

Student Engagement Committee

Meeting Summary

1 October 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.

Should this task force be only for one year, or should it continue past this year? It might have value past this year, especially in providing an arrangement for students to access the decision-making administrators easier.

There are more task-related meetings that continue, and GSC will continue to interact with DSL and DGE, etc.

Concerns about police:

Phil Clay wants a group made of John DiFava, a couple faculty members, and a couple students. The group needs to articulate:

- to police that these events, to us, are strange (and not ok)
- we have not seen/made a policy shift
- have police seen a shift? in their policy/behavior? in student behavior?
- have students seen a shift? (yes, hacking arrests have been perceived like a policy shift)
- does it have anything to do with off-campus hacking incidents
- is the goal to engage in discussion, or is it prescriptive?
- people do have the right to have a predictable basis for reasonable behavior
- should there be a presidential committee that oversees police?
- maybe an advisory/communications group?

Other areas where this committee should act?

How MIT responds to RIAA requests for information

- some students will be harassed by lawyers and will deal with this
- RIAA asks MIT for 900K, we have paid 10K for unknown students
- compared to other universities (Harvard), MIT does not "back" its students
- Jerry Grochow was supposed to look into this
- but, this is illegal and people know it. maybe in working with IS&T and Dean Colombo, we can spell out what will happen if students are caught.
- MIT only releases information that it is REQUIRED to release.
- this is addressed in the Mind and Hand Handbook. How do we make this known?
- students have "perception" that MIT doesn't come to bat for their students
 - are there policy differences between MIT and other schools?
 - IVY league schools have similar regulations (esp. with RIAA)
 - we need to understand what students believe has changed
 - HOW DO WE CHANGE THIS PERCEPTION?

Plagiarism in classes

- variable, depending on professor
- this is a large faculty concern
- more a problem on small assignments (things that feel meaningless)

- maybe need specific definitions of various types of collaboration (types 1-4, like Sloan School of Management)
- need to set standards for plagiarism

People want to see the 10-15 year plan. It might be easier if administrators were clearer on this. e.g. dining hall in basement of W1 seemed like it went against immediate student concerns, but it is a long-range plan about creating a dining hall for the campus in the long-term.

- how would this be articulated?
- on the stage clarification? (State of the Institute-like?)
- talk about changes from MIT 15 years ago and into 15 years to come
- we have students on all committees affecting student life, how does the information from these committees get disseminated down to the masses?
- and how does information from the masses get to these students?