

Attendance:

Alexa Martin

Sophia Liu

Daysi Gomez

Jacqueline Liu (Simmons)

Megan Kralj (Off Campus)

Makenzie Patarine (Baker)

Emma DeSoto (BC)

Rob Bugliarelli (Maseeh)

Ayomide Fatunde (Panhel)

Arjun Mithal (IFC)

Jack Gordon (IFC)

John Peurifoy (IFC)

Ryuga Hatano (Random)

Sabrina Madera (Senior House)

Allie Stanton (East Campus)

Emily Crandall Fleischman (LGC)

Emily Tang (New House)

Christine Li (Panhel)

Meredith Loy (Panhel)

Sean Parks (IFC)

Henry Shackleton (2018 CC)

Milo Knowles (Sarah Wu 2019 CC)

Magnus Johnson (Shalni Kumar 2019 CC)

Joe Faraguna (2020 CC)

Stella Yang (2020 CC)

Felipe Monsalva (Eke Wokocha 2020 CC)

Nwanacho Nwana (2020 CC)

Mateo Correa (2020 CC)

Amy Huang (2018 CC)

Sravya Bhamidipati (2018 CC)

Annamarie Bair (2018 CC)

Tal Gilad (2019 CC)

Trevor McMichael (2019 CC)

Nicholas Egan (Allison Nguyen 2019 CC)

Allison Fu (2019 CC)

Liana Ilutzi (2017 CC)

Elizabeth Porter (2017 CC)

Minsoo Khang (2020 CC)

Lily Zhou (Wei Low 2017 CC)
Kareem Itani (2017 CC)
Anthony Occidentale (2017 CC)
Perry Ha (2017 CC)
Pragya Tooteja (2017 CC)
Zach Churukian (2017 CC)
Nikita Waghani (2018 CC)
Yuge Ji (2018 CC)
Patricie Noyola (2018 CC)
Alexa Jan (2020 CC)
Amy Fang (2020 CC)

Citlali Trigos
Kathryn Jiang
Sarah Melvin
Jon Coden
Mo Eltahir
Kate Farris
Olivia Brode-Roger

Minutes:

Vote: Motion to approve minutes from last week: 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, passed

State of the UA:

- Elections have ended! Congratulations to Sarah and Alexa. We will be nominating a new Elections Commission at the next meeting.
- Three members from the Judicial Review Board are leaving and we will be selecting three new members for next year.
- Ian Waitz will be the new Vice Chancellor for MIT and will be prioritizing education and the first year experience. Chancellor sends her thanks for providing input in the Fall!
- MISTI Inland idea is gaining traction! Hope that it will have more financial aid for those who could not previously go on MISTI.
- We are choosing a new Director of the Office of Student Citizenship (OSC) to take on Kevin Kraft's previous role
 - Questions asked when interviewing potential candidates included how they prioritize communicating with students, various policies on drug and alcohol usage on campus, and more
- Most committees right now are working on transitioning for the upcoming year

- We can now vote to approve Megan as the off campus rep as we now have enough people to vote

Vote: Approving Megan as off campus rep until elections next December: 1 abstaining, fails for now, will vote later, when late councilors arrive.

Vote: On reallocating \$500 for an admin lunch for Sarah and Alexa: 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, passed

- Right now the budget stands that we will run \$80-90K surplus for the year which will allow us to build up the reserves

Class Council and Ring Committee Amendments:

- We have been discussing how to prioritize transparency in funding
- We have made changes within the UA in terms of FinBoard debt forgiveness, student group account structure, and our reserve structure.
- However, looking at other aspects of the UA there still remains a lack of transparency due to the tradition of the bylaws.
- Any amendments will have to pass through a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote in Class Council and $\frac{1}{2}$ majority vote in Council or vice versa
- We will be talking about four amendments today, two for class council and two for ring committee
- First amendment: In the Class Council bylaws regarding specifically budgeting practices in which the treasurers will have to give a preliminary budget in the beginning of the semester and one at the end of the semester report
 - Questions:
 - Does it makes more sense for the UA treasurer to be involved with the Class Council budgeting?
 - Do we want/need a vote for approval?
- Next amendment: is for Ring Committee to submit a budget to either UA Council or their respective Class Council and this budget will have to be approved before they can begin spending for the year
- Next amendment: is for an external removal system of Class Council and Ring Committee members through UA Council
 - The removal amendment is because right now if there is inappropriate spending or any other issues, the only way to remove Class Council and Ring Committee members is internally, and that is a bad practice.
 - Similar to how there is a check on Sophia's role in the UA, it would make sense for there to be something similar for all groups managing a large amount of money

