

UA Senate: Monday, March 16, 2009

6:30 pm: Dean Chris Colombo as guest speaker

- Dean Chris Colombo: I joined the MIT community in August just before orientation. Since I've arrived, I've tried to meet as many living groups and students as possible. I've met with all the fraternity and sorority presidents—also CAP and other committees. I live in Next House with wife and two sons and officially became housemaster there in January. MIT went from a very healthy campus to one which has to deal with the economy in ways we didn't anticipate
- Maggie Delano: What would you say are the top few priorities of the Division of Student Life over the next few years?
- Dean Colombo: I've tried to learn what's important to all of you over the past seven months. The 1998 report on Student Life, which recommended that all first years stay on campus, also said that not enough energy was put into student life at the time, so MIT separated offices of student life and education. One priority is to preserve living groups in a way that makes sense to you and to MIT as they are part of a strong tradition. The past two years have given a lot of support to the FSILGs, but also to the AILGs. We want to focus on CJAC's feedback and your feedback to move forward with the integration of the residential life experience with leadership programs and enhancing programs like community catalyst. We also want to work on engaging alumni to better support our current students.
- Paul Baranay: Where do you see MIT going in regard to funding student groups?
- Dean Colombo: I have to admit I haven't learned a lot about the student activities other than those that invited me to an event. We have made sure that the budget has been and will be preserved. I want to have a better understanding of how the SAO works—both what's working well and what can be better. There's some concern about the bureaucracy about hosting events—everything from room reservations to hosting the groups. It will probably be harder and harder to get the same allocations in future years. Student groups should be very conscious of the budget.
- Cody Daniel: Where do you feel emphasis needs to be put in the housing system, especially thinking about REX and Rush?
- Dean Colombo: Some say it should be extended, while others say it doesn't need to be. Some students make decisions about their housing over CPW. FSILG Rush/Recruitment is later.
- Cody Daniel: Do you feel it's a pretty good system currently?
- Dean Colombo: I have no problem with it at all. The only problem I have noticed is parents complaining about students needing to move after the first week. A lot of parents don't understand that component of REX.
- Cody Daniel: Steer Roast is one of the largest alumni events on campus. Do you want to see more things like that?
- Dean Colombo: It's a big tradition at MIT. Unfortunately, when you have such large events, things happen, and you have to manage those things.

- Cody Daniel: What was the Random Hall alumni event?
- Catherine Olsson: It was the 40th/10th birthday event. Even during times that don't have a large event, there's a huge alumni presence in Random because alums in the area come by all the time.
- Cody Daniel: How can we improve alumni relations?
- Dean Colombo: I'd like to work with every living group and see how they'd like to interact with their alumni. Some students are curious how the experience affects later parts of life. I'd also like to see a stronger connection not just with checkbooks, but assisting students in understanding what happens with their education. Students would benefit from networking. How can get alums incorporated with campus life? Can we get advice on what's necessary? The last alumni survey indicated that there was not enough emphasis on communications and leadership. Different dorms will also have different needs and wants from their alumni.
- Cody Daniel: I'm glad you see that there is a dorm connection and a campus wide connection.
- Dean Colombo: Students have helped me understand that.
- Paul Baranay: The leadership programs here are great, but there are also a lot of student groups that need leaders. With regard to orientation, a lot of students choose not to go to a lot of the events, never meet their Orientation Leaders because of other things going on—has your office thought about ways to make orientation better for students?
- Dean Colombo: We've been negotiating with the DUE about orientation. We need more input from students. What are we trying to do with orientation? For many schools, orientation is about understanding what the academic world is about at college. After that week, how do we continue that program? Maybe upperclassmen need more programs in addition to orientation to help them understand the academic world.
- Paul Baranay: What kind of formal mechanisms do you have in place to talk to students about these sorts of things? Are there routes beyond CSL?
- Dean Colombo: I can't believe we haven't figured out a better way to communicate with each other. We need to find more ways to communicate, for instance, I'm willing to do more of these sorts of discussions.
- Keone Hon: Let's turn the conversation to a bill that we passed last meeting. Do you have any questions about our motivations or thoughts as to what may come out of it?
- Dean Colombo: I understand that you have issues with Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC), but I still think that it will serve its purpose. We will release the data. We talked about it in the Student Engagement Committee (SEC) today. I've also been working really closely with Mike. I want to make a plea to you: If you form another committee, it needs to be really representative. You should keep people involved in this committee, such as the IFC president helping to select IFC representatives. You should get graduate students involved as well because they play a part in dining. I hope the committee will coordinate its efforts with BRC. "What we want from you all is the best damn plan we can get." We want to make dining as good as possible for everyone. We really want lots of options and affordability. It needs to be affordable both on the side of students and the

