

# UA Senate: Monday, April 27, 2009 PENDING

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*7:00 pm: Steven R. Lerman, Vice Chancellor and Dean for Graduate Education as guest speaker*

- Steven Lerman: This is my 40<sup>th</sup> year at MIT. As an undergraduate, I spent a year in Bexley, a summer in Random, a year or two off-campus, and came back to Eastgate for graduate school. I'm the housemaster at the Warehouse. I was in Course 1. I was the first director of Project Athena. We designed and built the Athena system of that year—at the time, it was a research and development project. I was chair of the MIT faculty, then I became Dean for Graduate Education and then Vice Chancellor. Being the Dean for Graduate Education is very different than from Dean for Undergraduate Education. It's a very small staff. There is no graduate admissions office—it's all in the departments. There's no target number for graduate students, some other schools do it this way, others don't. The Vice Chancellor is a new position, without a written job description. "I spend a lot of time advising people without authority." "Nobody reports to me in my role as Vice Chancellor." "It's a lot like being chair of the faculty." "The chair of the faculty has almost no direct authority." The way the chair gets things done is by persuading other people to do that. I'd be happy to talk about anything I can.
- Sun Kim: You mentioned the Campaign for Students. What is this?
- Steven Lerman: It's a big campaign to raise money. Usually, you just keep on tapping the donors. Instead, we wanted to work on a smaller campaign just for student life and services. The target overall is a half a billion dollars, but comparatively, it's quite modest. The goal is to raise that money by 2011. We try to raise half of it just through friends and donors privately, and then we begin an active public phase. We're in that public phase now. Some areas are getting more money than others, but we have about 300 million dollars right now. We seem a bit ahead of target, but it's a little tougher now. Donors are fulfilling the pledges they made, but some are waiting a while because of the economy. We're optimistic that we'll make it by 2011. The economy is showing some signs of looking a bit better. We're hoping for donors for some other projects, too, like W1.
- Cody Daniel: What do you see as culture and overall trends since you've been here?
- Steven Lerman: Some things seem to be very constant. For example, Bexley is kind of "anarchist," and it's endured. It was barely co-ed back then—5 to 7 percent female as opposed to 46 percent now. There were a lot more undergraduates than graduate students. Not all freshman were on campus. Many people from back then say that they wouldn't have gotten in here these days. The HASS program is stronger now both in structure and quality. Engineering is still very strong. Less conscious attention was paid to student life on all levels. The UA wasn't as active. The GSC barely existed. Financial support for students was much weaker. I was the last class to enter with sub-\$2000 tuition. MIT then was a "rougher" version of MIT today. Now we think about who's our competition: Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford, but back then we didn't think about it

that way. We were among the richest of the poor instead of among the poorest of the rich universities. A technologically centered university is very expensive to run.

- Cody Daniel: Do you think the quality of MIT has increased since then?
- Steven Lerman: Yes. Also, the gap between us and the other engineering schools has closed, but we are still clearly the best in the world.
- Paul Baranay: As both an undergraduate and graduate alum, I was hoping you could talk a bit about student groups at MIT. I've heard that most graduate students spend their time in their labs, their dormitory, and student groups in their apartment. Has that changed?
- Steven Lerman: It's certainly changed. In the past decade, there has been a real change in the emergence of graduate student life. The graduate student events now are always filled. The graduate students love interacting across schools. There's a huge growth. The GSC, for instance, is incredibly active. Graduate student orientation didn't exist when I was a grad student. Now, the GSC runs it: they design it, staff it, and execute it. There's been a lot of growth in graduate student housing in the northwest.
- Paul Baranay: Why doesn't the DUE adopt the model of having students run orientation for undergraduates?
- Steven Lerman: It's a lot easier orienting graduate students than those fresh out of high school. Parents, for instance, don't show up for graduate orientation. It would be good to try having more things be student driven. A lot of them are, but the education aspect is very much so headed by the DUE.
- Mike Bennie: What is your perspective on administrators making budget cuts and the possible bias that they could have with personnel and how that will get addressed in the next few years?
- Steven Lerman: The Provost left each of the managing budget people to make our decisions as best as we've thought. In some cases, it's been layoffs or program cuts. The administrative side took a bigger cut than the academic side. For all practical purposes, the operating budget falls into two areas: under Terry Stone for the executive side and under the Provost for the academic side. Nobody likes to do layoffs, but I think this year, everybody did. We did have smaller cuts on the administrative side than the academic side. The harder part is beyond 2010, if the economy stays this way. Another \$100 million over the next two years is going to be a lot harder than the first \$50 million. So much of the budget at MIT is personnel. From a practical perspective, we don't want to cut the faculty size. Layoffs will be more on the table if we have to make these cuts after next year. One thing we did was create this task force. Universities are not very good at cutting things. We need to think very hard as to what we need to emphasize and what we can cut. Each of the budget task forces are working towards finding creative ways to save money. We need to look at both revenue and costs, because we're looking at net revenue. In the end, we're not in the low-cost education business, but looking to be the best. The task forces all have students, and we felt that was really important. I'm hoping you get reports back. Different task forces have different amounts of transparency. In the end, there will be a public set of recommendations. The task forces don't decide

anything; they just make recommendations; the Provost, Chancellor, and Executive Vice-President will make the decisions.

