexa Martin
Kyle Archer
Sophia Liu
Gabriella Baracchini
Daysi Gomez
Isaac Grosaf (Random)
Emily Crandall Fleischman (LGC)
Nora Enright (Next)
Meredith Benson (Panhel)
Elizabeth Cox (Baker)
Jack Gordon (IFC)
David Dellal (IFC)
Yuge Ji (Simmons)
Lily Zhou (East Campus)
Colin Godwin (New)
Flora Liu (BC)
Sarah Melvin (Senior Haus)
Caitlyn Mason (Panhel)

Minutes:

Vote: Motion to approve minutes from last week: 2 abstaining, passed

Dennis Swinford - Invited Speaker to Discuss Campus Planning

- Had a career in private practice: first institution worked in Harvard, then UMass Amherst, then MIT
- Proudest accomplishment at Harvard: first piece in Allston was a park off Harvard Ave- peice of open space
- At UMass Amherst worked at creating first campus master plan for the first time in 30 years- worked to create a system framework for the campus, created sites for buildings to go into
- Hicks Way was one vision at UMass Amherst that created a better environment for students and pedestrians as they move through campus
- Mission is to support the mission of MIT, create buildings and facilities that meet the mission of the institute
- 75-80% of the staff are MIT grads
- Architectural programming and feasibility ensure the building meets the needs of the users
- Campus planners: office of 10 people, some are architects

- Governance: office of campus planning supports office of institute planning which helps support the building committee- want to recruit students to put on these committees
- Work with committee on renovation and space planning and help advise building committee
- Currently working on
 - East Campus Planning- Kendall Square Project, thinking about how the open space will be used, developing graduate dorm
 - West Campus Planning which focused on residential life and DAPER
 - Campus Wide Planning Study to look at the whole campus and think how it will grow in the future
 - Housing strategy for W70 renovation project is an outcome of the current renovation strategy- want to add 300 beds along Vassar street
 - North Block corridor after Nano has been completed
 - EAPS changes how they do their research- updated spaces to meet research needs
 - Building/Site 5 is new graduate residence hall that will replace East Gate
 - MIT Museum is apart of Kendall Project- moving it to be adjacent to the inbound T stop, great for visitors, new facility
 - Killian Court is done but still looking how to improve the important historical space
 - MetX continuing to look how we can reuse that building for campus purposes
 - Sea Grant is one of a relocated user because of East Campus Development
 - Theatre Arts was also moved over to West Campus, facility is almost completed, will be open early summer/next year
- Isaac: What do you do for people who are moving around campus currently?
 - Go out and spend time in the space, see how it is used. There has been work on other campuses pinging cell phones using big data to see how people are moving around campus- could be an interesting tool for us to use to see how people are moving around campus.
- Isaac: The tunnel system is convenient but hard to add to generally. Have you thought about that?
 - Tunnels come up a lot in our discussions- at a lot of places we are at a public road so extending under public streets would be nearly impossible. We have a couple negotiations on East Campus which we take advantage of. It is also nice to have people up on the surface of campus to be outside, out in the weather, and create a better environment.
- Nora: How do you guys prioritize projects?
 - Prioritization has a lot to do with what's in the Capital Plan, the order of the buildings we anticipate to happen. Right now we are focusing on undergraduate and graduate housing, the other piece is a lot of it comes from the Provost Office-

EAPS was a priority from them for us to look at. Most of our prioritization comes from Senior Leadership. We are also prioritizing the Kendall Square Project- getting people out of the buildings so we can start construction.