Institute. I regret that the students on the committee have been viewed as individuals who are not serving you. I assure you they have been serving you quite well. You need to look at how dorms, UA, IFC, and Panhel governments work together. It would be nicer if you all had some kind of united front so that the administrators don't have to trip over themselves to figure things out.

- Keone Hon: As far as the students being viewed as not being representative, the student body trusts those students fully, but there may be other things preventing the lines of communication.

7:00 pm: Dean Chris Colombo, Muriel Medard, Institute-Wide Planning Task Force's Student Life Working Group as guest speakers (Co-Chair Steve Lerman was sick)

- Muriel Medard: Thank you for taking the time to talk to our committee. There's a very large task force which was put together by the provost. Our subcommittee is the one on student life. The Student Life Subcommittee really wants to go out and get information from the student body because there's a lot of quantitative data available, but not a lot of qualitative data. Earlier today, Lerman went to Simmons. We're going to meet with EC, GSC, IFC, Panhel, and other various constituencies. There are also, of course, the UA representatives to the undergrads. We are really trying to: 1. Alert you to the fact that this is going on and promote you to all approach us freely, and 2. Really try to engage you to think critically about what's going on.
- Catherine Olsson: Some of my constituents are concerned about the libraries being closed down. People came here because of the resources, not some of the more superficial programs being here.
- Muriel Medard: The libraries are great. A difficult thing has been the interface between education and student life. I agree that they are very important. This falls under education and research.
- Paul Baranay: How do you plan to better publicize the Ideabank to the student body?
- Muriel Medard: I don't have the direct access, but I hope you have some ideas for it. Things that go into the Ideabank do not need to be carefully vetted ideas. It's anonymous; you're not offending anyone. Just use it. We really do look at it.
- Noah Jessop: I didn't send out an email right when it came out because there wasn't a lot of data on it. Is it at the proper growth stage now that campus wide attention would be good?
- Muriel Medard: That would be really helpful. People are pretty good at triaging the various ideas at this stage.
- Cody Daniel: the Ideabank is a really great thing to exist here. I've heard so many complaints about the libraries and things that have not been discussed in the committees. What can we do to improve this other side of communication?
- Muriel Medard: We want to communicate in as many forums as possible to get as much representation as possible. There's a lot that has been done trying to connect students and faculty, such as the CSL Interact site.

- Dean Colombo: Committees have been structured to look at FY11 and FY12 there's 150 million they need to cut—50 each year. The FY10 budget cuts have already been done—such as with the libraries, those managers had to make decisions.
- Muriel: Out of one billion, there's a 5% reduction each term. This year was done mostly by local decision makers. In the long term, it is not just 150 million in reduction, because we also need to take into account revenue increases, which is why one of the committees is about new revenue generation.
- Dean Colombo: There are nine subcommittees approaching different parts of the budget in different ways. One of the initiatives behind all of this was to look at big ideas. How can we do business differently? We want to talk about larger initiatives. There are two things that you can help with: 1. Convey what's important to maintain like Financial Aid (which Institute has already made a decision about—to preserve it) and 2. Help propose cuts.
- Muriel Medard: For instance, look at how dorms are used over the summer. How do I use place I live in, medical care on and off campus, sports facilities—how can things be done better?
- Paul Baranay: What falls under student life? Have you been talking about ways to further trim dorm funding, student group funding, and FSILG funding—all things students really care about? I'm on the Revenue Enhancement Subcommittee. Also, as NomComm Chair, I want to help bridge the gap between undergrads and undergrads on committee.
- Muriel Medard: We're a very tentative committee, and it's not because we haven't been meeting. We want to figure out as many qualitative aspects as possible to better understand the quantitative data. We want to ask how efficiently we're doing the different tasks and haven't had large ideas in changing budgets yet. This isn't just a review of Chris Colombo's office. There are a lot of things that touch student life that are not in it and vice versa. We're trying to be very careful because the student life budget touches people at a very personal level. One idea that has been floated regards what do we do with housing stock over the summer. FSILGs probably rent out all of the rooms over the summer. If you look at the dorms, not all of the rooms are used—a lot of housing is empty. There's upkeep that needs to happen, but beyond that there are tons of open rooms and such, and there's great potential there. But this would change the community. People enjoy staying over the summer with a subset of friends.
- Mike Bennie: Student group funding is not going anywhere because it's coming from the Student Life fee, which has more legal ties and it's not a lot of money relatively to the whole budget.
- Sammi Wyman: Have there been any specific things that you are really committed to maintaining like Financial Aid? Is anything else on that level?
- Muriel Medard: At this point, no. You pay for student fees directly. As far as dorms and such are concerned, want to do as best as possible.
- Liz Denys: I'm on this subcommittee. Each aspect of student life has a lot of parts. Our committee really need to evaluate how smoothly and efficiently these parts work to preserve the traditions and spirit without spending as much. Because of this, we can't