- Tim Stumbaugh: For a lot of students, Greek life is a major part of their experience. How has Greek life evolved?
- Steven Lerman: I think when the FSILGs are functioning well, and they're an incredibly good strength. Generally speaking, FSILG alums are more active, and their lives in the FSILGs were a very important part of their experiences. I think it's great that the various groups have their own cultures and that students can choose what's best for them. Some of the fraternities have financial issues such as deferred maintenance. I loved Random Hall, but it could use renovation, so could EC, Bexley, and Burton Conner. I'd love to see a major renovation of the main group. We need to maintain our facilities better. As communities, most of them have been very healthy. Some have broken facilities like ATO. I would like to see MIT's FSILG system continue to flourish. We need it to, as well, because where would we put students that don't fit in FSILGs. Our guarantee for on-campus housing is similar to my bank's guarantee for my money—if everyone wants it at once, we won't have it. It's a symbiotic relationship between dorms and FSILGs. Wherever possible, we need to make sure they work well.
- Andrew Lukmann: About the issue in transparency for the task forces, who makes the decisions about how much can be released? What is the process for this?
- Steven Lerman: The co-chairs meet twice a month as the coordinating committee. We had this discussion and had no consensus. The only decision we could make was that each group should make its own choices. The minimum is to provide some summary. There are also students on all of them, which means they all at least get some student opinion. The co-chairs have believed that we need student opinion. The student life group which I co-chair is at one extreme—we put as much out as we can, but there is some that we cannot put out. HR is the other extreme, and the other committees are somewhere in between. We wanted flexibility in their positions.
- Cody Daniel: Are the spare cycles of Athena being used to take over the world?
- Steven Lerman: Haha. The first Athena machines were 10 to 20 grand a piece, and were too expensive to own. We had to build a model of public computing. We have a lot of clusters now. What's the future of Athena's evolution in the world where every student owns their own computer? Is it irrelevant now? I think it's more about social computing now because the actual computing can get done anywhere now. We need to rethink their value now. We should also think about where mobile devices fit into education. We don't have a good strategy around that. The next generation of mobile devices will be on the internet for a very, very low cost. We don't know how they fit in now with laptops—are they complimentary or substitutes? We need to think the next generation of the Athena system.
- Paul Baranay: I think the main thing people use quick stations for is printing. You can't do that on the iPhone.
- Catherine Olsson: That's what I use clusters for.
- Steven Lerman: We need to think a lot about printing. The ecological factors are there.
- Paul Baranay: Will that still be possible with expensive textbooks?

- Steven Lerman: Is the textbook market sustainable? Prices have risen faster than inflation. When the price crossed a threshold, I made the text recommended instead of required. Print documents are an issue as well.
- Keone Hon: The quick stations to me are more useful than the clusters. I'd just like to plug for the quick stations.
- Steven Lerman: The quick-print.mit.edu is pretty cool.

### *8pm: Senate Meeting*

Call to Order: 8:15 pm

#### Roll Call

- Late: Eleni Orphanides, Shin Nee Wong, Vinay Tripuraneni
- Absent: Jason Forte, Daniel Katz, Anila Sinha
- Proxies: Adam Bockelie for Shin Nee Wong (part time), David Hutchings for Charlie Huang (part time)

#### Approval of Minutes

- Hockfield Minutes
  - Approved.
- April 6
  - Approved as amended.

#### Old Business

- 10.3 Bill to Fund Palestine at MIT
  - Iman Fayyad: It was originally \$626, but now it's amended to \$75. I don't want to spend too much time on this.
  - Daniel Hawkins: Let's approve this and not waste more time on this.
  - Bill is passed as amended.
- 9.1 Reform of Secretary Bill
  - Vrajesh Modi: There is a CIT, who's responsible for maintaining the website?
  - Mike Bennie: The CIT is maintaining the functionality of the website, but who is in charge of the content of the site. I think the UASG should be in charge.
  - Alex Dehnert: Motion to amend the bill with the proper quotation marks. Friendly.
  - Keone Hon: I move to the previous question. Now voting on the bill.
  - Bill is passed as amended.

#### New Business

- Approval of new Finboard members
  - Mike Bennie: I think we should approve the chair and vice-chair.
  - Chair of Finboard: Danielle Wang

- Danielle Wang: I'm up for chairman of Finboard this year. I've been on it for two years. We want to more efficiently allocate this money as more and more groups are turning to us for money. The Finboard website is going to look like the UA website.
- Alex Dehnert: What do you mean by we're not actually part of the UA?
- Danielle Wang: The locker for our website will be separate, but the layout will look like the UA website.
- Rachel Meyer: How are you planning on working with the ASA with the influx of the new groups?
- Danielle Wang: If the ASA feels like groups should be supported on campus, we want to get them funding as best as possible. Also, the ASA treasurer is on Finboard.
- Andrew Lukmann: What about provisional groups that are asking you for money?
- Danielle Wang: They have to be funding approved to ask us for money.
- Maggie Delano: We are now in closed session.
- Paul Baranay: Does this mean that Maggie is in charge of who can remain?
- Maggie Delano: Yes.
- Danielle Wang is approved as the Chair of Finboard.
- Vice-Chair of Finboard: Jarrell Johnson
  - Jarrell Johnson: I'm a fourth year student, but I will be here next year. I sat on Finboard last year. Not to echo what Danielle said, but we really want to work on communicating with the groups, such as with office hours. We also don't want to mimic exactly what is done by SAFO.
  - Paul Baranay: I know you've very involved in other things. Can you address how you will have time for this next year?
  - Jarrell Johnson: I will be just on Finboard and Committee on Academic Performance on campus. I have another role off-campus for the National Society of Black Engineers as well.
  - Alex Dehnert: Can you talk about your thoughts on financial policy?
  - Jarrell Johnson: I think the current policy is pretty good. I think we should hold them to line items on their budget, and they should officially request if they want to go outside of that.
  - Andrew Lukmann: With the information that any dollar that isn't spent by Finboard can be used by the UA, do you think the amount of money Finboard has to allocate is correct?
  - Jarrell Johnson: As of right now, I think so based on the applications that we get now as the number of applicants for funding has been steady for the past few years. This might change.
  - Alex Dehnert: What do you believe the relationship between the rest of the UA and Finboard should be in terms of oversight?