- Last thing that we will not talk about today but may be talked about next year is that Class Councils, within their bylaws, say that they will follow FinBoard policies, and are not following them.
- Jack: Concerning Class Council and Ring Comm budgets, it would be best to align them so that if UA Council is to be presented the budgets it should be done all at the same time, which would give a strict timeline for all the groups which would lead to less confusion
- Ring Comm is selected immediately after the Sophomore Class Council is selected which is about april/may of their Freshmen Year
- Liana: if we were to do any presentation of budget, Ring Comm could theoretically present whenever
- Sophia: The Class Councils were invited to present their budgets either this week or next week
- Liana then read a speech found at:
<http://web.mit.edu/ua/classcouncils/LetterToUACouncil.pdf>
- Alexa: You just read a speech on behalf of of Class Council, however, I am on Class Council and was never once included in any of these conversations.
- Trevor: We thought it would be a conflict of interest to include you.
- Mo: We are only discussing the class council budget right now?
- Sophia: We are voting on them all separately
- Sophia: Every student has input into how much money is going into all Class Councils due to Class Council getting part of their budget from the Student Life Fee or any other means which profits off of students, which is why this came up. We are looking at all aspects of both undergraduate and graduate student life funding to see where all of the money is going. At other schools, there are individual taxes for each individual class which would make sense for what you are saying in terms of complete ownership and independence over budgeting.
- Liana: None of our Class Councils have ever received a complaint about what we are spending our money on, they can tell us if they do not like what we are spending our money on or what we are doing. If we have to go through an extra step then you are taking power away our specific constituencies.
- John: How does anyone know what your budget is?
- Liana: Anyone can request our budget from us, there is one person in the room who has done so.
- John: Is it fair to say that the majority of students do not know what the budget is?
- Liana: People attend our events and know what we are spending money on.
- Jack: I understand your views on the first half of the amendment, I'm curious about your views on your budget being transparent.

- Liana: The reason we do not post or email our budget is there would be no way to ensure it stays within our constituency.
- Ayo: Why is that relevant that it stays within your constituency?
- Liana: Our obligation is to serve our constituency. Our Class Council may spend on different things than other class councils, which could cause friction between classes. Anything that may cause inter class friction, we want to avoid.
- Ayo: It is important to think about the sustainability of the model of only being able to vote Class Council members out of office internally- consider Shruti.
- Liana: These are people who have been elected by our class, you have people who are elected to serve, as are anyone on UA Council who were elected
- Shruti was the UA President two years ago and there were some financial concerns and separate concerns that she surpassed her discretionary fund. She was put in front of Council for an impeachment vote, however, there were not enough votes for that vote to pass. She and Billy subsequently resigned.
- Jack: In the IFC our budget is shown to anyone who goes to our website.
- Liana: The problem with this is we've had changes within budgets through years, for instance the senior year budget is based off funding of career fair, so it can change year to year.
- Sophia: On budgeting, I have heard many complaints from both students and administrators on the spending of Ring Committee and some Senior Classes in past years. I have also seen the current senior class budget which violates a Career Fair agreement rule that no item can be more than \$20,000. Having a transparent budget enables me to be a better leader so I can understand the issues and know the budgets when approached about them.
- Liana: When we presented our preliminary budget to Career Fair, we had a few line items that were over 20K some of which were Boo's Cruise, Senior Toast, Senior Ball, and Disorientation. When we gave a further breakdown of these events' budgets, we did not receive any personal complaints about this.
- Jack: It is a financial best practice to put your budget out for the public to see, I don't see your deep seeded issue with this.
- Allie: I appreciate your statement and I don't think these amendments should be seen as reflecting negatively on you. It's financial best practice to have oversight of spending. As UA Council we are the most representative body in the UA which is why we are able to make these decisions.
- Liana: I think the vessel to which going through the UA of voicing a complaint about our budget is not representative of our individual class. The idea that we are getting budget approval of a representative body that is not representative of our class is not okay. There is no reason that outside people from the elected group should have influence.
- Ayo: The amendment asks that the Council sees the budget, not for approval.

