

# UA Senate: Monday, December 8, 2008

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## *8pm: Senate Meeting*

### Call to Order

### Roll Call

- Late: None
- Absent: Samuel Rodarte, Sarah Dee, Shin Nee Wong, Hongyou Xiong, Cody Daniel, Bill Near, Keone Hon

### Approval of Minutes

- UAS 5
  - Approved as amended

### Judicial Board Re-elections

- Anthony Rizos was confirmed as JudBoard Chair.
- Cinjon Resnick was confirmed as JudBoard Vice Chair.

### Old Business

- 40 UAS 4.5: Resolution 4.5 to Grant P.E. Points for club participation
  - Tim Stumbaugh: Cathy met with athletics committee yesterday. I haven't changed the bill. I am going to be working on this regardless. I wanna know if this is something that Senate should pursue.

### New Business

- 40 UAS 6.1: Bill to Keep Hand Sanitizer Dispensers inside the Student Center Filled
  - Ye Yao: Ye: since you all are in the student center a lot. Fifth floor student center. Nobody uses them because they're never filled. We want to make sure they're filled up.
  - Christian Ternus: This is several layers of abstraction below what the Committee on Student Life typically cares about.
  - Liz Denys: This is for UA CSL, not the Institute Committee.
  - Nelson Elhage: This should be done on the individual motivations of Senators. This is too specific an issue for Senate to be dealing with.
  - Liz Denys: How is CSL going to make sure that this is a priority?
  - Vinay Tripuraneni: Set a schedule.
  - Nelson Elhage: I motion we vote on this bill now. Bill passes.
- 40 UAS 6.2: To install new hand sanitizers outside every Athena cluster at MIT
  - Cyril Lan: About cleanliness, it came up that people should not bring food or drink to Athena clusters.

- Daniel Katz: How would you regulate this, and would related money come out of discretionary?
- Ye Yao: I don't know. I just want to now see if this is feasible.
- Nelson Elhage: I don't think anybody really cares about this issue.
- Christian Ternus: from whence does the UA derive the authority to police athena clusters?
- Resp.: Hotline maintains athena clusters.
- Ainsley Braun: This is not important. Senate should not discuss this.
- Bill does not pass.
- 40 UAS 6.3: Bill to Reimburse Rune
  - They didn't get their money last term, and we're the only one that can grant them.
  - Why did this happen?
  - Finboard not granting reimbursement.
  - Spent on magazine; we have a negative budget. MIT is supposed to reimburse us.
  - Bill passes.

#### Elections Timeline

- Ainsley Braun: Tried to expedite all elections, specifically the presidential elections by following election code. The entire process takes about six weeks and involves voting for the president, vice president, and class council members. If you're interested in running, stay on top of things. There will be an article in the Tech soon. The calendar is as follows:
  - Candidates meeting is on Thursday, February 5 at 8pm.
  - Two weeks to get in paperwork (signatures, statement of candidacy, etc.) due February 23 at 5pm.
  - Official campaigning starts Sunday, March 1st at 12:01am.
  - February 27 is the late petition deadline.
  - Must have proof of registration by Add Date.
  - UAP/UAVP debate will be on Sunday, March 8th.
  - On March 16th, all campaigning ceases in Athena clusters.
  - Results will be sent out March 21st.
- Noah Jessop: Why will things be so much earlier?
- Ainsley Braun: If we follow timeline, most logical timeline. If later, it will interfere with spring break. We want to make sure have key players elected by beginning April. The new P/VP will be sworn in on the last Senate meeting of the year.

#### Discussion:

- Christian Ternus: Blue Ribbon Dining Committee tasked by the administration to forward ideas on dining improvement at MIT to admin. My idea is to improve transparency with Blue Ribbon Dining Committee.

- Mike Bennie: We want to be able to make progress. If we let people know what happens, there will be plenty of arguing and nothing will happen. However, data from meetings and summary of meetings should be available to students.
- Christian Ternus: When Geoffrey Thomas and I proposed this legislation, we wanted minutes published. It's important for the impartiality of the dining committee that every word stated made public. They can't claim to represent student body of nothing is public.
- Paul Baranay: I reached out to Erin Munsell, James Torres, and other committee members, because I don't think they have been very productive.
- Tim Stumbaugh: Do people really care about having statements they made be attached to their names?
- Mike Bennie: Yes, it has been a problem in the past.
- Cyril Lan: People at MIT should realize that Blue Ribbon just wants to solve problems.
- Christian Ternus: Purpose of committee is to include students in process to provide legitimacy in the decisions made. The committee can't claim legitimacy if not taking student input into account. If we can convince them that student voices are heard, then something like Pritchett won't happen again.

#### More New Business:

- 40 UAS 6.4: Bill to Increase Transparency and Empower Student Representatives on the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee
  - Vrajesh Modi: The reason that this is a bill is so that UA is requiring the representatives of the committee to represent proceedings.
  - Resp: This requires student representatives.
  - Paul Baranay: Will the administrators approve of this?
  - Ainsley Braun: Has something like this already been brought up to the administration? What did they say?
  - Mike Bennie: We didn't have anything concrete for the last meeting. Students want choice and dining to be open a long time. This is now an issue. I've been on this committee for three months. No one else has called this up as an issue.
  - Noah Jessop: No matter what we recommended, Dining committee was dealing with W1. It's only in the last meeting where we notice that decisions made will actually have impact.
  - Mike Bennie: With this bill, I have to do this because senate has made me do this. This allows me to push for other things within the committee.
  - Geoffrey Thomas: Members of committee can't say they won't participate because there aren't open minutes. Members should instead put their feet down.
  - Bill passes.

#### General Announcements

- Noah Jessop: Any senators spend their \$75 yet? Do it.

- When we start new term, we can introduce new things. We are going to try to create new cycles.
- Sun Kim: last Exec. meeting we discussed goals. I want to start an email discussion on Senate goals. I'd like to introduce Charlie and Austin as peer senators from IFC. We fired other two because they didn't show up.
- Jason Forte: We're looking at bringing administrators to Senate for next term, such as Dean Colombo and Chancellor Clay.
- The former GSC President wants to come into Senate to discuss the MIT Corporation.
- The first lunch with Hockfield will be held early next term.
- Vrajesh Modi: If interested in Energy minor, or know anybody, please let me know.

Adjournment: 10:47 pm