say that we will keep something like housing in its exact form in all aspects, but we will preserve the spirit of housing.

- Sarah Dee: Regarding summer housing, EC will have a summer program this year. Of course it's the housing office's decision, but people talked to EC about it and such and worked out an agreement. With BRC, it's about how the interaction has been going on that makes people uncomfortable not the committee itself. I think people really just want to have discussion early and often to make people happier about the process.
- Dean Colombo: There will be decisions that will need to be made. Sometimes, they're around things we can't talk about like personnel.
- Sarah Dee: I understand that. But there are more issues that can be shared than not.
- Muriel Medard: Our minutes will be posted. We had a co-chairs meeting end of the last meeting where we discussed publicizing minutes. We're also a consultative body because we're making recommendations not decisions. We hope they will be adopted based on their strength, but our decision making ability is actually none.
- Sarah Dee: We'd just like to be told everything we can be told, every time we can be told it.
- Catherine Olsson: Sarah says early, often, but I'd also like to say specific. When you speak summer housing, I hadn't even thought about that as factoring into the budget cuts. We want more coming from your direction along the lines of "we're thinking about handling this issue, what do students think about it?" as opposed to us trying to come up with what's important out of nowhere.
- Muriel Medard: Minutes can't be immediate because the committee needs to go through it first and internally approved first. I expect to post first set of minutes by the end of this week.
- Noah Jessop: We should be watchful for these things.
- Muriel Medard: There are reports are going out twice a month to make sure we're on task.
- Mike Bennie: This is just to make sure groups are doing what they're supposed to be, and currently are, doing.
- Daniel Hawkins: From the Simmons discussion, there was talk of cutting urgent care from midnight to 8 am. Is that the time of least need?
- Muriel Medard: We are looking into Medical, but we have no data yet.
- Dean Colombo: This is an FY10 cut—go to medical's site to see the details. I think they're talking about summer hours.
- Muriel Medard: Our committee hasn't made any recommendations yet.
- Dean Colombo: I think you all need to understand where things are posted. Medical posted on their website for FY10.
- Vinayak Ranade: It would be good to poll people for preferences comparatively on the Ideabank. Also, assuming all decisions are perfect, is there an appeals process for decisions that have been made already?
- Dean Colombo: If you have a better idea, especially in comparison to decisions already made, put it in the Ideabank *now*. You need to know the avenues available to you so you can voice these concerns.

- Muriel Medard: I don't think there will be a formal appeals process. If people say you did "a" when you should have done "b" and people agree with it, that might help. The managers really have had to make tough decisions already, though. Think about what is really important to you.
- Dean Colombo: Please get us any ideas you have through idea bank or to us directly.