- Nacho: Assuming that Class Council isn't capable of removing someone, why isn't there a call for the class to impeach someone instead of the UA?
- Ayo: It's important to remember that UA Council knows more than the student body. It's not feasible that there will be a recall vote started by the student body.
- Jack: Is Class Council opposed to presenting a budget to the UA?
- Liana: For the reasons presented we would keep our budget private to our constituencies
- John: Are you worried about the fact that different senior classes receive different amounts of money would anger people?
- Liana: There has not been reason for concern as career fair funds have been relatively stagnant
- John: What is your major concern to giving budget to the public?
- Liana: It's a matter of responsibility and obligation. We don't want to put other class councils through rift between other councils in the future. We don't want to create internal divides or pressure.
- Olivia: This is my fourth year at MIT, and I learned two weeks ago that I could get my Class Council's budget. It took two weeks to set up the meeting and it took thirty minutes to go through the budget. The transparency of that budget is lacking. I've been a part of the UA and in the Tech and have been generally informed. I want to push back on the notion that budgets are transparent.
- Rhat: Part of the motion is the accessibility. Most of us didn't know we could ask our Class Councils for their budget. If it takes two weeks to set up a meeting it takes 30 minutes I don't see why you can't just release this to your class at all
- Yuge: Do Dormcon IFC and Panhel release their budgets?
- Yes all public
- Liana: You have brought up good point about people not knowing. Olivia I'm sorry it took two weeks for that meeting.
- Natasha: It seems very clear that there should be more discussion before there is a vote. I was only informed about this meeting recently and you are blindsiding Ringcomm.
- Sophia: Ringcomm falls under Class Council in the bylaws so having class council here is representing Ringcomm.
- Jack: Discussion is good and needed, perhaps we should set up some sort of working group that will satisfy what we both want.
- Liana: I think a working group could be useful, this was brought up in the last two weeks of school which is the busiest time of the year.
- Sarah: Transparency is a good idea. This information should be public at the very least to the members of the class. How can we be electing the best members of council if we are not aware we can request this.
- Sophia: Option one is to vote on this today. Option two is to create a working group. Option three is to post a vote referendum to the entire Undergraduate body.

- Sophia: The Ringcomm contract goes through MIT, and the contract is negotiated through MIT students.
- Mo: It's common knowledge that the President of Class Council has minimal relationship to Ringcomm and that is a work around of not having Ringcomm here.
- Sophia: There is no active intent to exclude Ring Comm. I didn't think a vote on transparency would be this big of an issue. When I requested an estimate of the Ringcomm budget, they refused to give it to me.
- Natasha: I denied you to see the budget because people did not know how much money was spent exactly. We do not have exact numbers until July.
- Sophia: I understand, however, we have rough estimates in the UA, as well, and we propose them to the UA Council at the first meeting in the Fall, and then need to vote to amend any changes over the course of the year.
- Class Council members expressed disappointment in the meeting as they felt they were given too short of notice (two weeks) during the busiest time of the year to vote on this and were not given the exact verbiage until the night of the vote.

Vote: Motion to approve Megan as the off campus rep: 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, passed

Vote: Motion to close the meeting: 2 opposed, 2 abstaining, passed

Vote: Motion to open the meeting: 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, passed

Vote: Motion to table the topic: 12 opposed, passed

Vote: Motion to vote on each amendment: 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, passed

Vote: On first amendment for Class Council transparency in budget: 12 for, 34 opposed, 1 abstaining, failed.

