

UA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
October 29, 2008  
7:00 pm  
UA Office

1. Attendance rather lackluster today.
2. Noah: We got a W on the board, and as usual, the best place to make changes is in Parking and Transportation Office. I've been talking about getting a way to monitor safe-ride at the student center set-up. There's going to be a 52 inch monitor in front of the Student Center.
3. Last Friday I met with Dean Columbo and 6 reps from campaign for Students.
  - 3.1. We learned that everything works in committees. My sense is that the groups are still dissatisfied and haven't really gotten what they want.
  - 3.2. If we can isolate a few things: Dean Columbo, students would be happy if you did 'x' then I think there's a good chance (with concrete demands) that things will get done.
    - a) What concrete ideas do you have?
      - Paul: publicly posted minutes
        - Noah: Who's going to take them? Confidential information? People's names?  
Resp: we wouldn't need confidential info. Just things that apply to us.
        - Noah: once a month, how they can send us an email about what committees are affected by policies and decisions. These things we should be informed of.
        - We're in this cycle that once a decision is made, people start to speak up. This doesn't happen, however, until things get instated. It's unlikely that people will get much involved in the planning or debating stages of an idea.
          - Resp. W1: James Tores hasn't emailed me back with information for W1 and getting together to work on it.
          - DormComm meeting tomorrow at 6pm...place to be determined
        - Noah: First Blue Ribbon Committee Meeting happening now. Mike is there.
    - 3.3. Noah: Pi Beta Phi is having formal coming up and we're invited. Unfortunately, it's during the time of the retreat.
    - 3.4. Task Force for student Engagement at last meeting decided to make a breakout where lots of us will form a sub-committee to address issues that students have been having left-wing concerns about our campus police force. Includes Dean Columbo and myself.
      - a) We had a 90 minute meeting where we concluded that John DeFava and Dean Columbo are concerned about domestic violence in graduate student families. This slant may be taken for special interests. However, there have been a few instances...may be warranted.
      - b) I meet Monday and Wednesday with this group. Any suggestions?
      - c) About police reform, John Defava tells me he's got 10 percent good guys, 10 bad, and 80 percent he can work with.
      - d) There was a fraternity incident in which campus police aggressively assaulted a student for a slight misunderstanding regarding the playing of loud music. The situation was evidently very controversial, and fueled students' concerns for the effectiveness of our police.
    - 3.5. I'm at the point where the Taskforce for Student Engagement is giving us a real concern.
    - 3.6. Idea: UA senators go to house meetings and discuss UA events and what's going on from our perspective.
      - a) Responses good. To offset lack of committee opportunities for Senators, they should attend house meetings and add a section to the agenda to discuss.
  4. W1 meeting last Monday: very little got done. W1 postponed.