- Jarrell Johnson: Finboard is part of the UA, and there should be communication. However, the agendas are varied, so I feel like it would be more of an update role.
- Rachel Meyer: How do you plan on working with the ASA, especially with the ASA making a lot more funding eligibility decisions? Should the ASA recognize groups and not allow them to go to Finboard?
- Jarrell Johnson: I think the ASA Treasurer sitting on Finboard is key in this relationship.
- Jarrell Johnson is approved as the Vice-Chair of Finboard.
- Finboard Slate: Cynthia Bouldrick, Charlie Huang, Chris Carper, Emily Zhao, Suniti Sundaram
  - Cynthia Bouldrick: I've been a treasurer for two organizations in the past. I really want to get involved in this. I live in New House 2.
  - Charlie Huang: I'm the treasurer of CSC right now. I live in PBE.
  - Chris Carper: I'm the treasurer for PSK. I don't have any direct experience with Finboard, but I can offer the perspective of students that have been on campus for three years. I'm in PSK and the cycling club and triathlon club.
  - Emily Zhao: I'm a freshman in Course 6. I want to bring a fresh perspective to Finboard and remove redundancy. I live in Baker and will move to Bexley. I'm on the women's ultimate team and part of SEBC.
  - Suniti Sundaram: I've been VP of finance and want to work with funding for the Committee on Student Life. I live in McCormick.
  - Danielle Wang: Finboard appoints 2 members: Charlie Huang and Cynthia Bouldrick have been appointed. Senate needs to pick between Chris Carper, Emily Zhao, and Suniti Sundaram for the remaining two spots.
  - Sarah Dee: Charlie Huang, how long have been a Senator?
  - Mike Bennie: As long as Austen.
  - Andrew Lukmann: For all of the people who haven't yet been on Finboard, how many hours does the average allocation process take? Then, I'd like Finboard members to say how long.
  - Cynthia Bouldrick: Allocations and appeals will take a long time.
  - Chris Carper: The actual meeting is 10 hours, with 15-20 hours of background research.
  - Emily Zhao: Same.
  - Suniti Sundaram: Same.
  - Alex Dehnert: Looking at the Bylaws in terms of membership. The Member at Large Candidate is Sammy Chu.
  - Sammi Wyman: How many applications did we get for candidates?
  - Danielle Wang: We got 13 applications, and 11 replied for interviews and only 1 applied.
  - Paul Baranay: Charlie was from last year and Cynthia was from the applicant pool?
  - Danielle Wang: Correct.

- Keone Hon: What is the election process supposed to be? What is process?
    - Rachel Meyer: How many Finboard eligible groups are there?
    - Suniti Sundaram: 70
    - Emily Zhao: 129
    - Chris Carper: 175
    - Paul Baranay: The correct answer is 215.
    - Charlie Huang is not approved as a Finboard member. Cynthia Bouldrick is approved as a Finboard member. Emily Zhao and Chris Carper are approved as Senate-elected Finboard member. The final member will be approved at the next meeting. Sammy Chu has been approved as the member at large.
  - Finboard would like to present Suniti Sundaram as their member because allocations need to start this weekend.
    - Danielle Wang: She's also our best candidate at this time.
    - Suniti Sundaram approved as a member of Finboard.
- Senate Officer Elections: Speaker, Vice-Chair, Senate Rep to Finboard, Senate Rep to Exec
  - Speaker: Paul Baranay, Sun Kim
    - Paul Baranay: I'm a sophomore. I've been in Senate on and off since I was a freshman. I'm also the Nominations Chair. I'd like to bring a strong voice into Senate, and I feel they should be a strong voice separate from Exec. Some of the big problems over the past few years have been communication and transparency. Communication is done by the Senators. I've gotten the permission from IFC, Panhel, and LGC to send minutes through their presidents. I believe what we do need is Senators to be advocates for the UA and the students. Senate meetings should be more efficient. I believe people got involved in Senate to make policy and inform the UA at large.
    - Sun Kim: I'm a Senator from fraternities as well. I'd like to see less of Senate turnover in the future. I think that continuity is very important in streamlining the first part of Senate session at the beginning of the year. I became a senator because of talking to Steve Kelch at the end of last year. I asked him how he went about being Senate speaker in order to form my vision. Two things I see as weaknesses in Senate: new senators who need to become acquainted with Senate and the lack of order. I may not be the most vocal member of Senate, but I am a valued person. I'm biased and fair. I will be firm with vocal Senators and reach out to those who need encouraging. I want to be less passive and less soft-spoken as next year's speaker.
    - Sammi Wyman: Paul, why didn't you run for Senate?
    - Paul Baranay: I was elected Senate Rep to Exec last year and named Senate Member of the Year, but my parents asked me to not be involved

in Senate next year. I got involved in Exec, but kept myself informed on Senate. When the IFC asked for replacements, I jumped on that.

- Andrew Lukmann: What are the personal characteristics you possess that would help you run the body?
- Sun Kim: I feel Paul's values reach onto other people's values, which may alter the mindset of Senators. I'm very fair and compatible with a lot of personality types.
- Paul Baranay: I'm charismatic and able to talk to as many administrators as possible because they should respect our voice as representative. Running the body, I believe it should be very formal. I'm effective at attending to business without quieting discussion that brings up new points.
- Sarah Dee: On a scale of 1 to 10, how well do you know Robert's Rules and plan to enforce them?
- Paul Baranay: 6. I read them last year. I believe that Senate should pay more attention to motions.
- Sun Kim: 6. I plan on brushing up on them. I believe Senate should have some semblance of formality.
- Liz Denys: What do you see as the Speaker's role in the executive body, UA Exec?
- Sun Kim: As Senate rep, I summarized what we did. Jason told me to do that this last year. I also want to recruit senators to work on executive committees.
- Paul Baranay: I think the Speaker should work closely with the UAP/VP, but also maintain some autonomy because Senate is a strong and independent body. I believe the Speaker should be at Exec meetings to gather information about the other committees and encourage senators to attend Exec.
- Andrew Lukmann: Every year, the Senate reinvents itself to some extent. Should the Senate take on internal or external affairs in the UA?
- Paul Baranay: I think the Senate should take a more external role in the UA because internal issues have been going on for quite a while. The Senate ought to advocate for things that the student body really cares about. Housing is going to be a big issue, and hacking will probably show up again, as well.
- Sun Kim: External affairs are very important as well. If elected, hopefully myself and the vice-chair will meet with the Dean. I was astounded last year when President Hockfield was here because I felt she was speaking exclusively to us. I think Paul is a lot stronger in this respect than I because he has a lot more administrative contacts.
- Martin Holmes: What is the biggest problem Senate faces as a body, and how would you fix it?
- Sun Kim: I spoke with Anshul who was writing a paper about different universities' student governments. I think that people are jaded towards

