

# UA Exec Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2013

- **Information Management**
  - Website Demo
    - If you're on ua-exec-members@ you have access to log in to the admin of the new UA website
    - Click Log-In, Use Certificate
    - *Update all of your committee information online*
  - Google Docs Demo
    - Every committee has their own Google Drive folder that was shared with them
    - Add your folder to "My Drive" and upload all relevant meeting notes and minutes
    - It will be used for the transition next year
- **Update on Admin Meetings**
  - Dean Columbo
    - Strategic planning process got together a plan and a list of objectives
    - In the implementation teams
    - Over the next month, the staff will be working with Ravi to find student representatives to get undergrads involved in the implementation
  - Chancellor Grimson
    - Quality of Life Survey
    - Survey was developed between UA, GSC, and administration
    - Be sure to take the survey - we will be able to review the data to learn what students want to see on campus
    - We got a copy of the recommendations of the Chancellor's report on Student Support
    - He will be coming to our April 23rd Council meeting
      - May be bringing Dean Columbo and Dean Hastings
- **Committee Updates/Announcements**
  - Technology Systems Group - want to post something on the homepage? Let Stephanie know!
  - PR - Midnight Study Break Tonight will have 55 XL pizzas and 80L of soda; please come and show your support tonight; come to the coffeehouse and volunteer
  - Orientation - Orientation Report initial draft should be done on Saturday
  - Student Support- Planning Wellness Week (Working with groups of SMASH) & Had article featured in The Tech & working on policy
  - Election Commission Saves the election
  - Events - Great student group connections are being made; Spring weekend will be a great week-long event this year; announcement for opener should happen right after spring break; volunteers get to see the show for free and can sign up after spring break
  - FinBoard - Allocations are ready to go out; SAO will have a student training
  - Class Councils - Spirit Week leading up to Spring Weekend
  - Chief of Staff - NomCom doing interviews in the spring; if you have recommendations for your committee members you'd like to see more involved, let Ravi know

- **Discussion**

- The CUP and Dean of Undergraduate Education think that every freshman at MIT should have a faculty member for a mentor/advisor; they now want to publish something in the faculty newsletter to make a case for why freshmen need faculty advisors; they *also* need a lot of faculty onboard and supporting the resolution
- If you had a faculty member as an advisor freshmen year, speak up and tell Nareen and Ravi so they have something to put in the faculty newsletter
- Think of faculty members who would support us on this - we need them to vote on it at the next CUP meeting!
- Comments:
  - “Anne Hunter was an amazing advisor and taught me how to get around MIT!”
  - “How are we trying to publicize this? To make Grimson happy?”
  - “I’m not going into academia, so I don’t feel comfortable going up to a professor to ask him personal questions.”
  - “An advisor isn’t going to psycho-analyze me and solve all my problems for me.”
  - “There’s some situations in which having an advisor as an advocate would work, but from my personal situation it wouldn’t have chanced my freshmen experience into a beautiful, streamlined process.”
  - “I don’t see how it could hurt, but it could help benefit some students.”
  - “I didn’t open up to my freshmen advisor because she was a faculty member - I opened up to her because she was kind!”
  - “We need to send the message that the institute cares about advising.”

- **Office Clean Up**

- Clean Up, Clean Up, Everybody do your share :)