8pm: Senate Meeting

Call to Order: 8:16 pm

Roll Call

- Late: Cyril Lan, Shin Nee Wong
- Absent: Bill Near
- Proxies: Kristina Cibor for Eleni Orphanides, Paul Baranay for Sun Kim, Adam Bockelie for Tim Stumbaugh, Tony Valderama for Vinay Tripuraneni, Teresa Giblin for Anila Sinha

Approval of Minutes

- December 8
 - Alex Dehnert: Motion to table, Tabled.
- February 23
 - Approved as amended
- March 9: Discussion Session
 - Approved as stated

Old Business

- 40 UAS 7.2: Bill to Transfer the Enumeration of the Senate Standing Committees to the Senate Bylaws, Modify the Requirements to be an Officer, Change the Senator Constituencies, and Other Changes
 - Keone Hon: Should we write what the clauses we are changing here used to be?
 - Catherine Olsson: It would be useful for History purposes.
 - Jason Forte: We could write original statement then the replacement.
 - Vrajesh Modi: What do people think about the second that clause—the idea that standing committees can be created and destroyed in one meeting?
 - Mike Bennie: That was cut. I can update the bill now.
 - Keone Hon: In the interest of expediting this process and because we have guests, I motion we table this until the end of this meeting. Tabled until the end of the meeting.

New Business:

- 40 UAS 9.2 SEIU Joint Statement Resolution
 - Vinayak Ranade: The SEIU does not want to do this bill right now.
 - Alex Dehnert: Motion to table this bill. Tabled.

- 40 UAS 9.3 Funding for Mass CPR
 - Matt Luchette: This will be MassCPR's 4th year. Last year we trained 120 students and faculty in CPR. Most CPR classes cost \$50 a person—last year we subsidized all undergrads, and for everyone else it was \$5. It's a great opportunity.
 - Alex Dehnert: Did you go to Finboard about this?
 - Matt Luchette: We applied for LEF funding and were told it was through Finboard.
 - Paul Baranay: So, no.
 - Matt Luchette: We only start planning a couple of months beforehand.
 - Alex Dehnert: So, you didn't plan far enough in advance.
 - Matt Luchette: We don't have the manpower to.
 - Keone Hon: LEF is not through Finboard; it's administered through a separate group, mostly ASA members. LEF applications are due this Wed.
 - Matt Luchette: The event is on April 2, and we already applied for LEF and PSC funding. We're just hoping to also get UA funding.
 - Keone Hon: Because you got it last year, it's an indication you likely won't this year because coming to the UA for funding isn't supposed to be recurring. What did you ask for from LEF and PSC?
 - Matt Luchette: We hope to get \$1000 from LEF and \$1500 from PSC.
 - Keone Hon: Leaving you behind by \$1250?
 - Matt Luchette: We don't want to dive into our account this year. We also didn't know the UA was a onetime thing. It's also in the UA's best interest to help fund such a positive event
 - Mike Bennie: Did you get funding from Finboard?
 - Matt Luchette: No.
 - Cody Daniel: Can they get funding from Finboard? Have you ever?
 - Matt Luchette: Not for this event. We've never had an indication that we could.
 - Mike Bennie: Are you sponsored by MIT Medical?
 - Matt Luchette: Yes.
 - Mike Bennie: That might be why they can't apply?
 - Paul Baranay: They can apply to Finboard. Did you not apply to Finboard because you thought LEF and Finboard were the same?
 - Matt Luchette: Yes: messages got misconstrued.
 - Keone Hon: If you applied to Finboard for this event, they'd ask about why you're spending \$2000 for t-shirts. Are the t-shirts really critical to this event? The training, not the giveaways should be critical.
 - Matt Luchette: I agree with you. We had a problem with this in the UA last year. We made \$2000 of budget cuts this year. We thought t-shirts were important so participants would have something to take away from the event. We also gave them inflatable mannequins last year. We also want to give t-shirts to them because it's great for publicity.
 - Keone Hon: Point of Information, have you seen people wearing them? So, a couple people have seen them. I just want to know how effective this is.
 - Alex Dehnert: Is this too short of notice for the LEF/Arcade to ask for more?