- the UA, and I want to overcome that obstacle. I would probably incentivize the Senate and work on streamlining.
- Paul Baranay: I would gauge the effectiveness of this year's Senate based on how many people stay in it. If not many stay, I will take a stronger role in how Senate operates. I don't think Senate should not be a time-sink. Senate projects need to be brought back or participation on committees.
  - Paul Baranay was elected as Senate Speaker.
- Vice Chair: Tim Stumbaugh, Iman Fayyad, Richard Dahan, Sun Kim
- Richard Dahan: I would really like to be vice-chair, but this isn't why I'm running for this. A friend told me Senate didn't function as a legislative body, and he was right. People don't always pay attention to meetings. I think the vice-chair really needs to establish personal relationships with everyone. I want people to pay attention because they want to.
  - Iman Fayyad: I'm a freshman, so this is my first year in Senate. I have not been very active, but I have learned a lot listening in Senate. I would like to get to know Senators individually. I really want to get Senators more involved. I also want to get more committee chairs, Institute committee Chairs, to come to meetings. I would be willing to work with Paul and do as best a job as I can.
  - Sun Kim: I told Paul I wouldn't run as vice-chair, but I think I would compliment him well. A couple points I forgot to mention in my Speaker platform is that I really want to develop a relationship with all the Senators next year.
  - Tim Stumbaugh: I really want to bridge communications with Senators and their constituencies, especially those who go unnoticed. I have strong opinions, but I hope to bring out those of others. I've also seen other parts of the UA. I'd like to take a more active role in helping the Senators know what to do. I think I have a good handle on the vice-chair's role.
  - Vrajesh Modi: With respect to Senate attendance, what do you do after Senators have missed 4 meetings?
  - Richard Dahan: You kick them out respectfully. I also want to make sure that all senators speak during meetings.
  - Iman Fayyad: I wouldn't wait until they miss four meetings. Would get in touch with them after they miss two.
  - Sun Kim: We hopefully wouldn't get to that point. I would ask them to step down. It's very hard to find desirable fill-ins. It will always be an issue, but hopefully won't get to that.
  - Tim Stumbaugh: After 1 or 2 unexcused meetings, let the living group know to see if they should do something differently. It's very important that Senators feel invested in coming to meetings.
  - Paul Baranay: Please list other obligations.
  - Tim Stumbaugh: I'm in varsity swimming. I don't mind punting a large portion of this for Senate meetings. I give tours every so often. I'm

involved in other parts of the UA, and I'm somewhat involved in my fraternity.

- Sun Kim: Fraternity roles and in the UA. I plan on staying with the Tech as an Arts writer—it's infrequent. I plan on being a Senator next year.
- Iman Fayyad: The UA will be my top priority. I'm mostly involved academically, and one other student group. If I joined anything else, it would be an Institute Committee.
- Richard Dahan: This year I took 81 units, SCEP, CSL, and a member of a fraternity. Next year, CSL, Senate, and I think I'll be able to devote as much time as humanly possible to this.
- Andrew Lukmann: What is your position on distribution of information, mainly with respect to computers?
- Iman Fayyad: I'd like to see a web forum for discussions instead of emails, because I think it would be much easier to navigate.
- Sun Kim: I like the current format with files on the website.
- Tim Stumbaugh: I like the current system, but it depends a lot on LaTeX. I want to work with the CIT to get a better way to compose bills. I think it's important people know how to submit legislation.
- Richard Dahan: I want to teach new members one on one what they need to know about mailing lists and legislations.
- Tim Stumbaugh was elected Senate Vice-Chair.
- Senate Rep to Finboard: Rachel Meyer, Catherine Olsson
  - Mike Bennie: 10 hours a weekend, twice per semester. You learn a lot about the financial system.
  - Rachel Meyer: I'm already familiar with what Finboard does. I know their application, philosophy, and the groups.
  - Catherine Olsson: I'm involved in a lot of different groups on Finboard. I learned a lot about Finboard since being nominated. I really want to figure out how funding works here.
  - Noah Jessop: Can you list your time commitments, Rachel?
  - Rachel Meyer: I do a lot.
  - Sammi Wyman: Address your conflict of interest in wanting Finboard to stand up to the ASA.
  - Rachel Meyer: I want the ASA to consider its place in funding decisions. ASA experience provides me with more knowledge.
  - Catherine Olsson is the Senate Rep to Finboard.
- Senate Rep to Exec: Richard Dahan
  - Richard Dahan is the Senate Rep to Exec.

Maggie Delano: Due to conflict of interest, I appoint Nelson as Speaker Pro Tempore.

