



49 UA Council Session 2 Meeting Minutes
 October 4, 2017, 7:30pm - 9:00pm in W20-400

Living Group	Representative	Present?
Baker	Makenzie Patarino	x
Burton-Conner	Emma Desoto	
East Campus	Alexandra Stanton	x
MacGregor	Abigail Harvey	x
Maseeh	Robert Bugilarelli	x
McCormick	Laura Bergemann	x
New House	Emily Tang	x
Next House	Elizabeth Gaylord	x
Random House	Emma (Ryuga Hatano)	x
Simmons	Jacqueline Liu	x
Interfraternity Council	John Peurifoy	x
Interfraternity Council	Sean Parks	x
Interfraternity Council	Ato Kwapong	x
Living Group Council	Emily Fleischman	x
Off Campus	Megan Kralj	x
Panhellenic Association	Ayomide Fatunde	x
Panhellenic Association	Leigh-Ana Rossitto	x
Panhellenic Association	Meredith Loy	x

(Eleanor)
ASA Rep

Presentation on the MIT Corporation by Paul Kominers '12 pkoms@alum.mit.edu

- Background
 - MIT Class of 2012, course 14, 17
 - Worked for nonprofit, Democracy Works, out of MIT
 - Getting turbovote at MIT, since MIT students are lower than the student national average in voting
 - Moved to Harvard Law school
- MIT involvement
 - Chaired Committee on Education and was involved in many faculty committees which foreshadowed involvement in the corporation
 - Youngest single member of the corporation; only current undergraduate - only recent graduate member
- MIT Corporation
 - Joy to be on the corporation
 - Way to be engaged in the institute, have continuing influence
 - Hard to see how amazing this place is when you're on the inside
 - Young alumni don't represent anyone; they have no constituency
 - Fundamentally there because recent alums' experiences are valuable
 - A more diverse corporation is a better corporation
- People on campus talk about the corporation as a single body
 - Made up of 78 active members + inactives
 - Exceptionally talented, successful, diverse
 - Different ages, gender, sexualities, temperament, subject matter interest, etc.
 - Diversity of membership makes it rare for the corporation to be truly unified on complex issues
 - Engaged in oversight, not in control
- Attend visiting committees: a place easiest for students to get into contact with the corporation
 - Meet every two years to assess departments, frequency creates accountability
 - Head of department, dean of school, and all of the senior administration listen to input given by the visiting committee
- Quarterly meetings
- Conclusion
 - Corporation is not an it but a they
 - Structural: what committee has this jurisdiction
 - Personal: what alum care about this issue
 - Consider applying; self-nomination goes live tomorrow:
 - Only opportunity to look at institution of this size this early on
 - Great way to stay involved as alumnus
 - Enormous amount of fun to serve on the corporation

- Mo: Can you give us an example of a recommendation you've been involved in?
 - Most business is confidential, and more than that the Institute's gears move slowly and there's a lot of input from many places
 - "This is in the report" is different than "this is why it was fixed"
- Q: What is an appropriate Corporation concern?
 - better question: is it reasonable to take an hour of someone's time to talk about this?
 - Would this be helpful, what values could they hold?
- Last thing: Contact information will be shared, please reach out if you have questions about law school, working in nonprofit, feel free to get in touch; he does want to meet you and everything (pkoms@alum.mit.edu)

Motion to approve minutes from last agenda? Passed

Budget proposal presentation Jon Coden

Jon and Melissa met to discuss Finboard. A quick overview of Finboard:

- Gets money from UA budget
- Functions in well-designed capacity/structure: (1) funding policies outlined on UA website and (2) finboard guidelines/processing/removing a chair/member etc
- Chaired by Zach in the back, along with 11 other students that represent different diverse students course/race/gender/group
- Students groups apply for funding (ASA recognized)
- Works quarterly; in application outline main account balance currently helped, and events you hope to hold
- Goes to liaison to approve, and sees what should be funded; or more money is requested overall and everyone gets less
- Different sections
 - Forbidden:
 - Gifts, sale tax, alcohol, cash prizes
 - Holistically the group of 12 have to figure out compromise which set of allocations can benefit the largest number of students
- Juggling aspect of Finboard; a lot of notes that get released on why things were/weren't funded
 - Policies attempt to streamline allocations most effectively
 - Also have appeals group; second-go at applications if you mis-wrote or didn't include something, or if your main account balance is reserved for some reason
 - Finboard is not the ultimate end-all be-all
 - Also in flux; hopefully final stage of pilot will be done by end of school year, to be discussed afterwards
- Outline has name of club, notes, etc.

