

UA Senate Meeting
September 29, 2008
40 UAS 1

Absent:

Kevin Marengo and Brandow Lew (IFC)

Future meetings should be at 8pm, full calendar will be emailed out.

Tentative schedule:

today

oct 6 (budget meeting)

oct 20

oct 27 (emergency meeting slot)

nov 3

nov 17

nov 24

dec 8

Jason welcomes new Senators.

Senators: Be sure to email the senate minutes out to your constituency's discuss list. You are the link between the senate and your constituency.

Each constituency has access to senate discretionary fund (\$50 / senator). ``Hey, this is the UA, have some donuts and come talk to us about things''. Let us know so we know you aren't buying beer. (Talk to maggie and jason)

Senators will be required to join a committee. Next time, committees will be here to tell about them. Check email for descriptions of committees.

Senate attendance policy: miss 2 consecutive senate meetings or 3 over the course of the term and you get fired. Always send a proxy if you can't make it and let ua-senate-officers know.

Email senate @ ua-senate@mit.edu <<mailto:ua-senate@mit.edu>>

People introduce themselves.

Old business - there is none!

40 U.A.S 1.1

(http://web.mit.edu/maggied/Public/UA/40UAS1_cross_products_bill.doc,
http://web.mit.edu/maggied/Public/UA/40UAS1_cross_products_bill.txt)

Keone offers the bill

We should do this to support groups that don't have the funds, look at groups that have tried to fund the event

Looking not for a grant, but a loan

Noah: I didn't think that we lended money out. What are we, bailing out like the government?

Keone: This is exceptional, give groups money to get them on their feet but expect them to work hard to pay it back, committed to go in the right direction. Better direction for senate.

Bill: how many groups would we be able to do this for? If they sell cds, they will have enough money to pay us back?

Keone: 3 year cycle, hope to make 6-7k. This will get them back on their feet and get going. UA has 80k sitting in reserve. UA never uses all their money, here to support student life, support my group. Keep in mind how many groups we are dealing with, but this seems reasonable.

Jason: We lent money 3 years ago to another music group for production costs of a cd

Sun: how much money in each fund?
Fresh is 3k, discretionary fund is 10k

Friendly Amendment: add "on the unpaid balance" to second that clause

Zack: How do they plan on publicizing themselves to sell cd to pay back and make money for the next cd?

Keone: sell in student center, alumni, website

Mike: Did you go through finboard on this?

Keone: Does finboard do loans?

Mike: Finboard would give them money. It would work well for them. Dunno if they would dump \$2k on it. Probably would have to wait until spring at this rate, they missed appeals.

Keone: Would we be able to get money from them after receiving a loan?

Mike: No. This makes me nervous about getting money back. Institutional memory is poor, don't want to loan and see money disappear

Tim: How many cds do they need to sell to get repaid?

Keone: \$10/cd, hoping to sell 5-7 hundred

Bill: How does this bill fit into the ua, will it be flagged saying that we'll get paid back? Not going to get talked about, how does it come up again in 2 yrs?

Jason: No idea, we just got paid back.

Vrajesh: They already spent money on recording, where does 2 years come from?

Keone: Arbitrary.

Sun: Switch to grant? Would anyone object to that?

Zack, Sarah, and others: I would.

Keone: proposal: mix, give grant, loan of 1k, by the end of this year, no institutional memory, make sure they pay us.

Motion to amend: 1k granted, 1154 loaned to be repaid by may 1st, 2009

Mike: 1k this year, 1k next year (loaned), this way we get half back.

Vrajesh: does this make sense? How would this affect funding of other groups over the course of the term?

Jason: We usually see grants, we see one of these a month, not many loans.

Bill: Loan is fine by me, but not a grant.

Zack: 1000 is heavy, absurd

Noah: suggest motion to table, asking for a lot of money, we need to know them better. They should bring evidence.

Amendment tabled

Sun: how much did we use last term?

Jason: don't think we used all but we used the majority (75-80%)

Bill tabled

Questions:

Nelson: how do we know what these sources of funding are for?

Jason: 10k - senate discretionary (you can use it how ever you want), 3k - fresh fund (to sponsor new initiatives)

Mike: We also have reserves, could use that for this loan

Alex's proxy: What is reserve for?

Jason: Reserve used for a rainy day

Hongyou: Funds go to reserve if we don't spend them?

Jason: In general, yes. a lot goes to finboard, rest goes to UA reserve

Samuel: will we have budget info before the next meeting? Can we have them before the meeting? Do we have a treasurer?

Jason: Yes, you'll have them before the meeting. We have a treasurer, but senate has to approve the spending. If we don't have money, we can ask for more money. student life fee increase so we got a cut of the increase, gave us more money.

Iman: Will we have to fund raise?

Jason: We don't really need more money, get money from student life fee.

Hongyou: history is to give grants not loans right?

comments from UAP/VP

Noah - I'm new too! We just got here, how can we use our time and resources. Mike and I spent a lot of time over the summer working on meeting w/admins, they know who we are, UA is a contact point, working on office.

Goal of office -- community so every one of you can feel comfortable being here, best work happens when people are just hanging out working on stuff.

working on internal organization, committees, will be presented to you next time around.

