

# UA Exec: Wednesday, March 11, 2009

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Call to Order: 7:04 PM

## Election Commission Update

- Ainsley Braun: Platforms and photos are available at [vote.mit.edu](http://vote.mit.edu). I'm meeting with Josh this weekend to polish off user interface. The elections are being run on an Apache server owned by SAO, kept up by IS&T, with certificate authentication. Voting will be from 12:01 on Monday through Thursday electronically, paper voting Friday in Lobby 10.
- Noah Jessop: I'd like to see posters.
- Mike Bennie: What's our backup plan with the server?
- Ainsley Braun: The old UA server is up and running just in case. We'll move it to SAO if we need it.
- Paul Baranay: Will old results and platforms be reposted on the ElectComm website?
- Ainsley Braun: I'll work on it.
- Noah Jessop: We need a process to compile stats so that we have them.
- Ainsley Braun: I'll work on it.

## Senate Recap

- Paul Baranay: There were two key bills. 8.1 was the Bill to Create the Dining Proposal Committee (DPC), which will run in parallel and create an independent report. It will be a committee entirely of students selected by Nom Comm. The committee will submit a draft to Senate by April 24, and a final report by May 1. 8.4 demanded the Blue Ribbon survey data from the administration. Also, we passed a bill which finally will change the date of student holiday to the career fair—also passed by GSC.
- Mike Bennie: I've talked to the GSC about the presentation of the career fair holiday for the Faculty Policy Committee. This will happen tomorrow—we hope to make it on the agenda of the April faculty meeting. Also, I talked with Donna yesterday about the two bills and encouraged her to read them. We're going to discuss it further at the BRDC meeting on Thursday night. I really want to push her to release the data right now. She told me that Dean Colombo might have to authorize the release of the data and that the consultant contract might be an issue. Donna is looking into those two things before Thursday so that we don't have to worry about that at the meeting. She's a bit "stone-faced" about our rival committee. I handed Dean Colombo the bills after Senate and told him to read them before Noah and my meeting with him tomorrow morning.
- Paul Baranay: Can we get input from the Dining Committee?
- Erin Munsell: The Dining Committee was operating under the basis that I'm on Blue Ribbon, and the rest of the committee was to be doing other things so that we still get what we need to done.
- Paul Baranay: I'm wondering what dining thinks about the DPC.
- Erin Munsell: I'm not sure how I feel about it. I'm not sure if I should say what the UA says.

- Noah Jessop: We need to address this. I don't want you to feel like you don't know where to put your time or that it's fruitless. It's reasonable to discuss what role on the BRDC aligns closest to you, as in, do you feel better as a Simmons representative or UA representative?
- Erin Munsell: I'm not sure I agree with Senate's proposals.
- Vrajesh Modi: You're in a really tough position, but Donna tried to clarify this a little bit yesterday. She said that you're on the committee because of your title—that might help you organize your thoughts better.
- Noah Jessop: Senate, how can we get the Dining Committee involved? We don't want to take away from your committee or prevent you from doing the other things you need to do.
- Erin Munsell: I can't talk about what is going on in Blue Ribbon with them beyond the way I can with the rest of the students.
- Noah Jessop: Paul, can we talk about DPC recruitment?
- Paul Baranay: 8.1 addressed the nominations process for the DPC. We wrote an application and sent an email to everyone about applying. We want the deadline to be as long as possible, but the committee needs to begin ASAP. NomComm needs to present its slate of representatives to Senate as soon as possible, so the deadline is Saturday at noon. We've already got a few apps. On Monday, after Senate approves them, the committee will go live. NomComm will assist them in any way they need, and I'd like to reinforce that any other members of Exec or Senate are welcome to help, too.
- Ainsley Braun: Are you choosing the chair through the application?
- Paul Baranay: As of right now, we plan on putting the committee in front of Senate with positions, including Secretary and Chair. We could also have the committee elect a chair at their first meeting.
- Mike Bennie: Don't waste time electing a chair.
- Paul Baranay: Anyway, encourage people to apply.
- Noah Jessop: Shoot an email to ua-all reminding people to tell their friends and constituencies to apply. I'll send another email to undergrads around Thursday afternoon.

#### Nominations Committee Update

- Paul Baranay: We originally had planned on being in the middle of the Institute Committee App process right now, but the DPC changed our schedule. The applications will go live in about six days for two weeks, including the week of spring break. When people come back to campus, we'll do interviews and go from there. I also want to bring the student representatives on the Institute-Wide Planning Task-Force Committees before either Senate or Exec.
- Maggie Delano: Are there minutes for these meetings?
- Paul Baranay: It varies by committee.
- Liz Denys: I know that the student life sub-committee won't be able to make all of our minutes public.