- Passed by a majority on UA Council, failed by not reaching $\frac{1}{2}$ on Class Council

Vote: Ringcomm budget transparency amendment: 6 for, 35 opposed, 6 abstaining, failed

- Passed by a majority on UA Council, failed by not reaching $\frac{1}{2}$ on Class Council

Vote: Removal amendment for Ringcomm: 5 for, 38 opposed, 4 abstaining, failed

- Passed by a majority on UA Council, failed by not reaching $\frac{1}{2}$ on Class Council

Vote: Removal amendment for Class Council: 5 for, 39 opposed, 3 abstaining, failed

- Passed by a majority on UA Council, failed by not reaching $\frac{1}{2}$ on Class Council

Vote: Motion to table until the summer: 5 for, 5 opposed, 7 abstaining, failed

- Jack: right now is not the time for a referendum vote.
- Elena: We should work on this for a longer period of time.
- Sophia: Undergraduates would vote to have transparency. We work to best serve undergraduates.
- Jack: We can find a better way to to ensure transparency to ensure that all undergraduates can see the budgets and understand it.

Revote: To table for the summer: 6 for, 4 against, 5 abstaining, passed

- Jack: If we can get this done over the summer, it should be ready for the fall, and we can get their budgets. It was a valid concern that they had not known about this before.
- Yuge: How you frame a conversation has a big way in how the decisions are made.
- Makenzie: We never meant for it to come off as an us vs them thing. Our concerns are we want this to happen for the next year. If we have a working group we want to make sure they commit to doing the work.
- Sophia: I apologize that the timing is a stressing factor, I assumed that transparency and removal clause would be a straightforward discussion.
- John: Having a working group and making sure they will actually do it is what we're agreeing upon. I don't know if there is any more discussion we can do right now.
- Ayo: For the amendment having them to show the budget, one possible compromise is to have it be on the UA website and it be certificate based.

Vote: Table this topic and move to next item of agenda: 0 opposed 0 abstaining, passed

Vote: Motion to push up political advocacy platform agenda item to now: 0 opposed 0 abstaining, passed

UA Policy Platform:

- Presented by Elena Alberti from UA Public Affairs
- After we last talked there were concerns that it was too long of a document, so we shortened it and taken out some more controversial issues.
- Having this document will validate the things we do say that are on this document.
- Things that we say that are not on this document still can be said but may not have validation.
- Everything in red we have already discussed and has been taken out.
- There is a sexual harassment clause.

Vote: On passing advocacy document: 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, passed

Financial principals:

- Ties into the discussion with professional development.
- How would you redesign the undergraduate funding system?
- Jack: It is likely that career fair funding will not be funding student groups specifically like it has in the past. I think a tax for individual classes would be a good system.
- Sophia: There have been discussions between the UA, admins, GSC, SWE, etc about funding best practices.

- Sophia: Career Fair is most freshmen's first encounter with career options. Career Fair is not set-up to have most students find career options at it.
- Emily: Who organizes career fair?
- Sophia: SWE, GSC, and Senior Class Council appoint directors and those directors manage career fair.
- Jack: In the future using some of the money from career fair towards other career fairs for other majors could be a good option
- Emily: Career Fair is something that can affect long-term career choices. To make a difference in a big way is skimming off a little each thing is fair. A lot of these groups are used to working with huge budgets. A lot of the people who wouldn't attend these senior week type events are busier, lower socioeconomic brackets, cater to only a specific subset. They don't have time to sit down with a class council and fight back about the budget. 99% of student body doesn't know about this information.
- Jack: agree with your sentiment that events should be a little more far reaching in what class council should be doing. Should be change to senior class bylaws to legitimize alcohol purchases ex senior ball. I don't think that we are in a place to mandate them to do x, y, z, but could foster discussion about what are the best events.
- Maybe you should send out a survey, poll more widely because people who run for council are specific kinds of people.
- Jack: one of the issues with MIT and in general is that school comes first. Self-selection bias to who's going to be on class council on the first place. There needs to be more surveys, open communication.
- Sophia: We are saying that we should be communicating with students more, and transparency is a good first step.

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