

U.A.S. 3
UA Senate Meeting
November 3, 2008
8:00 PM
W20-400

1. Roll call
 - Yuanyu proxy for Alex Dehnert
 - Nelson Elhage: proxy is Evan Broder
 - Cody Daniel's proxy is Michael Grinsh
 - Bill Near absent
2. Announcements
 - 2.1. Retreat is 15-16 November
 - 2.2. I encourage you to attend house executive meetings; meet President; get UA on agenda
3. Agenda: Jason: approve minutes from last meeting.
 - 3.1. Haven't done that for last couple of meetings. So we're going to approve meetings starting from last May. Grab meeting minutes and get food. 10 minutes recess.
4. Katherine: chair of athletics committee:
 - 4.1. We put on athletics weekend this year. Our purpose is to be liaison for undergrads, DAPER, UA.
 - 4.2. Want to bring attention to MIT athletics
 - 4.3. Email me at UA athletics
5. Because it's 8:44, let's do something productive. Issues:
 - 5.1. Cyril: Aziz from Baker said they're making all desks for all dorms universal. Has anyone else heard of that?
 - 5.2. Are more logistics things going to be affected by new software available?
 - a) Yes, it can be a big issue with implementing electronics all over. I can take feedback from students back to Robin and myself before we take care of this project.
 - b) Keone: can you clarify scope of this project? I'm confused as to why this would affect package handling and a bunch of other stuff.
 - c) I'm not quite sure on this. When we meet we'll discuss how over encompassing this system will actually be. The point is we have the software, we'll begin talking about possible modifications.
6. Jason: Noah had to go, but he'd like us to talk about how we'd would interact with task force on student engagement and how NomComm communicates with Senate. Bill passed last year about NomComm. Just two lines of discussion we could talk about in last two minutes.
7. Keone: Have we found NomComm chair?
8. Are meetings open for Task Force and can we attend?
 - 8.1. Jason: not open and I don't know when they meet.
 - 8.2. Students on it are Noah, IFC Pres.
 - 8.3. Evan: I think it would be productive for us to cause task force to pursue student engagement.
9. One of my constituents has a concern about space for Science Fiction Society library. She wanted to suggest.
10. Bill: I think Noah does a good job on letting us know in UA about what TSE is doing. We're upset about them not listening to us. There is transparency, but I don't see them implementing their views.
 - 10.1. People have been trying to get 1 of 4,000 students at her meetings.
11. Ekaterina: I don't understand money issues. A lot is being injected into research and new

- buildings, and little to student activities.
- 11.1. Bill: I think 60 million dollars from David Koch is really helping that.
 12. Keone: to expand on topics for space on student activities and transparency:
 - 12.1. Sun is right about alumni preferring to build building with their own money
 - 12.2. Space: it appears that MIT Museum's footprint is going to be available, as they are looking to move.
 - 12.3. Transparency: question as to whether its really useful. I think when people ask for it, they aren't asking for it the way its happening now. We're talking about transparency into decision making process while its happening. In reality, decision is made by few major people.
 13. Hockfield mentioned about student transparency that we have students sitting on faculty committees. We should look to improve communication between ourselves and students on these committees.
 - 13.1. Resp. I think we should yell at NomComm to do it. I don't know who's on Institute Committees.
 14. Jason: example bill on transparency with class council. I'm thinking we passed a bill last year in senate I'll email out. The bill sounded good in my memory.
 15. Vinai:
 - 15.1. About NomComm: there are a lot of students on institute committees, with whom we should build stronger communication.
 - 15.2. I don't think NomComm is too strong at the moment.
 - 15.3. Other question: getting senators involved with CJAC, TSE, and such. Something important happens, we can all discuss things that we are all in tune with.
 - 15.4. Jason: in order to get in institute committees you apply in spring. It's hard with election time periods being so off. You aren't on Senate during elections.
 - 15.5. Katerina: NonComm sent chair of committee, and determined we want students who are qualified to be there. And I don't think senators are necessarily most qualified to be on committees. We sent out emails for students who we thought were good for committees. They weren't necessarily senators.
 16. Keone: motion to brainstorm and write up ideas to prepare us for next meeting.
 17. White board ideas:
 - 17.1. TSE
 - 17.2. Nominations Committee (committee b/w Institute Comms. And students and UA)
 - 17.3. Housing Database
 - 17.4. Student Activity Space
 - 17.5. W1
 - 17.6. Physical Education Points (required, and why Club Sports not included)
 - 17.7. Dining (mandatory meal plans, other meals)
 - 17.8. Hacking
 - 17.9. Textbooks (sp09, fa09)
 18. Vrajesh: We have committees to tackle all of these issues, let's talk to them.
 19. Maggie: talk directly to committees to get this done.
 20. Dining is contracted out.
 21. Keone: administration is trying to do that right now. We think even though local students are against dining, students don't understand what a good dining system is. We're going to create a mass dining system that might be mandatory, have expensive, decent food.
 22. Blue Ribbon: trying to stay away from mandatory dining. Price, quality and selection are the pillars we're looking into. If you have any ideas, one good way to filter your idea is through Blue Ribbon.

