UA Council Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2012 7:30 PM

Attendance
- Present: BC, EC, MacGregor, Maseeh, McCormick, New House, Next House, Random, Senior, Simmons, IFC, Panhel, Living Group Council, Off Campus, President, VP, Secretary General
- Absent: Baker, Treasurer, Chief of Staff

Announcements from Amanda/TyShaun
- Presidential search report released to the public
  - Can’t release candidate names
  - Check it out!!!
  - Feedback is appreciated
  - Overall, 60-70 people came to the forums
  - 160 responses to the online survey
    - Good material!
- UA Newsletter
  - Out on May 1
  - Comments and suggestions, please e-mail them to Christine Sowa: cmsowa@mit.edu
- Elections are on Wednesday
- Transcribe minutes through a professional third party company
  - Question: benefits? Cost?
    - Answer: unknown cost but benefit is having consistent minutes
  - Alec Lai: “Very beneficial”
  - Summaries are helpful because minutes could be cumbersome if they’re verbatim
  - Paul K: example – orientation verbatim meeting minutes were very helpful
  - Role of secretary: make summaries of word for word minutes
  - Patrick: suggestion – record the meetings ourselves for future reference (don’t transcribe until they’re needed)

Budget Approvals
- Movie on the lawn event
  - CSL wants to host a movie night on Kresge Lawn
  - Date: during spring weekend
  - Options: Muppets, Up, or Wall-e
    - Movie selection changes price
  - Money comes out of our discretionary budget
    - Between $1500 and $2000
  - Ryan Normandin – this is the kind of thing we should be advocating
o Regina – how much is in the discretionary budget now?
  ▪ Answer: $5000
o Vote: motion passed
  ▪ Money will be moved for the movie on the lawn
• BBQ during Spring Weekend with SaveTFP Need food
  o Need approval of spending for them to have enough food for the BBQ
  o SAO has agree to pay around half, approx. $650
  o From us, they would need $709
  o In the past, SAO paid for it
  o They’re not usually eligible to get their money from the UA
    ▪ Why not? Rachel - Because they’re not a recognized student group
    ▪ Rachel - Usually they get their money from DSL
  o Ryan – good for making Spring Weekend better (towards goal)
  o Patrick – want to know precedent for future Spring Weekend (making it bigger) plans
  o Rachel – concern about giving more money to spring weekend and events because spring weekend and fall festival get $135,000 combined
  o Role call vote: motion passed

Rachel – FinBoard Allocations
• Explanation for groups with “low” allocations:
  o Asian Dance Team and ATS – events covered by other organizations
  o Bhangra – not heeded our remarks that we can’t cover $2,000 for travel
  o BSU – have not written appropriate budgets
  o Cheer – not eligible because they don’t get funding from us
  o DanceTroupe – guideline for costumers is 500/semester; we usually go under that for groups, but we stuck to it with the basis they have other income
  o Fighting world hunger – we don’t do that
  o Habitat for Humanity – we can’t fund so much travel
  o IDC – funding asked for is more than the event would make
  o Natya – asked for capitol with no storage space, but it is our policy to ask for storage space or the costumes will not be safe for the year
  o Paks – didn’t give details
  o Rocket Team – asked for things we already funded and things we don’t fund
  o Smart Women Securities – ineligible and not recognized
  o StearLeague – funded for events and operations that are more personal items
  o Questions and Answers:
    ▪ Kyle – have we looked into the groups with the highest budgets?
    ▪ Rachel – see below
• Explanation for groups with “high” budgets
  o Luca – high number of events
  o Korean Student Association – high number of events
• KoMaZa – encouraging them to take steps to reduce cost; no longer paying 600 dollar professional layout and design
• Hillel – large number of events; food costs are higher for kosher
• GaMIT – large number of events; large capital is not regular
• Debate team – registration at tournaments
• Concert Band – two events that require A/V in Kresge
• Logs – A/V in Kresge
• CVD – large number of events
• Caving Club – large capital; need new rope – essential for health; asked them to raise prices for outing
• Casino Rueda – tripled in size last semester and need new capital for a one time thing
• Brain trust – large number of events
• BWA – large number of events
• BBMES – large number of events
• ACF – multiple weekly programs with food
• AAA – large number of events
• Anime – large capital; not giving all
• Amnesty – large number of events
• Active Minds – wellness campaigns with higher publicity costs than normal

• Two weeks behind schedule, hence the reason it is now presented to Council
  • A lot of the funding is for CPW so very time sensitive
  • Budgeted $60,000 here
  • $70,000 previous allocation cycle
  • $5,000 medium events
  • $25,000 left over
    ▪ $10,000 on appeals
    ▪ Rest for special initiatives/late applications
• Amanda – thank you Rachel for going through all these application because there are so many student groups
• Vote to approve: passed

TyShaun – Forming UA Council Mission Statement
• Current online form in the GoogleDoc – visit it and leave input!
• Paul - Innovate, consult, marketing
• Questions, comments, concerns:
  • Ryan – adding to Paul’s input – brand ourselves to the students so they understand we are acting in a brainstorming/advising capacity. Students felt senate should be doing something but it was all done in the exec. To be successful, students need to know what it is we’re doing
  • Paul – worried that a committee chair would be charged to do something when council has more control over certain aspects; charging exec to do certain projects is fine, but small-scale things don’t need command.
o Ryan – council should talk with committee chairs if they hear things from students that they think should be implemented
o Eli – role was misunderstood by students, and it is good that we’re aiming to fix that
o Amanda – committee chairs want brainstorming ability, outreach (going to dorms/living groups), semi-regular updates on what is happening
  ▪ Interaction is as-needed but you can still filter brainstorming ideas through exec in general
  ▪ Ryan – agree with that statement; chairs want to run committees, not come to council meetings; regular knowledge of what they’re doing through an e-mail would be helpful
  ▪ Committee chairs should decide if they need to be here or not
o Katy – council is a way to have student leaders in every part of campus and communicate what’s going on with them individually; it would be nice in every group started the meetings with two sentences or so to update the council in what is going on elsewhere around campus
  ▪ Regina – agree with Katy; mission statement should state what we can uniquely do as leaders of our groups
o Ryan – UA Council should serve as a place where dorm president can come and develop leadership skills (adapted from three running tickets)
  ▪ Tommy – IFC/Panhel deals with many complex systems in addition to UA; come to UA Council directly to know issues that address the entire student government regardless of where you live
o Amanda - do we want faculty to come and give opinions/ideas at council meetings?
  ▪ Ryan – that’s tough; when there’s an issue going on that administrators should be present for, that is useful. Usually it’s too far out to effectively plan who should come and when
  ▪ Jante – brining administrators in and talk about Kendall Square, MIT 2030, MITx, etc. was nice because council knew about the issues before they broke to the public.
o Christine Lai – leadership skills should be how people here take advantage of their position
o Regina – how does each rep convey news to their living groups?
  ▪ Can do over e-mail/GoogleDocs

- Summary: information (being informed about what is going on around campus as a group), sharing information, being informed about what the committees are doing, advising/guidance to committees, communication both ways – into and out of the UA
  ▪ Will create rough draft over e-mail
  ▪ Will vote on in the next meeting
o Affi – need to get opinion from the living groups so it’s not individual’s vote but an accurate representation of the group.
Meeting Adjourned!