- 4.1.Evan: do we know anything about fall-out from faculty regarding W1?
5. Dean Columbo sent out last year's letter regarding hacking, creating an issue.
6. Administration perfectly happy when student input supports their decisions.
7. IFC elections tonight
  - 7.1.Majority not returning
  - 7.2.In near term, having both governments align is critical.
8. Committee Updates and Jason's Diversity
  - 8.1.Lots of people turned up to the soccer game.
  - 8.2.Jason: very little Senate information. I'll look at things from 39 UAS from last year and find relevant things.
    - a) Noah: Evan, try and see if we can put legislation into the UA locker soon.
  - 8.3.Jason: November 18, Diversity Leadership Conference. It's at Backbay Events Center from 1200-1800. Event where faculty staff and administrators can improve the lot of minorities, women, LBGT. This event is not open to student body in general since it's only for faculty staff and administrators.
    - a) If you've been invited, seriously consider attending.
  - 8.4.ASA doing well. Put a lot of forms online, so that they can't get lost in our office.
  - 8.5.General Body meeting on November 17. All ASA groups must send officer. Basically its a gathering of ASA groups to vote on ASA policy. Big thing is that we want to have a set of group recognition criteria.
    - a) Two classes: MIT funded student groups and other. Kids are usually really awesome and excited, but sometimes we turn the activities down...maybe they aren't unique or accessible to all. We are open to all reasonable activities.
      - These would be MIT student groups and would still confer regular benefits.
    - b) Main reason we don't approve some groups is that we are constrained in terms of funding and reservations for CAC reservations. We want to preserve that and be good stewards of MIT resources, so those will be open to funded groups. One thing that happens during tours is that we let people know that any sort of group can come to be.
      - We are looking to really embody that idea.
      - Talk to me for thoughts or questions.
  - 8.6.Riley: working on ways to reimburse people. Looking for ways to improve consistency and keep track of reimbursements. Legislation was passed and funding given to some student groups.
    - a) \$2000 was given to Cross Products as a loan for CDs. We have to be careful with that because who knows who's going to be around at that point. Thinking about the \$75000 we have in reserve, we have a lot of important things we can pay for. There's plenty of things that money can be spent on.
      - Sustainability committee projects or something.
      - One idea is that ASA groups advertising for events: if there were a way to improve Domeview or putting screens in saferides for groups advertisements.
      - Just come up with other ideas that Sou can shoot to me.
  - 8.7.Evan: Simple website updates are happening as I get them.
    - a) Noah: how's page for announcements. Evan: haven't looked at it.
  - 8.8.Liz: As of now, poster is happening. Sent for UA account number. Go to web.mit then search for SAPweb under UA. You can do a transaction report for this.
    - a) Beyond that: DormStorm 17-22. Getting locations and food finalized.
    - b) If any of you want something to happen at DormStorm, talk to me now.
    - c) Vrajesh, if you can find me information on recycle mania, I can forward to some people.
  - 8.9.Retreat is November 15-16. Getting transportation figured out. Lodging is fine.

8.10.SCEP has finally kicked off and is moving:

- a) DormStorm
- b) Advising data looked at last March is being processed nw.
- c) This November faculty meeting is when the first set of new changes to GIRs are being introduced by faculty.
  - We want student input on specific facets of classes.
  - We will try to launch on 2<sup>nd</sup> and go through 9<sup>th</sup>.

8.11. Azziz Abahar: Junior and President of Baker

8.12.Sustainability: Vrajesh: took on 3 new projects this week.

- a) Jason emailed me useful scholarship link
  - We'll be populating list
- b) Working on semi-annual report (10-15 pages)
- c) Idea came up to have desks at dorms...have reusable canvas bags. People can check them out when they go shopping or so. Good idea?
  - Jason: will need a lot of bads. Have a pilot program for this.
  - Azziz: would be cool. Maybe swiping system with ID.
- d) Other projects: recycle mania coming a long. Constraint is that National Organization hasn't published application, so we're waiting on that.
  - Will happen in January.
  - Looking for people in each dorm to get involved and help advertise this for us.
  - Still looking for a system that makes things very fair for dorms.
- e) Riley: Harvard kicked off new "green" initiative. President of Harvard talked about how students have been doing so much already. Interesting event since Al Gore was there discussing it.
  - If there were more something more organized or long-term and well publicized, like dorm electricity event, that's something we really want to put out there.
- f) Vrajesh: stance we're taking is, the day the competition ends, is the day students want to save and keep it.
- g) Has \$10,000 been used yet at Baker?
  - Going to follow up on that.
- h) SSL recycling going along pretty well. Estimate that it takes 2 hours to drive around to each FSLG (including 5 minutes at each to pick up). Brings up question: can MIT spare one to do this?

8.13.PR would like to work with Senators to work with advertising UA stuff in dorms.

8.14.Noah: Sustainability you need to do the booklets.

- a) Vrajesh: check, it's happening.

8.15.Tomorrow, DormConn meeting with administration on W1. What ideas do you have for us?

- a) Noah: those of us at DormConn tomorrow make sure to discuss before we go.

9. Adjournment