- 22.1. Talk to Erin Munsell, Mike Bennie, or pass a resolution here through Senate.
- 22.2. If you're trying to impact dining, do it quickly, and the place to do it is through Blue Ribbon.
23. Ekaterina: what makes you think that the administration will even listen to Blue Ribbon? It seems to me that Blue Ribbon will be ignored.
 - 23.1. Rich Berlin either approves or disapproves proposals from Blue Ribbon. Now they go up to Clay and Hockfield. When this survey/report is written, it will be reviewed by very high up administrators: MIT hired a 50,000 dollar consultant to review this. That's why we have the preferred dining plan we have today., This dining review may have the potential of having a huge impact.
 - a) It sounds like Blue Ribbon will make short and long term dining decisions: long term about W1 might not have much of an impact.
24. Keone: Dining is a contentious issue, so write legislation as to your ideas, and let's move on.
 - 24.1. Vrajesh: anyone opposed to giving students more choice?
 - 24.2. Adam: I think we'd support choice, but it's possible that there are reasonable economic arguments against students for being more standardized.
 - 24.3. Resp. I think the problem is that MIT wants dining to at least break even. Other schools are doing it to get their students fed. If they're making decisions purely on economics, I don't like it.
 - 24.4. Resp. Even on the preferred dining plan, we're cheap on dining. MIT does not make profit on dining.
 - 24.5. Keone: again, let's move on.
25. Keone: why does reading room smell? As a simple witness test, can we say what can we do to make this change happen?
 - 25.1. They use pink salt in snow, and radiation seeps up to the top.
 - 25.2. We're gonna maybe write a resolution to get CAC to do it.
26. Hand sanitizers on 5th floor:
 - 26.1. propose bill
27. Vrajesh: in what context does UA interface with administration on hacking?
 - 27.1. Steve Kelsch UA Senate speaker the year before last; looking to continue staying involved with hacking.
 - 27.2. Vrajesh: Hockfield had a point in stating that we never forwarded a proposal or point of view.
 - 27.3. Keone: somebody who cares write up a draft on hacking. Get started. Anyone interested in doing that?
 - a) Vrajesh: I wonder if it might be better to have a committee dedicated to this.
 - b) Committee on student life is relatively unemployed. Why not have them get involved with it.
 - 27.4. Keone: going to write a bill for the next meeting recommending that CSL look into the issue.
28. Evan: I recommend that TSE should implement an open minutes policy. Someone write a bill please.
29. Vrajesh: something more related to senators: you have 75 dollars to spend to meet with constituents. This is done so that students can be informed about what's going on with UA. They don't know what the UA does, and I think as senators we should actually meet with constituents.
 - 29.1. Riley: One way this was used was to hold study breaks, or make bulletin boards to post minutes within the dorm. Money wasn't used particularly well last year.
 - 29.2. Give receipts to Riley.
 - 29.3. \$75 per semester, not year.

30.Evan: motion to adjourn.

30.1.All in favor.