- Mike Bennie: Our next meeting isn't until after the event, if they can't get more from LEF.
- Keone Hon: LEF is anticipating a lot of apps. It's not too late to amend; it just might not go through.
- Mike Bennie: Will they get back the decision in time?
- Keone Hon: Applications are due Wednesday, the timeline for decisions will be shortly after.
- Paul Baranay: There are other health groups on campus. Can you get more funding from Medical or another group?
- Matt Luchette: We haven't asked Medical because we're kind of already tapped out with them.
- Paul Baranay: Did you think about approaching other health student groups, like Medlinks?
- Matt Luchette: We did go to Julie Banda—she's helping with running the event, but she can't really help funding.
- Keone Hon: The big issue for me is the t-shirts. Do you think they are important enough to warrant the money from somewhere? Senate, if you're ok with the t-shirts we should fund; if not, we shouldn't. We do have the money, it's just whether or not it's a worthwhile expenditure. [Hands indicate people are split on whether the t-shirts are positive or not.] Can we focus the discussion on t-shirts?
- Vrajesh Modi: Why will there be 200 t-shirts if only 150 participants are anticipated to be there?
- Matt Luchette: Wishful thinking and we want to be prepared.
- Vrajesh Modi: How much per t-shirt?
- Mike Bennie: Looks like \$10.
- Alex Dehnert: In principle, Senate is not well setup to weight funding issues. We should refer to those other groups like LEF/Arcade to decide who the most worthy student groups are.
- Cyril Lan: About the t-shirts, I remember last year about MassCPR asking for more t-shirts than participants, because it was also to give to the volunteers.
- Richard Dahan: Why not only give 100 t-shirts to the first 100 participants or something? Why not give just to the most excited?
- Paul Baranay: I think it's a great event and service. Finances are tough for everybody, though. If you go to MassCPR, you're going to learn CPR, not to get a t-shirt. Motion to vote.
- Eleni Orphanides: How much is left in the Senate discretionary?
- Jason Forte: We have enough.
- Mike Bennie: There should be \$7K left.
- 13 for, 9 opposed, 3 abstentions: Bill passed.

Elizabeth Maroon: We are here regarding the planned closing of Lindgren library. We'd like to work on a bill to help support the EAPS department in support of not closing the library. This is a big loss for us.

- Jason Forte: We'll finish new business first.

- Keone Hon: Why don't we task one or two interested people to sit and consult with them during this discussion?
- Maggie Delano: Can we vote to talk about this now?
- Paul Baranay: Motion to open discussion. Open discussion begins.
- Elizabeth Maroon: You've all probably read the Tech, and the EAPS undergrads are really upset. I've been working on this bill with Vrajesh. I'm here to answer questions with Jay Barr. Basically, closing Lindgren really doesn't save that much money.
- Jay Barr: Our knowledge of this is not much more than just saying it will close on July 1. The decision was made at the top of the library chain, and it was not discussed lower down. It would affect the educational and research systems of the department. None of the students or faculty in EAPS think it is the correct decision without first discussing how it will impact the teaching. We won't have GIS services anymore. Lots of students also use it as a quiet study space especially those in a joint program that does not have offices. This will really affect undergraduates.
- Vrajesh Modi: I just sent out the Library Resolution.
- Keone Hon: We need to vote to see if we should entertain this bill. Motion to entertain. Passed: Bill is now on the floor.
- Library Resolution
 - Elizabeth Maroon: This is being sent out now.
 - Keone Hon: I'm not prepared to make an actual decision right now, but I think the process should be more transparent. A bill asking for more transparency would be better.
 - Jay Barr: We had a meeting with Steve Gass and they told us how much they plan on saving in total by centralizing these libraries, \$100K.
 - Alex Dehnert: What is the total libraries system budget?
 - Jay Barr: Lindgren is \$1.5 million per year. No staff members have been let go as of now, but ours will be able to devote 20% of time they currently put towards our work to our work in future with these changes. They seem most concerned with only the 5% of their budget which is operations.
 - Shin Nee Wong: If library were to be closed, how would you get your resources?
 - Jay Barr: As of July 1, it will be closed to our department. There have been no timetables regarding moving to the new one.
 - Keone Hon: I don't really buy that they're only cutting down on the 5% operating cost. If staff are getting reassigned to main science libraries and putting 80% of their time to something else, then they are extracting some labor, for what it's worth.
 - Jay Barr: When our librarians are centralized, other librarians may or may not be on the payroll. The \$100K is regardless of how we think it will be computed—that's just the libraries total savings. When asked if that was significant, he did not want to defend that number.
 - Jason Forte: I got an email forwarded from Liz Maroon about it. I'll forward it.

