

UA Exec: Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Call to Order: 7:05 PM

Senate Update

- Keone Hon: Did not look at all pending legislation. The Dining Proposal Committee (DPC) slate was discussed. There were questions about whether the group was representative. We didn't get as many applicants as we hoped, so membership will still be open. 7 of the 8 were confirmed because of a conflict due to the 8th being on Judboard. The data and the focus group reports will be released.
- Liz Denys: Lindgren Library's closing was also discussed.
- Maggie Delano: Because realistically we can't fight every budget cut that happens, we want to look at the process. The EAPS department wasn't consulted at all in the process, and that's where the problem lies.
- Noah Jessop: Discussion on funding about MassCPR's t-shirts. Not sure how discussion went against it, but it then passed.
- Vrajesh Modi: You can veto the bill because we shouldn't fund luxuries like free t-shirts.
- Maggie Delano: We need to set a good example. If the UA throws money at whatever group asks for
- Mike Bennie: There's a reason LEF/Arcade and Finboard don't fund t-shirts.
- Rachel Meyer: They need to get the funding elsewhere because LEF won't fund t-shirts.
- Noah Jessop: Maybe I'll veto this tonight.
- Maggie Delano: Half of the Senate agrees, it won't get overturned. We could use that \$1500 for something much better than t-shirts.
- Alex Dehnert: We can roll the money over until next term and put it in Finboard allocations. Maybe we need to increase Finboard allocations.
- Mike Bennie: I don't think we should do that though.
- Noah Jessop: We should talk about long-term financial planning.
- Paul Baranay: Colombo says there won't be cuts to student groups.
- Rachel Meyer: Comes directly from student life fee, which is \$250 per student per year.
- Alex Dehnert: Maybe somebody should write a bill about how large the reserve should be.
- Mike Bennie: There was a bill two years ago saying reserve cannot be spent below \$5000.

Recap from Dean Colombo's visit and Chair of Student Life Budget Taskforce visit to Senate

- Liz Denys: Dean Colombo mentioned the Division of Student Life's interest in promoting student alumni relations and emphasized preserving tradition throughout the process of making budget cuts. Additionally, he mentioned that the cuts for fiscal year 2010 have already been made. Muriel Medard, the chair of the Student Life Working Group, requested that students input as many ideas for cutting the budget as possible into the Institute-Wide Planning Task Force's Idea Bank as possible. She also suggested that the

best way to change decisions made for the 2010 fiscal year, such as the closing of Lindgren Library and the Aeronautics and Astronautics Library, in future fiscal years would be through communicating as many “better” ideas as possible to the various working groups.

Ideabank.mit.edu

- Noah Jessop: How do we get people to care about it? How can we promote this on campus?
- Vrajesh Modi: One thing idea bank isn't for is talking about personnel? What if we have organizational issues?
- Paul Baranay: Bring it to personnel taskforce.
- Mike Bennie: You can talk about jobs, not people in the jobs.
- Liz Denys: We stared at numbers in SL one. We could make crazy posters like “What if MIT didn't grade Psets?”
- Noah: Jessop We could do that. Start a flame war...
- Liz Denys: We should make sure to touch on a lot of points to provoke thought on things people wouldn't have thought about.
- Alex Dehnert: Is there a way for us to get what we currently spend money on?
- Mike Bennie: No.
- Alex Dehnert: So we're supposed to guess how much each idea saves?
- Keone Hon: If it is a saving and it is positive, then do it.
- Mike Bennie: They're looking for really large-scale ideas.
- Yi Cai: I don't know how strict the restrictions are to the student representatives are on these committees. We can probably get a ballpark estimate from them.
- Noah Jessop: They try to run numbers off ideabank on a roughly weekly basis. There is somebody reading it.
- Paul Baranay: Lots of somebodies.
- Jason Forte: Catherine asked for a list of all of DSL's programs so that we can know what we're looking at.
- Mike Bennie: We need to start condensing the changes to the budget in one place.
- Noah Jessop: Yeah.
- Paul Baranay: We shouldn't do it, but we could get them to tabulate it on their website.
- Noah Jessop: ua.mit.edu/cuts: put the information there?
- Mike Bennie: Yeah.
- Maggie Delano: Put a link to the details, also.

Community Conversations Program

- Rachel Meyer: Sent a lot of emails to admins. Clay's enthusiastic. Colombo shot us down. We can find the space to do it in the coffeehouse or elsewhere.

Meet the UA Week:

- Sammi Wyman: What's going on with this?
- Liz Denys: It's happening. Probably towards the end of April.

Senate Recognitions

- Noah Jessop: Can we recognize Senators with Senator of the Month or something?
- Maggie Delano: Senator of the Meeting?
- Rachel Meyer: There are awards at the end of the year... might as well wait.
- Noah Jessop: Maybe for next year give them props for doing good things. "Speaker's Choice"

History Committee

- Rachel: First big step we were thinking about was the lack of effective archiving. We want to look at historical data for budgets—what has been done, what can be done.
- Alex: Ekate wanted to find exciting moments in MIT student history.
- Noah: So more of the institutional memory arm?
- Alex: like them to serve as a resource btw this is what happened last time.
- Rachel: We will catalogue chronologically and by topic.
- Alex: ekate talked of creating a database. When senators request, do historical research. Possibly maintaining records.

Institute Awards

- Noah Jessop: Due Friday. We created Larry G. Benedict Award.
- Alex Dehnert: Can we create awards?
- Noah Jessop: Probably not for this cycle.

Other

- Noah Jessop: get people to vote in elections. Should we have ua-soc@mit.edu for social?
- Keone Hon: Fresh Fund. Senate isn't really meant not really meant to be dealing with funding. ASA throwing around idea of the ASA being in charge of allocating Fresh Fund. Just an idea; we want feedback. I understand DSL charged UA with distributing this funding, but we're the ones telling groups to apply for it.
- Alex Dehnert: Why not have Finboard deal with the Fresh Fund?
- Rachel Meyer: Groups are recognized during semester, so can't get it from Finboard for a semester or so. Just for startup money.
- Alex Dehnert: In the process for filling out group recognition applications, they are supposed to indicate if they'll need money to get started.
- Rachel Meyer: Recognitions are in a week and money not our problem now.
- Alex Dehnert: In process of deciding whether or not they should be recognized, we can make ASA pres as ex-officio officer write a bill.
- Mike Bennie: This could create more barriers.
- Keone Hon: There are four recognition times, that would be four bills a year.
- Alex Dehnert: If the ASA does good job, then this would be really good.
- Keone Hon: I don't see that as creating a whole lot of overhead—I like this idea. If Senate feels its useful use of its time, then we should do it.

Mass CPR Bill Discussion

- Mike Bennie: I don't think we can take the money away from them after Senate gave it to them. It'll make us look bad.
- Alex Dehnert: We never gave them money.
- Maggie Delano: We can say I was about to veto it but this is what happened... couldn't because they are depending on that money.
- Alex Dehnert: In the future, we need to say "pending approval."
- Mike Bennie: We should raise majority necessary for discretionary funding.
- Alex Dehnert: Senators opposed should not move to vote with intent of voting against, should move to amend the bill—change to resolution.

Adjournment: 8:03 PM