- Sophia: How do you think the quality and amount of space at MIT compares to other schools and how has it changed over time?
 - Quality and quantity of student spaces is always an issue no matter where you are. At UMass Amherst this was an issue- we looked how we could use space on campus that was not necessarily student spaces i.e. clubs happening in conference rooms. At MIT the variety and amount is something we will need to look at in the future with the campus. There are spaces we can enhance, and there are opportunities to make more space. We are thinking about gathering places, where you can informally gather and hang out, feel comfortable watching people walk by, strategically putting places like that around campus.
- Matthew: You started your role in 2015, during this year long transition period what is your current strategy for involving students in this process and moving forward how do you see that changing? Do you have any suggestions for us on ensuring student involvement in this planning?
 - We have been thinking about how to engage the student body more. I would like to start by having more regular visits, put us on the agenda more often. The traditional model I came into was to put students on certain committees which typically met at times where students tended to be busy. Times when students were available did not map to times others were available so right now a priority of the office is to find times that work for students. We want to be able to have a more transparent way to participate online, either through our website or other websites, giving people the opportunity to send their comments on reports, have a dialogue on the internet and give feedback whenever students want to. We did this at UMass Amherst- website was called my favorite places and students were able to share what they like/dislike about the campus. We want more regular visits, participation in standing committees, and a more well known way of interfacing on the internet.
- Amy Heiser: Want to add to the list that it would be wonderful to have student input on the topic of Food Trucks. They are currently in trial locations through the beginning of January, we want feedback on if these are good locations for the food trucks. Want to ensure between now and when Construction finishes (December of 2019) that these trucks will be in good locations. Email foodstuff@mit.edu which will go right to dining. They are currently at the corner of MIT Medical and the Media Lab, one in North Court, and the third is in between Walker and Hayden just South of the Dock looking at the river.

- The interesting opportunity is the one near Walker- it is a building that has a lot of potential, thinking about putting movable chairs in that location in order to have a comfortable place to sit with food- creating a place to gather.

State of the UA

- This month (November) a lot has happened. Daysi and Sophia presented to the committee on student life on transportation. Want students to have a way to have a safe way home late at night when the saferide isn't coming or is unreliable. We have considered having a way of subsidizing students trips home like an uber like system.
- We met with Dean Freeman, President Reif and Chancellor Barnhart and others- Piazza for course 6 is being expanded to other majors and looking at features to make it more searchable. Ann Hunter apparently spends 20% of her time answering questions. Denny implemented midterm subject flags in course 6 which significantly decreased poor grades. Looking to expand this to other majors as well as notifying professors when students have conflicting exams. Three topics we talked about and would like to work on:
 - 1) How do students chose their majors and how can we improve that process?
 - 2) How do students choose careers and how can we improve that process?
 - 3) Liked idea of changing advisors perhaps every semester to create a network
- Post election: Decided to hold faculty panel, video stream available on UA and GSC Facebook pages.
- Money moved into discretionary from our last vote
- There seems to be a consistent issue with misinformation on campus- we should think of better ways to reach out to students and relaying accurate information.
- Internally we are doing end of the semester committee meetings, looking to refine our goals for the committees
- Nora: When you say there is misinformation on campus what do you mean?
 - A lot of students hear rumors, we are not providing accurate information. One example is the undocumented immigrant students- students think we are doing nothing about that, however that is not true.
- Isaac: Thinking about how students chose their majors- a lot of people don't take a class in a certain major until sophomore year, some majors don't have good intro classes in both semesters, also some freshmen don't know what classes are valuable to see what a major is like- we could have some list of those to give to advisors/students.
- Sarah: There is very little time for exploration freshmen year, it is really hard to decide by the end of freshmen year to decide what to major in.
 - Denny is thinking about having advising classes where you can go somewhere where a professor can point you to another professor. The goal is to help figure out what major you want to be in.
- Sarah: Has there ever been a discussion on when to make your major decision.

- Harvard had a similar issue and it is something we are thinking about. We are considering moving it to the Fall of Sophomore year.

