

Task Force on Student Engagement

Meeting Summary

29 May 2008

These are not minutes. The task force does not record official minutes. These are consensus notes prepared by the GSC and approved by the Committee Chair.

Review of Charge (wording was edited and agreed upon for final version)

Problem with detachment of students on Institute Committees with GSC and UA.

- GSC interviews and appoints students for committees
- UA has a nomination committee which appoints students to committees
- Both GSC and UA are implementing framework for representatives to report back to their constituencies about what is going on at Institute Committee meetings

How will DormCon, PanHell and IFC handle this?

Want to include Chair on Student Discipline in meeting, or Director of Security for Police@MIT?

- can have guests attend meetings to talk about particular committees
- particularly include Sheila because many arguments arise around student discipline? or John from Police? they need better outlets to talk to students
- problems include Star Simpson, Hacking, Medical issues and domestic violence, emergency communications, etc.
- idea of having guests come into committee meetings, and possibly have subcommittee meetings to deal with specific issues if necessary and as needed

Additional function for this committee: when emergencies arise, use this committee instead of forming ad hoc committees for each instance?

- we don't want to become the "appeals" place
- we address all issues that come up and do not fit into pre-existing structures

3 categories of issues

- things that student groups bring
 - things that are not being addressed in institute/faculty committees
 - issues that have not yet been put into pipeline for institute/faculty committees yet (from administrative bodies)
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- could charge the committee with figuring out how to better deal with emergency issues (because the administration has been heavily criticized in the past for decisions made)
 - have a chart to direct these types of issues to the correct people to make the decisions
 - This committee could be appropriate for day-after response on emergency issues.

Need to decide frequency of meetings (maybe 2 times/month?)

It is more important that this group meets regularly to create a sense of trust and collaboration, and the emergency response is secondary.

Should we have formal meeting minutes?

- The trust this committee wants would be hindered by formal meeting minutes
- But we want to be able to take information back to student groups.
- Different people can keep their own minutes, and let people take back their own opinions.