#### New Business

- Approval of Executive Officers and Committee Chairs/Vice-Chairs
  - Assistant VP of Information Systems: Quentin Smith

- Mike Bennie: Please don't ask questions previously asked in the PDF Maggie sent out earlier.
- Quentin Smith: I'm a junior in Course 6 and live in EC. I'm involved in lots of aspects of technology on campus. I run scripts.mit.edu. I want to work on a Wiki.
- Paul Baranay: Are you willing to develop to a web interface to upload or create bills online?
- Quentin Smith: I will try to work on it.
- Andrew Lukmann: You're also the Technology director of the Tech.
- Quentin Smith: I won't be the primary source of any information about the UA, as is the Tech's policy.
- Vrajesh Modi: Will you go to Exec?
- Quentin Smith: Yes.
- Sammi Wyman: Will you help me, and other people who need help with technology?
- Quentin Smith: Yes.
- Paul Baranay: Would you allow other people to work on it?
- Quentin Smith: If there is interest, yes.
- Quentin Smith was approved as Assistant VP for IS.
- Chair of the Student Committee on Educational Policy: Sukrit Ranjan
  - Sukrit Ranjan: I'm currently the vice-chair and am on the Committee on Academic Policy. Yi and I have been working on a lot of things this past year from GIRs to student faculty dinners. I want to move forward on advising.
  - Sukrit Ranjan was approved as Chair of SCEP.
- Secretary-General: Elizabeth Denys
  - Elizabeth Denys: My platform's really outlined in the questions. I've been working with the Tech and the Communications and History Committees, and I want to expand on that next year as well as doing more advocating for policy.
  - Andrew Lukmann: Why isn't the Secretary the head of History Committee?
  - Elizabeth Denys: I will sit on the committee, but there needs to be chairs to do the bulk of the work, especially past history. It's also for redundancy so things are guaranteed to get done.
  - Paul Baranay: Do you plan on interacting with administrators?
  - Elizabeth Denys: Yes. I think the more student advocates we have the better, such as with the GSC's model.
  - Elizabeth Denys was approved as Secretary-General.
- Treasurer: Alex Dehnert
  - Alex Dehnert: I've looked into funding this past year, I want to look into what Senate should be funding and such this summer. I have experience as treasurer elsewhere.

- Andrew Lukmann: What do you plan on changing/continuing as treasurer?
- Alex Dehnert: I want to work on how Finboard works and discuss policy for this. I think that the treasurer with Senate directs funding policy for the UA.
- Paul Baranay: As treasurer, you regulate who gets reimbursed for what, how do you plan on doing that?
- Alex Dehnert: I will meet with committee chairs and discuss with them. I care a lot about the letter of the law for reimbursements and such.
- Riley Brandt: What are your thoughts on how much goes to Finboard vs. the UA itself?
- Alex Dehnert: Assuming that Finboard is well run, it is one of the better ways to allocate money. It behooves the UA to move a lot of the money out towards Finboard.
- Sammi Wyman: How do you feel about following line items to the letter? How do you feel about the invested reserve?
- Alex Dehnert: A small fraction of reallocation is fine because you can't always totally estimate how much you will spend. We should figure out some policy for the invested reserve. I would not accept to gradually spending it down.
- Alex Dehnert was approved as Treasurer.
- Ankit Gordhandas as Vice-Chair of SCEP
  - Ankit Gordhandas: I've been involved in SCEP this past year in a lot of ways, especially with online evaluations. I expect to be involved in this and more with TEAL and changes to certain GIRs that were heavily favored by students.
  - Ankit Gordhandas was approved as Co-Vice-Chair of SCEP.
- Liyan David Chang as Vice-Chair of SCEP
  - David Chang: I worked a lot on the online survey SCEP created. This last semester, I've worked a lot on violations. I'm working on the freshman packet.
  - Sammi Wyman: Would you be interested in working with the Assistant Vice President of Orientation on that packet?
  - David Chang: Those two tasks aren't necessarily tied. I think that streamlining it would be useful.
  - Vrajesh Modi: How do you see your role as vice-chair as being different from a member?
  - David Chang: I think it means I will be taking more initiative on these projects.
  - Sammi Wyman: How do you plan on improving freshman advising?
  - David Chang: To help freshman better understand the role of the adviser, we need to tell them that it's more of a resource and direct them towards the proper resources.
  - Vrajesh Modi: Do you have any specific new ideas for next year?

- David Chang: I think that there's a lot of brainstorming that needs to be done.
  - Sammi Wyman: What do you think about the proposed GIR changes?
  - David Chang: The simplification will make things easier.
  - Paul Baranay: What do you think about first-year focus classes? Should they be mandatory?
  - David Chang: They could be done well or poorly based on the professors. I think they should be tried out first.
  - David Chang was approved as Co-Vice-Chair of SCEP.
- Rachel Meyer as Chair of the History Committee
  - Rachel Meyer: I was here and approved three weeks ago. See the questions.
  - Elizabeth Denys: How do you plan on interacting with the UASG?
  - Rachel Meyer: Including the UASG in things.
  - Paul Baranay: How do you plan on working with the Speaker?
  - Rachel Meyer: Involving him.
  - Andrew Lukmann: How do you plan on working with the rest of Exec?
  - Rachel Meyer: Helping them with history.
  - Rachel Meyer was approved as History Chair.
- Alex Dehnert as Vice-Chair of the History Committee
  - Alex Dehnert: I also talked to you three weeks ago.
  - Alex Dehnert was approved as Vice-Chair of the History Committee.
- Brienne Kugler as Chair of Dining Committee
  - Currently Vice-Chair of Dining Committee
  - Mostly focused on local issues (as compared to Blue Ribbon, DPC)
  - Expand TechCash to more locations
  - Paul Baranay: Going abroad?
  - Yes, but only Spring semester
  - Vrajesh Modi: What surveys were you working on?
  - Brienne Kugler: Mostly for the specific dining halls about service and quality, last semester worked on pinpointing specific types of food that students liked and would like to have. This semester they focused on service hours.
  - Sammi Wyman: Expand surveys?
  - Brienne Kugler: Each survey is already fairly long, but we would like to add surveys such as one about lunch
  - Eleni Orphanides: Have you worked with DPC?
  - Brienne Kugler: No, it's been separate this year, but we hope to involve DPC members with Dining Committee next year
  - Paul Baranay: Still passionate about breakfast?
  - Brienne Kugler: Yes, Stata and W20 have more breakfast options, we want to survey about this next year
  - Sammi Wyman: How do you feel about leaving a lot of the policy to Blue Ribbon?