I want to start out saying -- what is the senate? Here we have people enthusiastic about policy, how mit works, student govt as a whole, any of these issues. it all comes down to here. We spent 30 min talking about this bill, don't take away from the meeting that all we did was talk about the merits of loan. my hope for body is gather people to see what it's like to be an mit student and talk about the issues. senate is what we make it, we can all make bills, senate has a pot of money, fin board is where most decisions should be routed, urge people to think about what people in

dorm are thinking about, bring everything you hear back to senate, conversations you have, with constituencies into this room. different experiences, what is the mit experience, they are all right, just slightly different.

I would like legislation to be something that people are concerned about, move to make a change, so Noah and exec and anyone can go forward with this. we have people from everywhere on campus that people agree student government wants people to do. what is it that students want, we just need to know clearly (says admins), senate can gather people with diverse backgrounds to talk about what's important for mit students as a whole.

I want you to take that out of today, any concerns people express, you can make a change in your experience and your friends experiences and years from now that everyone will have at MIT. We will live on.

Mike: two weeks from today - talk about where we see the UA going

Iman: question, if you get a complaint, can we write the bill?

Mike: Senate submits, don't need to write, they can write if they want

Dan: Can we fight for our own bills, can anyone come?

Noah: All welcome, this is a forum if people want to talk about stuff that's important.

Samuel: what can we propose a bill of? changing policies in dorms?

Noah: Less internal stuff.

Mike: bills vs resolutions
bills - do something
resolutions - state opinion

Senate represents everyone, bc says they want kitchens, pass a resolution saying all of campus wants it. Wanted to remove kitchens for dorm rooms.

Admins say they can't do anything about it, so UA wrote resolution saying they want to keep their kitchens.

Nelson: what power do we have other than our funding? (in terms of bills)

Mike: The senate holds the purse strings, bills tend to be funding bills. Resolve student conflicts (i.e. between a capella groups, studio wasn't shared fairly), safe ride stuff, delegate to committees, making committees

Resolution is if we have questionable influence over it, although it carries a decent amount of sway. resolutions and committee reports tend to really affect the admins - substantial messages

Zack: what is our relationship with the administration? When does our vote override theirs?

Noah: at the end of the day, MIT is private company, and they will do what they want to do. The sway we have is the brains that runs the Undergrad machine, we are recent alums to give money, we control if the alums are happy, we control funding for 'tute as a whole. Senate has great power to say people from all over campus agree and this is what we say as students.

Mike: power of embarrassment.

Sun: how do we make sure these get handed over to someone?

Mike: Martin made ties with admins.

Noah: I go and see people on the cycle. Mike and I have meeting a with dsl each week

Cody: do they care?

Noah: some do, some are really receptive, others are not as responsive

Mike: 70% genuinely listen, want to hear what senate thinks

Jason: Went to housing strategy group meeting, people there listen. important for them to hear important issues.

Two posts to elect: sgt@arms, parliamentarian

parliamentarian: keep eye on parliamentary procedure

Nominees:

Keone

Dan Hawkins

Keone -- I know robert's rules, senate. This person makes sure procedure is followed, make sure all your opinions are followed. No authority, speaker has that, but makes suggestions to the speaker.

Dan -- knows robert's rules, parliamentary procedure in high school, elect keone, he's not charging for it.

Keone wins!

Sergeant at arms:

Nominees:

Dan Hawkins - I was in the navy

Dan Katz - I am a gentleman, I open doors for people. compete in judo, wrestle.

Sun - 6 4, 185 pounds, I lost weight from last year

Jason - sergeant at arms gives them the bounce

Dan katz new sgt@arms

Jason swears everyone in.

I NAME do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of the senator of the undergraduate association and will to the best of my ability act by the rules of and create, enact and support the policies and goals of the undergraduate association. If I fail to perform my duties i will be removed from office, among a field of fire and brimstone.

Good of the order: in the future we will have an agenda.

Bill: do we forward minutes to every house (in IFC)?

Mike: Ideally, we will look into this.

Jason: Send your meeting minutes to your constituency. Add your comments if you would like to.

Noah: Plain text only!!!!!!!

Ekate: Put the bills online!

Evan: they will be.

Noah: in the mean time they will be in the public, but will soon be in the UA locker soon!

Samuel: How do I propose a bill?

Jason: Fill out a template, use whereas and that clauses. See someone who has been in Senate before for more information. Send your bill out at least 3 days before the meeting to ua-senate-officers@mit.edu <mailto:ua-senate-officers@mit.edu>. If it is a funding bill, there are additional forms to fill out.

Samuel: When will we have the budget?

Jason: By saturday. October 6th will be the special budget meeting.

Sun: (talking about 40 UAS 1.1) We shouldn't care about if we get money back, it's for students who have expended all other resources, and we should support that. Not saying I support 1.1 but consider whether this is a good cause or a bad cause. We shouldn't not fund anyone because we can't fund everyone.

Jason: Meetings run really long. Don't waste time on bills. Consider how much time you actually want to spend talking about things. Talk to me if you have feedback, tell me something more constructive than "you suck" or "jason you are a douchebag."

Adjourn.