- Cody Daniel: It came up earlier with Muriel and at DormCon. They give a number to the library administration and said here's where they have to do with this number. We did ask about this.
- Liz Denys: This is a FY10 decision. It's happening across the board and had to happen this quickly. The MechE cluster, for instance, is also closing. I'm not sure as to how much we can do about it.
- Catherine Olsson: It is happening across the board. We asked for an appeals process earlier, but they're not sure about it. If you come up with better ways to save money, it will be more effective than just asking to change their decisions, because the money does need to be cut somewhere.
- Cody Daniel: Use the Ideabank!
- Jay Barr: A resolution from UA and GSC will help get people a say later on if we do something now. Saying we don't like being left out now could help in the future.
- Paul Baranay: There is an Institute Committee on the library systems budget, you might want to have them appeal. There are two students on that committee, I'll send them emails tonight.
- Jay Barr: I believe we've already appealed to them.
- Maggie Delano: Given that you don't want to set a precedent that we don't want decisions made without input, Senate should add a "that" clause about being involved in future decisions.
- Adam Bockelie: It might be far more efficient to not have a UA resolution. Have you gone through the deans yet? Especially since it's not just a Course 12 decision...
- Elizabeth Maroon: It would give the head of our department a bit more power behind her negotiations.
- Keone Hon: A resolution can't possibly hurt. However, the resolution does need rewording. I'm not sure about the decision, but I can say that I agree the process was no good. I can't stand behind the statement about not closing the library, even though it does negatively affect students.
- Jay Barr: The money from the library comes from lib systems not the EAPS department. Gass just said this is the pot of money being cut. The budget cuts weren't made across the board equally, it was just made to cut the two branch libraries.
- Daniel Hawkins: I second Keone's comments.
- Nelson Elhage: It's not worth Senate's time to investigate the financial dynamics regarding the budget cuts for this department. If there is a job for Senate, it's to urge transparency, not second-guess budget cuts.
- Keone Hon: Is there a senator as a sponsor for this bill? If not, I'll sponsor it.
- Caryn Krakauer: I'll sponsor.
- Shin Nee Wong: Who made the decision about closing the library?
- Jay Barr: It wasn't communicated to dept or library personnel.
- Shin Nee Wong: We should specify who the administrators making cuts should be communicating with before finalizing them.

- Keone Hon: Motion to amend the resolution by striking the two that clauses in the resolution right now “That the MIT libraries and other administrators involved in making the decision to close Lindgren library, reconsider the decision with the help of students and administrators in the department of EAPS.” Friendly.
- Catherine Olsson: FY10 decisions were already made. It may not be able to be reversed, but it can definitely be reconsidered in FY11.
- Vrajesh Modi: I don’t think it hurts to bring it up. Also, I think this is worth looking into, but I don’t feel that informed on it. What if we came up with something more specific two weeks from now? Would that be better than something less specific now?
- Mike Bennie: Next Senate meeting is April 6.
- Jay Barr: As long as it happens, it’ll be beneficial in creating transparency in these decisions for Senate. For EAPS, time within the next month and a half is not critical. If it would be better in a couple weeks, that would be great. It’s slated to close on July 1. Also, I don’t think it’s critical to delve into the budget specifically.
- Keone Hon: Motion to table this bill until next meeting and ask that the sponsors work with EAPS to make the bill really workable in Senate. Tabled.
- Vrajesh Modi: I know you’re already working with GSC, but can someone look into making a joint resolution with GSC?
- Jay Barr: Yes. I’ll make a note to do that with the GSC.

Noah Jessop: I expect us to see a lot more of this kind of thing. I echo that we should look at the process, not second-guessing the cuts.

Jason: Let’s look at NomComm Dining Proposal Committee (DPC) candidates slate.