Sarah: Does anyone want to discuss anything?

- Ayo: Can we get a summary when we get these long emails when we get those big emails? By club category?
 - Not best practice: comparing categories, cycle relevant needs.. Etc
 - Example: dance or performing arts group that get more money in one cycle for clothing
 - Moreover, too many categories
 - Ayo: still too dense
 - Jon: "trust the process"
- Sarah: I think Jon is right, but I see what you're saying. Let's reform it for the winter
- Someone else: maybe getting categories could be helpful?
 - Jon: I think that's what the data is hoping to show

Motion to vote? Unanimously passed

UA Budget Amendment presented by Jon

- Mistake done on Community and Diversity ; \$5000
 - Mostly related to OneWorld and Cultural Life
- Allocated of funds was shifted around in UA officers so that we could have food for council meetings

Sarah: Motion to vote on budget? Passed unanimously

Student Funding Follow Up Sarah Melvin

Current funds:

- Career fair 850k
- 165k from SLF
- 211K from GIB

What are our guiding principles when we talk about funding?

1. Transparency and accountability -- for students to know where their money is going
 - a. Student groups should be responsible for sharing their budgets
2. Accessibility; events that we put on should be available for all students
 - a. Creating a fund for ticketed events for students who may not be able to attend based on money
3. Stability; Most money comes from Career Fair, but that amount changes every year
 - a. Now with shifting goals from directors and seeing how it's more surrounding helping students, funding around drop
 - i. If we're given a chunk of money, we don't want to be worried about volatilities
 - ii. Need budgets that are shared

When it comes to total funds, the GSC & UA should maintain their split; the GSC is getting money from places that we are not

Question: is the 850k going to SWE..?

- Sarah: still being discussed; can't change their programming fast enough

- Funding would be better benefiting students otherwise
- We've looked at money to senior class, and over the past 7 years it has exploded
- Need to reevaluate if that spending is benefitting as many students as possible

Suggestion: because numbers are on the grad side; we could say that more GSC are in UA groups than vice versa

- Jon: they have to pay for their own events
- The experiences are difference and getting equity in terms of them not having to pay for their own orientation, etc is something we should be supporting
- Sarah: we should support GSC in getting trainings and orientation coming from MIT and not their budgets; also that MIT supports us and that the programming is more different, and get department support
- GSC is trying to say that they should have more money based on numbers

Advising Presentation & Discussion Sarah Melvin

Several key points from advising report Ian pulled together over the summer

- Gender differences: male students across all years say report better support than for women
- School differences: students in science report better recommendations than engineering
- Advising is most positively perceived in first year and then just goes down, goes up senior year

Students want advisors that are:

- More knowledgeable, better trained
- More frequent and mandatory meetings
- Better matching; research interest, or giving students more freedom
- More caring advisors
- More initiative, and care about professional development

Sarah: What should our advising best practice be?

- Should professors be the main advising people? We should have more connectors
- A: I agree, the course administrator is mandatory to meet with in political science
- A: I think faculty advisors are necessary in order to meet them, but we only meet to get schedules approved:
 - Should be more mandatory, so that students don't have to always initiate
- LA: I think course 9 does it well, specifically the course admin is amazing, I can ask to see how they do it
- Sarah: I think we're looking for models as well
- A: make environment more comfortable
- A: I think advisors should know curriculum well enough to not only recommend but also help align to career goals and what could help them
 - Also informed about classes outside their major

Sarah: For first year advising, non-faculty advisor is better

- Advising seminars can be valuable and forces interaction
- In first year advising, there's a lot of different advising, and we don't have data by department
- Leigh-Anne: I'd be interested in associate advising; didn't have a good experience
- It might be worthwhile finding if there is a difference for females having a female advisors

Advisor experiences span a wide range

- Emily: ranges from everything to never met with advisor and can't get application to someone writing papers about how no one at this place is good enough to oh my advisor said you're only taking 48 units this semester to maybe take it easy
 - Generally such a grab bag, and sometimes it's difficult to switch advisors
- Sarah: maybe there's a way to identify the styles prior
 - Suggestion from C&D chair Annie Abay - can we at least have advisors indicate if they've taken unconscious bias training before students choose them

Motion to adjourn? seconded/voted/passed