

39 U.A.S. 5
Meeting Agenda
November 26, 2007
8:00pm-12:00pm(ish)
Senate Chambers

1. Call to Order 39 UAS 5

2. Roll Call

3. Announcements from Exec

- a. Legislation updates from last meeting
- b. UAS 2.8 Events Committee: passed, worked out detailed timeline for recruitment, selection of bands for Spring Weekend, by end of semester, will have recruited members, completed survey
- c. UAS 4.2 Student Input on Selection of New DSL: senators selected, committee full
 - i. Need to start surveying people, having feedback sessions
 - ii. Martin talked to grad student on this committee,
 - 1. perhaps have grad students on committee
 - 2. believes one committee should compile report and submit to Martin and grad student (one unified voice)
- d. Bill to Clarify Process for Fresh Fund: advertised in newsletter, email Martin will send to undergrads in upcoming days
- e. Committee on History of Student Government: Hans will take care
- f. Bill to Establish Ad Hoc Committee on Student Involvement and Representation: Martin has talked to several deans and faculty members: goal of committee would look at good/bad cases and get recommendations and suggestions
- g. Recycling in Boston: Sustainability Committee aware and working on it
- h. Proximity Card readers: already a plan to implement, plans are to have it done by end of school year, starting w/east side dorms

4. Reports from Committees/ExecComm

5. Q&A with Mason Tang, UA Coordinator of Information Technology (CIT)

- a. Mason addresses Senate
 - i. Has held position since last year, wants to address concerns w/his performance, clarify past misunderstandings
 - ii. Has never been directly contacted about issues by Senators, others that have concerns
 - iii. Michael: what does he see his job as?
 - 1. Mason: IT issues, including IS&T
 - iv. Paul: Will Mason release survey data to be available to Senators?
Compensation

1. Mason: Is there a need? Privacy issues? In general, it's committee chairs' responsibilities to report survey findings
2. Historically, has been paid position
- v. Hans: Difference between webmaster and CIT?
 1. Mason: as CIT surveys, website, sitting on committees,
- vi. Michael: Too much work for one person?
 1. Mason: Potentially yes, but difficult to split up jobs
 2. Paul: could knowledge be passed on easily to split up jobs?
 - a. Mason: yes
- b. Suggestions
 - i. Michael: split up into 2 positions
 - ii. Irina: involves constitutional changes
 - iii. Mason: reinstate committee on IT?
 - iv. Itai: concerned that the website is main tool to reach undergrads, content outdated
 1. Mason: most of it has been updated, old legislation to be added
 - v. Martin:
 1. give permissions to senators for Senate portion of page
 2. website is functional, but perhaps people don't know how to use it
 3. perhaps ½ hour -1 hour training session?
 4. Most important updates: pages for pending items and archives
 - vi. Maggie: perhaps submit bills online, have Irina approved
 1. Irina: Mason and Irina working on it
- c. Each committee has own page and can be updated

6. Discussion on UA Newsletter

- a. feedback will go to Brittany Holland Marcus (bhm@mit.edu), the PR Committee Chair
- b. Maggie: her constituents felt like UA was self-promoting instead of giving real information
 - i. Feedback: shorter, direct information that will affect everyone in undergraduate community
- c. Bennie: one page insert to Tech?
- d. Martin: costs tens of thousands of dollars, perhaps better solution, work w/Registrar's office and have them mailed to undergrads
- e. Keone: exec member of month and other smaller sections needed expansion, varying font? Graphics?
- f. Jason: maybe we need to bring back those large banners that list UA's accomplishments/concrete results
- g. Katrina: asked constituents if UA is effective at addressing student concerns
 - i. Need to emphasize concrete results
- h. Paul: include photos in newsletter, e.g. Austin

- i. Martin:
 - i. exec member of month v. spotlight – differences hazy
 - 1. understood that they would be the same
 - ii. push to relate problem to solution
 - iii. working to address effectiveness/visibility: traveling exec meetings, Town Hall meetings w/administrators next term
 - iv. Kat: needs to be more polished, formatting, graphics since going out to entire undergrad body
- j. Jason shows Year in Review poster from 2005-2006
 - i. Maybe put something like this along the Infinite
- k. Maggie: November Presidential Address: perhaps need more concrete evidence of discussions, reformat?
- l. Brittany: paper form – a lot were recycled
- m. Martin: pushing for involvement from Senators

7. Impeachment Proceedings: Housing Chair – REMOVED FROM AGENDA, RESOLUTION REACHED

- a. Mandi will remain as chair until December, reevaluated in January

8. Approval of 39 UAS 4 minutes

- a. Irina will include separate handout with announcements, announcements will no longer be in official minutes
- b. Approve minutes: 19 approve, 1 oppose, 0 abstain

9. 39 UAS 5.1: Resolution to Create a “Smart” Online Course Planner

- a. create smart system where input information tells student what’s necessary to graduate
- b. Bennie: part of challenge of graduating from MIT is figuring all of this out!
- c. Paul: Friendly amendment to delete 3rd and 4th whereas clauses
- d. Allen: Undergraduate audit under Websis provides similar
 - i. Not dynamic enough?
- e. Hans: how much is UA willing to commit to this?
 - i. Martin: IS&T is already aware of this, resources are not an issue, hopes to take this bill to reinforce this need
- f. Maggie: aware of a software that she used at beginning of term that might provide similar services? → picker.mit.edu
- g. Kelch: has heard that integrated package coming out that might
- h. Erik: motion to vote
- i. Motion to vote: 20 yes, 0 oppose, 0 abstain
- j. Vote: 19 in favor, 0 oppose, 1 abstain

10. 39 UAS 5.2: Resolution to Promote UA Visibility during CPW and Orientation

- a. Bennie: is it a bill or resolution, friendly amendment to change to bill
- b. Sarah: perhaps not CPW, just Orientation
- c. Paul: agrees w/Sarah refer to Orientation committee?