- Paul Baranay: Senate charged NomComm to conduct an application process for the DPC. We did this and on Saturday, selected our slate of nominees.
- Mike Bennie: Colombo said things about the IFC, what happened with that?
- Paul Baranay: There weren’t any applications from the IFC, even after sending emails to IFC. The current plan is for the membership to be very inclusive and open. I want to talk to IFC and as a fraternity member, plan on coming and participating. The GSC member suggestion came out of nowhere...
- Mike Bennie: Can we add something about adding these two representatives later?
- Paul Baranay: Sure.
- Sarah Dee: Let’s just write that other members can be approved later.
- Paul Baranay: Sure.
- Vrajesh Modi: The bill goes through list of positions, how is it reflected here?
- Paul Baranay: NomComm looked at them as needs to be addressed not positions to be filled. There are several athletes, an ILG member, a sorority member, etc.
- Sarah Dee: Does anyone have dietary restrictions?
- Paul Baranay: No. Vinayak has the cultural restriction that he can’t eat red meat. The closest thing to someone with dietary restrictions applying was one person who used to

be vegetarian. I would have like to see that reflected, but it just wasn't in application pool.

- Teresa Giblin: Have you talked to Panhel about off-campus Panhel people?
- Paul Baranay: Asked for apps from all 4. The sorority member is a frosh living in Baker.
- Mike Bennie: A BRC member wrote that she's disappointed with the list because 3 of the 8 are from EC. I know they aren't based on residence, but the representation is still skewed. It's unclear whether there are athletics reps, etc., and she wants to see this addressed.
- Paul Baranay: We had a long discussion about EC reps. Generally, applicants from EC outnumbered and outranked others in terms of quality. We wanted someone from West Campus non-dining hall dorm, but there was no suitable applicant. Each member of NomComm ranked each applicant, and the 8 highest people were slated to be on the committee. It happened that three are from EC. We talked about cutting that down, but they were best who applied.
- Sammi Wyman: What basic area was the highest score of someone from a West Campus non-dining hall dorm? How extreme was the difference?
- Alex Dehnert: 2.5 was highest score for them, vs. 3 as the lowest of someone on the committee.
- Kristina Cibor: We had a very skewed applicant pool.
- Keone Hon: We could talk in circles all day about whether NomComm did a good job or not, but I have faith in NomComm to make good decisions. We need to ask whether this is sufficient to start off this committee.
- Daniel Hawkins: I agree with Keone about this. On the timeline we're operating under, it will cut their time by 2 weeks to not let them get started. I know I'll talk to people with like dietary restrictions to help at that end.
- Caryn Krakauer: I like idea of starting it, leaving membership open.
- Paul Baranay: If Senate decides to go that way, that's up to Senate. I will abstain because I don't feel like I should vote on this one. Recommendations would be taken better than strict seats apportioned to people.
- Vinayak Ranade: Given the problems with the applicant pool and BRDC, I think that this speaks a lot to what the students think. If students thought this would fix the problem, then I think there would have been more apps. They're either not that much caring about dining or don't think DPC will be effective.
- Sarah Dee: Or they're opposed to it.
- Vinayak Ranade: DPC already has a bunch of obstacles. We need to create more solutions not create more problems.
- Daniel Hawkins: Last week we evaluated whether we wanted to create this committee or not.
- Sarah Dee: Can the candidates adequately represent beyond themselves?
- Paul Baranay: Yes. This is why the three EC members isn't a big deal. All eight slated really reflected the ability to do so.
- Nelson Elhage: The question we should ask here is, are we accepting this slate and if we're not, then what are our other options? I haven't heard any yet.