- Brienne Kugler: They were specifically tasked to do that, we are working on implementation and smaller issues.
- Richard Dahan: Have you read the BR report yet, what do you think about it?
- Brienne Kugler: They have done a lot of research.
- Vrajesh Modi: Have you read the BR report or draft? Do you advocate a reactive strategy?
- Brienne Kugler: Yes to both questions.
- Brienne was not approved for Dining Committee Chair.
- Alexandra Jordan for Dining Vice-Chair
  - Alex Jordan: I'm currently on DPC, wasn't involved with dining before that. Want to talk to Colombo about what he is taking from each report and that he is taking student opinion into account.
  - Sammi Wyman: What has been your primary approach to coming up with a good recommendation?
  - Alex Jordan: What will be financially sustainable and that MIT students are different from other students
  - Vrajesh Modi: Do you believe there is enough data to support closing a dining hall?
  - Alex Jordan: No, we don't have enough data and we didn't know about Dining Committee's surveys. We need more surveys of the dorms.
  - Sammi Wyman: Do you want to conduct more surveys?
  - Alex Jordan: Would be in favor of a survey, but it might not be that useful since reports are already being published and given to Colombo. Students are not very responsive as is. Need to make sure that the admins are not doing things that go against both reports.
  - Vrajesh Modi: Have you read the Baker dining report?
  - Alex Jordan: No, but I have read the Blue Ribbon report.
  - Alexander Dehnert: Would you be interested in being Chair?
  - Alex Jordan: Yes, but I also think it is a good idea to have someone who already has experience on the committee as chair.
  - Alexandra Jordan approved as Dining Committee Vice-Chair.
- Cathy Melnikow as Chair of Committee on Athletics
  - Cathy Melnikow: Junior in Course 15, on Varsity Volleyball, was Chair this last year. Wants to continue the same activities they've been doing this year. Keep people supporting varsity athletics. Also, focus more on club and IM sports.
  - Vrajesh Modi: What has been done about PE credit for Club Sports?
  - Cathy Melnikow: DAPER said we need a person to be hired to in charge of this and that's not going to happen with the current financial status
  - Andrew Lukmann: How do you plan on interacting with Club Sports Council (CSC) and other governing bodies?
  - Cathy Melnikow: We currently work with SAAC a lot, want to expand to CSC and IM.

- Sammi Wyman: At what point did you become aware of the budget cuts?
- Cathy Melnikow: The week before the town hall meetings, at SAAC, when the captains and couches found out.
- Paul Baranay: There is currently a CSC moratorium, how will this affect cut varsity teams becoming club teams?
- Cathy Melnikow: Not officially, but currently I understand that there will be a way for the cut varsity teams to become club teams if they wish.
- Paul Baranay: How will you ensure that committee keeps improving?
- Cathy Melnikow: So much to do now that the committee is stabilized, want to get more involved with IM and Club Sports.
- Sammi Wyman: Did you propose ways for DAPER to cut their budget in more amenable ways?
- Cathy Melnikow: We met with every varsity sport captain that wanted to meet with us and the athletic director and Dean Colombo and we found out ways teams thought they could cut money or raise more money. We put that money in a report and presented it to the athletics director. We wanted to delay the cuts, but that was determined to not be feasible.
- Alexander Dehnert: How much of your budget is spent on Athletics Weekend and do you think that's appropriate?
- Cathy Melnikow: We get at least matching funds (to the UA support) from corporate sponsors.
- Vrajesh Modi: Do you think the cuts were driven purely by financial motivations?
- Cathy Melnikow: I decline to answer.
- Cathy Melnikow was confirmed as Athletics Committee Chair.
- Zachary Rose as Athletics Committee Vice-Chair:
  - Zachary Rose: Currently vice-chair, committee expanding for next year, planning on dividing up new issues and still running Athletics Weekend and Beaver Bowl
  - Timothy Stumbaugh: Where do you live?
  - Zachary Rose: DKE.
  - Zachary Rose was approved as Athletics Committee Vice-Chair.
- Aditi Verma as Space Planning Committee Chair
  - Aditi Verma: Need more publicity and visibility, currently on Financial Taskforce on Space Planning
  - Sammi Wyman: How do you want to utilize Coffeehouse?
  - Aditi Verma: Need to do more research, could bring back more food, but really want to get students' opinions. Also: put a student rep on CRSP.
  - Vrajesh Modi: Will you come to Exec meetings?
  - Aditi Verma: Yes.
  - Adam Bockelie: Will you work with Dining Committee on space changes involved with whatever dining changes happen?
  - Aditi Verma: Yes.

- Paul Baranay: what other initiatives do you have for space planning [besides CoffeHouse]?
  - Aditi Verma: Bike racks, Athena clusters, lounges, etc. (see notes emailed out).
  - Andrew Lukmann: Who are the important admins?
  - Aditi Verma: CRSP, CAC, Executive Vice-President.
  - Aditi Verma was approved as Chair of Space Planning.
- Kashif Rayani as Chair of the Committee on Student Life
  - Kashif Rayani: This year: PLUS, Wellness Week. Want to work on more initiative and bring back more policy issues and projects (Saferide, Hacking). Want to get policy-minded Senators involved in CSL. Has been on CSL for 2 years.
  - Vrajesh Modi: PLUS aimed to have 100 people and only got 60, what are you going to do about this?
  - Kashif Rayani: Get the application out earlier.
  - Andrew Lukmann: How much was your budget? Do you think this is appropriate?
  - Kashif Rayani: \$9000, this is mostly appropriate. In the long run we want PLUS institutionalized and not funding through the UA.
  - Alexander Dehnert: Do you want to spin-off projects into other committees or groups that would get funding from Finboard or LEF (Large Event Fund)?
  - Kashif Rayani: We could look at doing that for Wellness Week. We've considered moving it do Events Commission, although it does stem from a policy issue.
  - Vrajesh Modi: What would you do besides Wellness Week and PLUS?
  - Kashif Rayani: MIT Time (students interacting regularly with faculty members), policy issues.
  - Sammi Wyman: What are your top policy issues?
  - Kashif Rayani: Saferide, easier ways to go to Shaws' and Costco, hacking, cooking classes.
  - Paul Baranay: Working with Institute CSL reps?
  - Kashif Rayani: Meet with them frequently, making sure our mission complement and supplement each other.
  - Kashif Rayani was approved as Chair of Committee on Student Life.
- Daniel Hawkins as Co-Vice-Chair of Committee on Student Life
  - Daniel Hawkins: It's all in the notes.
  - Alex Dehnert: Policy or events?
  - Daniel Hawkins: Policy.
  - Sammi Wyman: Policy issues?
  - Daniel Hawkins: Hacking, dining, housing.
  - Eleni Orphanides: Have you been on CSL? Why do you want to be on CSL?