- Paul Baranay: The three dates we're targeting to get our representatives to come to the UA are Wednesday, April 1, Monday, April 6, and Wednesday, April 8. What would you guys like to see for this? We'll probably have it early on in either type of meeting as a special discussion section. If you have any suggestions for NomComm or the Institute Committees, talk to me.
- Noah: Institute Committees are really where some incredible work gets done, but many undergrads don't get that. We really need to get students to understand it as the student advocacy it is. We need to come up with ideas to explain them and their acronyms so that we can connect the right people to the right committees. Also, the Senate wrote a very clear purpose and direction for the DPC. A year ago, the legislation was much more unclear—this is a major improvement. Do we like Senate delineating how we as exec execute this?
- Paul Baranay: The biggest Institute Committees are usually CAP, CUP, COC, and COD for various reasons. ECS was a big deal with the GIRs; it varies from year to year.
- Maggie Delano: Can we make spotlights for committees?
- Paul Baranay: A lot of them already have good websites, but for the ones that don't, we can help them.
- Noah Jessop: We should also use Domeview to advertise for it.
- Liz Denys: We have a lot of Domeview points to use, still.
- Noah Jessop: I was on CJAC this year, and a lot of really good work got done.
- Liz Denys: We could use Community Conversations for this--bring in a good portion of an Institute Committee.
- Grace Lee: We could article in the Tech.
- Liz Denys: Ads in the Tech, too.
- Noah Jessop: Can we get a news article?
- Paul Baranay: I'll talk with them in advance.
- Liz Denys: An opinion piece could help, too.
- Noah Jessop: I know some people who sit on Institute Committees are already planning a piece on their importance.

#### Discussion to the Nature of how Senate Bills should outline their execution

- Noah Jessop: I also mentioned outlining procedures for bill execution--what are people's thoughts?
- Liz Denys: I can appreciate why Ian was upset with the bill which outlined more work for his position last semester. Senate needs to talk to the appropriate parties first. DPC worked well because NomComm was there.
- Maggie Delano: Tasking it to someone who isn't going to do it is just useless.
- Paul Baranay: This is why bills are supposed to be brought before the speaker the Friday before. Many of the bills so far have been time urgent or directly concerned the UAP/VP who were there.
- Maggie Delano: Let's just put Exec and Senate on ua-discuss. Then we can more easily see non-ua people who are on it. Senate should request people be there as they need be.

## Constitutional Reform/History Committee Discussion

- Paul Baranay: We should reexamine the Constitution and Bylaws. There used to be a Constitutional Reform Committee; I'd like to revisit that idea and refocus the constitution to keep the same intent, but bring it up to date. It makes sense to have some special committee do it.
- Noah Jessop: We should talk about some precedent stuff. History committee—there are people who want to get involved, but the task isn't clear. We're thinking about writing a file system to help things.
- Ainsley Braun: Can we put all the bills that were passed in the history before?
- Mike Bennie: I'm working on redoing the Senate page so that it's better laid out, which would allow us to effectively work on this.
- Liz Denys: I'm currently updating the constitution.
- Paul Baranay: When Liz and Bennie are done, we should bring the updated constitution before Senate.
- Mike Bennie: With History Comm, we need to ultimately decide what we want out of it. There's so much legislation there. I'd like to digitally archive it. Maybe we need to hire someone to do it.
- Liz Denys: Does History Committee have an idea of what they want to do?
- Noah Jessop: I'd like to see some semblance of continuity. The task at hand will be to build the framework to create an archive.
- Mike Bennie: We now have Google analytics.
- Noah Jessop: Do you want to talk about SVN?
- Benjamin Agre: It would make permissioning easier.
- Noah Jessop: We could then version control the constitution.
- Raez Lorgat: It would allow us to revert back.
- Maggie Delano: It would be most useful for version control. But problem is we can't do it for everything. It only solves some of the problems.
- Liz Denys: We also need to work with making the website more user-friendly to update for those UA members who are less technologically-inclined.
- Mike Bennie: I'm working with Josh in the SAO for backend tools for the technologically-inclined and a frontend interfaces for other people.
- Yi Cai: My committee might not want this--we wouldn't want to be getting a bunch of files just dropped on our computers every time someone committed something new. More information will kill the more important things. The updates don't highlight what's important and what's not.
- Raez Lorgat: You can be forced to write commit statements about what's changed.

## Task-Force for Student Engagement, which is now the Student Engagement Committee (SEC)

- Noah Jessop: The next meeting is on the 16th.
- Vrajesh Modi: How useful is it to have these meetings?
- Noah Jessop: They happen from time to time. If they are useless, they'll die by themselves, but it's all the right people in the room, so they could be productive.

- Paul Baranay: One of the issues I've heard is that the GSC has their four reps, but we have one UA representatives and other various undergraduate student government leaders. The GSC seems to dominate as a result.
- Noah Jessop: The question is now if the administration is listening to us.

#### Miscellaneous

- Noah: if you want Tech Cash for testing stellar email me. HSG (Housing strategy group) is to meet next Thursday from noon-2, can anyone go?
- Jason: I'll go.
- Paul: Can NomComm have minutes?
- Jason: Sure. I wrote minutes at the last meeting, but nothing really happened.
- Jason: The budget task-forces are working with Eleni to get the Student Life Subcommittee to come to Senate on either March 16 or April 9.

Adjournment: 8:06 PM