- Teresa Giblin: People need to know that membership will be open.
- Vrajesh Modi: Can we have meetings in a West Campus non-dining hall dorm?
- Paul Baranay: There has been discussion of having only open meetings, visiting different dorms.
- Vrajesh Modi: People will have concerns if process isn't transparent. Let's make sure it's as transparent as possible.
- Mike Bennie: Cinjon is currently on UA Judboard, can he serve on both? I don't think so according to the constitution...
- Alex Dehnert: We can ask Judboard for a ruling.
- Vinayak Ranade: It would be better to add extra students later instead of the whole committee. This way we can get it started now.
- Keone Hon: Is not having 20 different interests represented really the issue? I don't think the issue is students not accurately representing the student body; I think it's administrators having a preconceived notion of what dining should be. I think that this committee has as good a chance as any committee to getting the job done.
- Alex Dehnert: According the constitution, Judboard members cannot be a member of any other part of the UA. There is clearly a conflict.
- Sarah Dee: Do you have another possibility for his replacement?
- Sammi Wyman: I want to know what the process for adding members will be, such as if there's a targeted number of members.
- Paul Baranay: You can make motions to address this.
- Keone Hon: We could say that there could be 4 more spots or something, but I don't think we want to create a lot of infrastructure.
- Nelson Elhage: Question for Vinayak: You doesn't seemed thrilled about this idea, if this goes through, will you put in the effort needed to put in the work needed for maximal effectiveness?
- Vinayak Ranade: I will talk to Colombo about how this would work. I would probably switch chair and vice-chair with Daniel Hawkins after that.
- Paul Baranay: We thought this slate made the most sense right now.
- Vinayak Ranade: I don't want that much bureaucracy.
- Daniel Hawkins: I don't think this committee will have that much bureaucracy, but rather streamline the process to discuss dining.
- Vrajesh Modi: I want to put out the idea of not limiting the membership to a specific number. I'd like to see a more flexible committee. I'm not saying we shouldn't approve this slate, but if there are 8 more super qualified members, I don't want to limit them to 4 spots.
- Paul Baranay: Specifically used "strong set of core members" so that it could be more inclusive. NomComm has fulfilled charge at this point, if you want to charge us further, do it.
- Mike Bennie: I'm upset that 12 people voted for this bill in this room, and we have only one senator on the committee. If you're going to put the UA's political capital on the line, you should be willing to put your time into it.

- Vrajesh Modi: As a senator, apply to be on it or find people who you feel are qualified and get them to apply.
- Paul Baranay: The DPC should be entrusted to choose its own membership from this point forward.
- Keone Hon: Vinayak, you will get data from Colombo then get the data analysis. What will you not do?
- Vinayak Ranade: I won't fight with the BRC.
- Keone Hon: I don't think anyone wants you to. I have a lot of faith in you as the chair. Move to previous question. Motion to approve this slate minus Cinjon because he's on Judboard. Slate without Cinjon Resnick approved.

UA Office Confirmations

- Jason Forte: Ian resigned as Secretary General at the beginning of term. Liz has been acting secretary. She's now nominated to become Secretary General for real.
 - Liz Denys approved as UA Secretary General.
 - Liz Denys: I resign as PR chair.
- Jason Forte: Now we have the confirmation for Kristina Cibor as PR chair.
 - Kristina Cibor approved as UA Public Relations Chair.

Sarah Dee: If we're going to criticize other bodies for transparency, then we should go through this process properly. I don't think our process was sound regarding appointments.

Richard Dahan: I agree that the people were most well-qualified. Let's just make sure in the future we do it the right way.

Mike Bennie: The constitution doesn't specify too much about replacements.

Maggie Delano: Constitution says appointed by president subject to approval of senate. We should consider changing the constitution.

Alex Dehnert: Or we can use the power of the approval process. In case of PR, this was perfectly reasonable. I'm a little disturbed about the lack of advertising the position more openly for Secretary General.

Liz Denys: As Alex stated makes sense to keep approval policy, at least in terms of the committee chair.

Paul Baranay: I want to update constitution over the summer. Committees are held responsible to Senate.

Mike Bennie: I take a major interest in the constitution. However, we can't change anything drastically as ratified by three-fourths of undergrads. We need to look at what we're doing to make sure nothing is against the original intent of the document. If you don't agree with something in the constitution change it.

Old Business Again

- Motion to take 40 UAS 7.2: Bill to Transfer the Enumeration of the Senate Standing Committees to the Senate Bylaws, Modify the Requirements to be an Officer, Change the Senator Constituencies, and Other Changes off of the table. Put back on the table. Then retabled.

New Business Again

- 40 UAS 9.1: Bill to Reform the Secretary
- Keone Hon: Motion to table. Tabled.

General Announcements

- Mike Bennie: We got the BRC data and focus group information. Administrators are unhappy about the DPC, especially since it was created at same meeting Donna and Suzanne came to.
- Sarah Dee: They didn't do a good job assuaging our concerns.
- Vinayak Ranade: I'll be interviewing Donna on WMBR on Thursday at 4 pm. You can hear it stream from wmbr.mit.edu, and you can call in with questions. I'll also be interviewing Chancellor Clay the week after spring break.

Adjournment: 10:47 pm