- Daniel Hawkins: No I haven't been, but I think this is the right place for me to make the impact I want to make.
  - Daniel Hawkins was approved as Co-Vice-Chair of Committee on Student Life.
- Richard Dahan as Co-Vice-Chair of Committee on Student Life
  - Richard Dahan: It's all in the notes.
  - Timothy Stumbaugh: should the UA fund PLUS?
  - Richard Dahan: Yes, in the short run, but not in the long run.
  - Richard Dahan was approved as Co-Vice-Chair of Committee on Student Life.
- Sammi Wyman as Chair of Committee on Sustainability
  - Sammi Wyman: Joined to work on FSILG recycling, working on RecycleMania, grocery bags in dorms. For next year: composting, better windows in dorms, improving on the IAP class.
  - Alexandra Jordan: How do you plan to work with Sustainability@MIT [the student group]?
  - Sammi Wyman: They're just getting off their feet, high potential for collaboration.
  - Paul Baranay: How about Biodiesel@MIT?
  - Sammi Wyman: Most of their work is done, but they are interested people we could get involved in other projects.
  - Rachel Meyer: how do plan on working with undergrads' in sustainability groups, especially given the merger of several groups into Sustainability@MIT and that being mostly controlled by grad students?
  - Sammi Wyman: We publish a booklet about groups. Trying to have committee get people involved, spinoff projects into their own groups (ex: RecycleMania).
  - Vrajesh Modi: What do you see as the future of the Dorm Electricity Competition?
  - Sammi Wyman: It's poorly run currently and needs more undergrad involvement (both in organizing and participation), the committee will have to be more active getting this organized.
  - Sammi Wyman was approved as Chair of Committee on Sustainability.
- Dan Chen for Vice-Chair of Sustainability
  - Dan Chen: New to the UA, very interested in the subject.
  - Keone Hon: Commitments for next year?
  - Dan Chen: Cutting back next year.
  - Vrajesh Modi: Student groups?
  - Dan Chen: IFC, Student Ambassadors, but not any sustainability clubs.
  - Alexandra Jordan: Can you give some specific policy ideas?
  - Dan Chen: Giving student groups on campus a better voice and presence on campus and then they can lead and bring up policy issues. Dealing with the student population's apathy with regards to sustainability.
  - Sammi Wyman: Which admins would you work with?

- Dan Chen: First we need to work with other student governments and then student groups, and then we can move to admins.
    - Vrajesh Modi: Are there specific people you would go to? And in your paper answers you mention organizing the committee into focus groups, can you explain this?
    - Dan Chen: Admins: I don't know specifically. Focus groups: having separate groups of committee members focusing on tasks instead of everybody working on everything.
    - Dan Chen was not approved as the Vice-Chair of Sustainability.
  - Sammi Wyman for Assistant Vice-President of Orientation
    - Sammi Wyman: O-Leader last year and an O-Coordinator this year. Already working with UAAP. Supporting REX against threats.
    - Andrew Lukmann: you have already chosen sides about REX?
    - Sammi Wyman: Yes, I think REX needs to be preserved.
    - Alexander Dehnert: dorm interests are different from student interests?
    - Sammi Wyman: Yes, but all students need to live in dorms for a year so they need to make informed decisions.
    - David Hutchings: (point of information as IFC President) there are no plans to move up Rush/Recruitment.
    - Paul Baranay: A lot of freshmen ditch Orientation because they think it isn't worth it how would you try to change this?
    - Sammi Wyman: The O-Coordinators working a lot on re-shaping the events, but UAAP closely outlines what events need to be run. We are getting fewer O-Leaders to help prevent getting small awkward groups. As AVPO I would have a lot more opportunities to change the general programming plans of Orientation.
    - David Hutchings: are you planning on running for Senate next year?
    - Sammi Wyman: Yes.
    - Confirmation tabled until the next meeting.
- Approval of Institute Committee Nominations
  - Nelson Elhage: We can either approve the whole slate or go through one-by-one, but we should attempt limit discussion.
  - Paul Baranay: Moves to close discussion to senators and ex-officio members of senate (seconded by Alex Dehnert).
    - Paul Baranay: This is on the same level as Chair and Vice-Chair discussions. I want to ensure that any candidates removed from the slate are not humiliated.
    - Michael Bennie: We need to be transparent.
    - Vinayak Ranade: This affects everyone, non-senators should be allowed in the room.
    - Alex Dehnert: Paul is concerned about his nominees reputation.
    - Keone Hon: Polls the room for people who would have to leave (about 5 people raise their hands). There are very few people [this closure] affects, so it does not really matter.

