

39 UAS 3 Discussion Meeting  
Monday, November 5th 2007  
9:00pm to 11:00pm  
Senate Chambers

1. Welcome and Announcements.
  - a. Senators – please participate fully as you are representing constituents
  - b. Retreat this weekend
  - c. Volunteer for initiatives, take action
2. Call to Order 39 UAS 3.
3. Topic 1A:
  - a. What is the role of student government?
    - i. Represent views of constituents, Fund internal operations on campus
    - ii. Assertive legislation, damage control, “MIT should not be a cesspool for apathy”, encourage communication between UA and undergrads
    - iii. balance between constituents’ ideas and his/her personal
  - b. What SHOULD be the role of student government?
    - i. intersection between political and practical issues?
      1. “if you have a bunch of refugees in your student center, that’s very practical” (laughter)
    - ii. work more with executive branch to take action
    - iii. create Senate ad hoc committees – which will be discussed at retreat this weekend
    - iv. communication problems – existing, how to address
      1. send out agenda to constituents before Senate meetings to get feedback beforehand
      2. need more issues brought from Senate to committees
      3. between UA and constituents – most undergrads don’t know UA’s role
        - a. how to get meeting minutes out to undergrads? If Martin and Ali send them out, they would have to respond to all of the inquiries instead of Senators
        - b. this Wednesday – traveling UA Exec meetings to interact with members in different dorms (Simmons)
        - c. monthly UA newsletters will be constructed
        - d. Constituent feedback – Senators’ job to solicit feedback (e.g. awkward elevator conversations)
          - i. Have meetings w/constituents, providing cookies, to discuss
        - e. Quarterly report from committees
      4. Go to dorm meetings to talk about role of Senate
      5. UA blogs, UA flyers in bathroom
        - a. \$750 for Senate constituency fund – to get info out to constituents

- b. Bathrooms, kitchens, elevators
    - 6. Interesting subject heading to motivate constituents to read minutes
      - a. Create list of shame? – those who are not sending out minutes
    - 7. Perhaps investigate weekly updates in the Tech
      - a. Send agenda items
    - 8. Straw poll – 1 simple Y or N
  - v. Procedure: What is the process after bills are passed? What actions are being taken? How are things being implemented
    - 1. Ali and Martin can give 5 min update at Senate meetings regarding progress being made
    - 2. UA Exec agendas can be sent out to Senate beforehand
4. November 5<sup>th</sup> – V for Vendetta “performance”
  - a. Music, masked/caped figures, confetti
5. Topic 1B:
  - a. What changes can student government make to encourage closer collaboration with the administration?
    - i. Martin: perhaps administration is more focused on external reaction to events at MIT, needs to focus more on internal reactions/wellbeing
      - 1. students need to have more of a role in policy/discussions, making decisions
      - 2. UA issue to address: getting more students involved, interested for UA to back up issues brought to administration, Corporation members
    - ii. Katrina: possibility of administration “double-secret meetings” even if allow us to sit in on meetings
      - 1. Martin’s response: not preventable, want to get to a point where administration believes in their best interest to have undergrad/student input
    - iii. Ye: Put up meeting agendas, proposals, documents on UA website– use blog to solicit feedback
      - 1. Lana: those who are apathetic will not visit anyway
    - iv. Paul: to increase awareness
      - 1. column/corner in Tech
      - 2. somehow get major press to come to UA for comments/thoughts on issue
        - a. Martin’s response: contacts in Tech are not interested in UA issues
          - i. We want to improve relations with Tech - invite to meetings, etc.
          - ii. Perhaps task to PR committees to send concise updates

- v. Arti: I want to hold meetings to bring my constituents together to get feedback.
  - 1. Irina: you have senate constituency funds for that, so talk to me
  - 2. Arti: also, the Tech meets for dinner every so often, and you can drop in on them
- vi. Luke; for us, we should model ourselves after the media-people-government relationship. When students find out about something in the Tech, they should know they should come to us to act on their behalf. As such, we should increase ties with the Tech.
- vii. Martin: how about a UA quick question of the week, like a poll on the website?
- viii. Hans: people are repeating the same things all the time, so we should either adjourn, or convene a smaller group of action oriented people. We have been discussing concepts for too long.
  - 1. Paul: we have to take ownership of the good ideas that are coming up as a whole.
- ix. Lana: how about ads in the tech?
  - 1. Martin; they're expensive, but we can look into it
- x. Martin and Ali will draft legislation to create administration/undergraduate committee – Action committee
- xi. Katrina: numbers do matter, but action plans must be created w/contingency plans
  - 1. dorm websites to put up meeting minutes, other docs
- b. Is there a communication gap and support gap between the administration and students?
  - i. Sarah Hopp: Perhaps solicit more alumni involvement
  - ii. Luke: Start publicity campaign
    - 1. highlight star legislation we've passed in the past, solicit feedback regarding what they want to see in the future
    - 2. Martin: sending out pamphlets?
    - 3. Itai: suggestion to pay 2 people to build website, use facebook to connect to students

6. Motion to adjourn early: 11 approve, 3 against