Invited Speaker to Discuss Undocumented Immigrants at MIT -- Cynthia Barnhart

- Was just at a dinner with students and the topic of conversation was picking a major so I am very much interested in this question so I welcome input on this. We should be creative and not just accept this how we have always done it. If we can make it better, we should.
- Communication is something we try really hard at, but we still do not do well enough. There is always a need for more communication. Either tomorrow or Friday I am going to send out a letter to the community trying to summarize what I am going to say here. I have sent letters to the community before but I don't think it is the best mechanism to reach out- if you have ideas on how to get the word out let me know.
- I had spoken at the faculty meeting and briefed the faculty there- hoped the tech would be there but they weren't.
- We are committed to the safety and well being of the entire body of enrolled students including undocumented and international students. That has not and will not change.
- There are two things currently working on:
 - 1) Working to support students, especially those who feel scared by the new administration
 - 2) Actively monitoring the situation and understanding the legal aspects in order to respond quickly and appropriately
- We have reached out to all undocumented enrolled students and have had close interactions. We are offering them ongoing support and asking how we can help them- what they want and think can best help them. From these questions we have learned that students do not all feel the same way. Some students want a more activist approach and others don't want that at all.
- DACA- deferred action for childhood arrival program is an order president Obama signed which protects undocumented students that are here and gives them a temporary work permit. Because this is an executive order it is at risk of getting repealed we need to be prepared for whatever might happen. If it is repealed, our undocumented students can still continue to be students at MIT and be housed at MIT and we will do what we can within the bounds of what is legal. IF DACA is repealed that affects their ability to be here financially but we are committed to make sure they do not lack financials. If students need legal help, we will give them legal help. Mark is connected with our peers and they have hired outside experts to study what can be done legally and what cannot. Studying the idea of a sanctuary campus- what that entails and what it means.

- We are organizing a working group of faculty students and staff to work with general council to monitor the situation and formulate advice on how MIT should respond with given scenarios. They will coordinate with the senior team to set strategy
- We have an office in Washington and here that are having people understand the situation and develop strategy.
- There was a letter that was signed by about 250 university presidents including ours that says we support the continuation and extension of DACA. Right now it applies to students who came into the US at or after a certain time, we want it to be extended to younger people who came in after that date.
- Also putting together and posting online FAQs around undocumented students and how we will respond. Some of those questions came right from the undocumented students themselves. We also are putting together a calendar that shows the events that are being planned to support students- not just related to the elections but just events where students can go to find support.
- Isaac: How do this interact with those are undocumented and currently applying to MIT? Also what about international students?
 - We have actually gotten calls from international students with concerns. In terms of our policies, all students are welcome to apply and the same rules apply. Even before Obama signing DACA, we admitted undocumented students, there was a mechanism for doing this. We will continue to welcome all students and work to get them to MIT.
- Sophia: In Drew Fouse email from Harvard it said they will not allow officials on campus without a warrant. Do you envision MIT putting out something like that?
 - Right now we will go to the boundary of the law. If President Reif were here he would say we are here to let it be known what our values our and try very hard to ensure that we can influence the direction things go by speaking up and working to protect those values.
- Olivia: In terms of number of students concerned, what are the numbers we are talking about?
 - Fewer than 20 students on our campus would be impacted by the appealing of DACA (both graduate and undergraduate). The number of undocumented graduates are low single digits and possibly close to 0, this would mainly impact our undergraduates. We have a relatively small population compared to our peers.
- Matthew: Since President reif signed the statement about DACA, how is that going to be translated moving forward?
 - Our Washington office will be working to protect DACA, just as it will be working to protect the priority of federal research funds into research. We value open access to students, so anything that would jeopardize that is something we would work to address. Any sort of bias against any group is hampering an ability

to attract and have open access to everyone. This will be a guiding principle for where we are speaking out.

- Colin: General recommendations on how students can get involved?
 - This working group will have some students. As that group begins to understand better what we need to do in order to be effective that will open up opportunities for more students to get involved. At this point we are working towards having undocumented students feel as secure as they possibly can. Knowing that we care and are working hard to protect them hopefully helps them.
- Matthew: Are you able to give assurances to undocumented students in case DACA was repealed that they are able to finish their degree here?
 - Yes, I think we can if it is repealed and only that they will be able to stay here and we will be able to help them with financial aid. If something else gets passed we won't know until that happens.
- Colin: Worse case scenario- universities having to report undocumented students for deportation or they will lose federal funding. What are your thoughts on that?
 - Students in the DACA Program are known to the federal government. That program involves providing information to the government about the undocumented students. If there is a threat of do this or lose federal funding, we will work very hard to find a way to fight that. All these general councils have gotten together and hired outside experts in order to start getting ahead on this. We are studying what it means to be a sanctuary campus, how to become one, and what it implies.