- d. Motion to refer to Orientation Committee
 - i. Discussion
 - 1. Keone: maybe this should go to PR instead
 - 2. Jason: need to think about logistics of something like a skit
→ people are graduating, have to return early from summer
 - 3. Martin: what UA is already doing – present at CPW/Activities Midway, organizes Boston T-Party
 - a. maybe should have bigger part of Orientation
 - 4. Bennie: Martin should delegate to committee
 - 5. Paul withdraws motion
 - e. Hans: concern about skit, constituent does not like idea
 - f. Motion to postpone indefinitely (will not be brought up again)
 - i. Open discussion: opposed
 - g. Vote on motion to postpone indefinitely: 12 in favor, 5 oppose, 2 abstain

11. 39 UAS 5.3: Bill to Establish Responsible Investing Principles at MIT

- a. Paul: size of MIT endowment comparable to peer institutions, should have similar policies
- b. Hans: wants to see committee clause clarified
- c. Ali: reads mission statement of MIT
- d. Bennie: resolution or bill?
- e. Irina: change to resolution
- f. Bennie: perhaps overstepping power?
- g. Martin: wording issues need to be addressed, appendix is very specific – unrealistic
- h. Itai: people don't have correct and complete information to make decisions regarding endowment
- i. Ali: recommendation, does not believe we are overstepping boundaries as we don't have power to implement, issues of critical importance → recommendations should be made
- j. Kayvan: modeled after Harvard, Stanford, Yale's, which all have bigger endowments than we
 - i. Harvard's meets once a week to write letters, divestment last resort
 - ii. No way to figure out where our money (collective) is going
- k. Jason: perhaps should not detail how it works, perhaps committee members should not be elected
- l. Kayvan: committee would have access to investment information
- m. Hans: motion to drop all "mission statement" references in whereas clauses and that clause b/c
 - i. Open discussion about amendment: opposed
 - ii. Vote on amendment: 1 in favor, 14 oppose, 5 abstain
- n. Vote to postpone until 12/10 meeting: 20 in favor, 0 oppose, 0 abstain

12. 39 UAS 5.4: Bill to Provide Funding to Host International Development Charity Events Through Alternative Spring Break

- a. Visuda? addresses Senate

- i. Group ASA recognized
 - ii. “recently draw activities” – getting together to recreate group
 - iii. “philanthropic events”: event would raise money for group but would give money to cause selected
- b. Bennie: suggests they go to FinBoard meeting tomorrow, has no problem with some activities, but \$2520 for 14 students is a lot of \$ to give
- c. Martin: when \$ needed by? what other options pursued? Suggests dealing with this at next meeting
 - i. Visuda: need to know ASAP b/c have to determine location
 - 1. looking into outside private companies for funding
- d. Erik supports
- e. Hans: concerned that problems not fixed in the past still exist
- f. Katrina: perhaps not international this year, national might be more realistic (slowly rebuild), perhaps UA match fundraising up to certain amount
- g. Erik: Motion to amend 15% to 10% (in supplemental budget), total changed to \$2963
 - i. Vote for discussion: 10 in favor, 6 oppose, 4 abstain
 - ii. Hans: possibility to fund \$1500 of that, info will be available by next Senate meeting
 - iii. Martin: should go to FinBoard first before Fresh Fund
 - iv. Paul: Finboard is responsible for sustained groups, Fresh Fund should be used for new initiatives (technically should not be used for this),
 - v. Erik: should not allow bureaucracy to get in the way, should be proactive
 - vi. Vote for motion to extend debate for 2 minutes: 19 in favor, 1 oppose, 0 abstain
 - vii. Motion to end debate: 1 in favor, 8 opposed, 11 abstain
 - viii. Itai: bureaucracy has prevented attempts to obtain \$
 - ix. Akash: MIT \$ not allowed to fund trips to certain countries
 - x. Vote for amendment: 19 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstain
- h. Motion to vote: 19 in favor, 1 oppose, 0 abstain
- i. Vote on bill: 12 in favor, 8 oppose, 0 abstain
- j. Roll call vote: 10 in favor, 10 oppose, 0 abstain
- k. Motion to reconsider, vote to reconsider: 20 in favor, 0 oppose, 0 abstain
- l. Motion to postpone to next meeting: 19 in favor, 1 oppose, 0 abstain

13. 39 UAS 5.5: Bill to Provide Funds for a Darfur Fundraiser Dinner

- a. Paul: initiative is new, qualifies for Fresh Fund funding
- b. Keone: groups are always doing new initiatives, questions appropriateness of issue for Fresh Fund, wants to see them seek FinBoard funding
- c. Hans: wouldn't qualify to Finboard, cut out DomeView costs, should be Senate Discretionary fund
- d. Hans: Amendment remove Domeview line item, cost reduced to \$900, change wording from “UA Fresh Fund” to “Senate Discretionary Fund”