Invited UA Committee Presentation -- Innovation Committee

- Katherine: chair of Innovation Committee
- Our big project in the beginning of the semester is some members worked with career fair directors- people were concerned there was a lot of focus on course 6 and there was not a lot of diversity in terms of type of employer in terms of size of the company and non profit status
 - Two of the members got in touch with career fair directors and proposed career week and career hack
 - Career week was a series of career related events leading up to career fair
 - Career hack was an all day events on the day of career fair that served as an exploratory event in order to help diversify the companies i.e NGOs, non profits, MISTIS
 - These were successful in some ways- 40% of people who went to career fair did not know career hack was also occurring
 - There was more diversity of type of employed, but people still felt there was too much of a course 6 focus

- Currently piloting a peer office hour system: members of the committee will help show others resources at mit for entrepreneurship and innovation
- Started to work on last year connecting committee members from us institute of peace and misti to expand misti to allow students to use tech to solve tech issues in other parts of the world- still in fundraising stage. Looking at Morocco, Algeria, Palestine, and more.
- Sarah: Career Week and Career Hack are good ideas but are not getting at the root of the problem that you go to career fair and can't find a career relative to you. Are you working to address this?
 - That is something we are really interested in. We are looking for more data collection to show that this is an issue how many students actually think this is a problem. The results came in this week so we will be looking at that.
- Sarah: Is there anyway the UA can have more say over career fair? Why aren't we on that board?
 - Sophia: That's a good question- there is a whole large amount of students who aren't being represented. There are so many undergrads looking for internship and there is little diversity. From this report it seems it is really hard for us to communicate and actually make changes. We have spoken to Denny about this and have considered having specialized career fairs. From the report, we believe we can make the argument for why the UA should be more involved on the planning board.
- Yuge: Is there not enough space at career fair that we can't invite smaller companies for a lower price? Isaac: If we invite smaller companies for less money, possibly no companies will pay a high price.
- Nora: Some companies that aren't course 6 companies only come to recruit for course 6.
 - This year we tried to have companies not say what course they are recruiting for.
- Kate Farris: Is there a way for students to report violations they see of companies doing in career fair?
 - That is a really good idea- we could expand the survey to all undergraduates rather than just those who attended. We could also have something on the career fair website showing the terms companies agreed to and a place to report violations.
- Colin: Can you give an example of a feasible solution on how the security and safety of students in MISTI program will be ensured?
 - Mit already has existing information on a list of countries we can go to. The type of connections we make and organizations we go through we go through MISTI and be screened for safety and security.
- Jack: Every company will need someone who is course 6. Maybe we should better advertise our skills. Could the website have a list of openings the company's are looking for?

- It would be feasible to have that be something the company's could do.

Student Life Fee

- Student life fee is an issue at mit. We have the highest student life fee in terms that is not decided by students. Avg at Ivy is \$159, student life fee at Stanford is \$100 more than ours. At Stanford student groups submit proposed budgets and students vote directly, at Yale student life fee only goes to student groups, student clubs, student sports. MIT student life fee has so little input from students. We voted for an 8\$ increase and that was shot down by Suzy and Peter because the GSC would also have an increase. In terms of next steps Suzy said we should consider splitting up student life fee and how students can have more of an input. Currently we are meeting 50% of student allocations, at Yale they were meeting 30% and that motivated a \$25 increase.
- Yuge: It seems to me to we should work with GSC to come up with a solution. Why do we need a working group?
 - You can't easily take out mental health and medical fee. The thought process is to compare these fees to other schools. Working group is thinking long term in terms of all fees.
- Isaac: Our student life fee seems like random nonsense is in it. If we separate that out, the undergraduate life would be the entirety of the undergraduate student life fee and the things shared with grad students should go under all tuition?
 - I agree entirely, that is what we are advocating for through the working group. This would also benefit graduate students, as they pay for this fee out of pocket and tuition is typically paid for by professors or their departments. It is rare for schools to have a special fee for mental health.

Vote: to adjourn meeting: 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, passed