- Sarah Dee: I don't understand Paul's specific concern for these confirmations.
  - Paul Baranay: We should have ejected outsiders earlier, too.
  - Rachel: Does The Tech agree that this won't get published? (yes)
  - Cinjon Resnick: How does transparency factor in?
  - Alexander Dehnert: This is very sensitive, so yes this shouldn't be transparent.
  - Motion to close needs two-thirds to pass, motion fails.
- Paul: This is the best slate we could come up with.
- Sarah Dee: We should look at this closely otherwise our confirmation is pointless.
- Michael Bennie: Do we need to narrow down the slate for COC?
  - Paul Baranay: No the committee chair will choose.
- Michael Bennie: Are we making them sign contracts?
  - Paul Baranay: Yes, they'll commit to sending back comments and coming to the banquet and any town hall meetings NomComm schedules, or they can be removed from their seat.
- Andrew Lukmann: You can make amendments to the slate if there is something specific you don't like.
- Alex Dehnert: If there are any committees you have issues with then we should look them separately.
- Maggie Delano: Seconds Alex's sentiment.
- Sarah Dee: We should go committee by committee, our confirmation needs to mean something.
- Motion to vote on accepting the slate entirely, voting, fails.
- Paul Baranay: I propose approving the slate for Baker Foundation.
  - Nelson Elhage: we should limit discussion to five minutes, but please stop earlier if you are done.
  - Motion to vote on Baker Foundation, voting, slate passes.
- Committee on Academic Performance
  - Paul Baranay: It's a solid slate.
  - Rachel Meyer: Is Jarrell doing a ninth term or a full fifth year?
    - Paul Baranay: Unsure, will be clarified, but the Chair of CAP wants him, and he is highly competent.
- Committee on Curricula
  - No discussion, accepted.
- Withdrawing committees for further discussion: Committee on Student Life (CSL), Corporation Joint Advisory Committee (CJAC), DAPER Advisory Board
  - Eleni Orphanides: What's with the people that are nominated for two committees?
  - Paul Baranay: Usually they were already on one committee and are being added to a second, and they were by far the most competent person for the second.
- Motion to approving slate minus CSL, CJAC, and DAPER:

- No discussion
    - Motion to vote, voting, passes
  - Committee on Student Life
    - There is concern about all three nominees being from the East side.
    - Paul Baranay: They will all do a good job, they will represent the whole student body and not just their “constituencies.”
    - Michael Bennie: CSL doesn’t care who comes to their meetings, so if other people are interested they can just go.
    - Cinjon Resnick: Is it an issue that SheeShee will be added to JudComm?
      - Body: No.
  - Corporation Joint Advisory Committee
    - [discussion off the record]
    - Slate tabled
    - NomComm will re-open nominations.
  - DAPER Advisory Board
    - Want to improve on communication failure from last year.
    - Motion to vote, voting, passes.
  - All slates accepted besides CJAC.
- Discussion of changes to (UA) CSL Budget
  - Richard Dahan: Mostly bad communication between the committee and Senate, will do a better job following their budget next year, they have money left over from PLUS that they want to use on other things.
  - Timothy Stumbaugh: They spent money on PLUS to go to Six Flags last term and then they didn’t go.
  - Vrajesh Modi: There was communication with Senate, they should have known not to spend this money.
  - Michael Bennie: On Finboard we make groups follow line items, but we don’t do this to our own committees. Most committees don’t follow their budgets and this is unacceptable. This is something we are working with SAFO to improve this for next year. CSL isn’t the only committee to mess up – most committees and probably Exec have too – they are just the first to get caught.
  - Richard: The money was already spent when we first came to Senate. You shouldn’t punish CSL for being honest.
  - Andrew Lukmann: This has happened before. Once CSL went \$3,000 into the hole and were forced to work their way out over a couple semesters. Historically there has been very little oversight of committee spending.
  - Motion to close discussion (which would allow CSL to just spend the money they have in their account), passes.
- Approval of JudBoard Slate
  - Nelson Elhage: We don’t have a slate.
  - Michael Bennie: We needed a slate this week, and need them to appoint an ElectComm next week, but Noah failed to nominate a slate.
  - Cinjon Resnick: The chair, Anthony Rizos, is graduating. I found two other people that I would like to do it with, but Noah didn’t officially nominate us.

- Motion censure President Noah Jessop for not providing a JudBoard slate (second), no discussion, passes.
- Decision on JudBoard: No formal decision, hopefully we can have a both a JudBoard and ElectComm approved at the next meeting.
- Discussion of the Dining Proposal Committee's Draft
  - Vinayak Ranade, presents the cover page of the report: see: [insert URL]
  - Summary from Vinayak Ranade: Close McCormick in the short run, move food trucks closer to campus, declining balance, breakfast and lunch options, etc.
  - Add yourself to [ua-dpc@mit.edu](mailto:ua-dpc@mit.edu) or look at our website, everything is public unlike Blue Ribbon.
  - Alexandra Jordan: Differences with Blue Ribbon: no mandatory component; similarities: grab-and-go concept.
  - Maggie Delano: Did you get Aziz's email to Bennie?
    - DPC: Yes and we responded.
  - Michael Bennie: There is growing tension about closing dining halls, how are you considering this?
    - Vinayak Ranade: We're not sure how much displeasure there actually is.
    - Alexandra Jordan: We're talking more to the dining hall dorms.
  - Vrajesh Modi (and the body) lauds DPC for their work.
  - Vrajesh Modi: Why do you focus on what are the benefits are of a central dining hall?
    - Daniel Hawkins: It is unclear whether people go to their dorm's dining hall because it is convenient and there are sunk costs, or if it is optimal. Still doing more research.
  - Sammi Wyman: Need to carefully consider data and student input.
    - DPC: Yes, we used all the data we were given and are working on collecting as much feedback as possible.
  - Michael Bennie: We need to do something now, because the reports are going to the admins before the next scheduled senate meeting (but an emergency meeting could be called).
  - Martin Holmes: A central dining hall could mean better quality and lower prices, which would make more people opt-in, which then means it gets progressively better.
    - Martin will write this up and send it to DPC.
  - Andrew Lukkman: We need to look at financial sustainability.
    - DPC: Yes, one of our main focus was financial viability.
  - Sarah Dee: We need time to do more and closer reading of the report. One possible point of contention at first glance: the \$500 opt-out fee.
  - General consensus: we can have an emergency meeting to discuss this further. This can be called by the President, a petition of 5% of the Association, or a quorum of Senate with the Speaker or Vice-Chair.
  - Andrew Lukkman: No matter what this needs approval of Senate and the President before it is official policy of the UA (meaning, a resolution needs to be passed).

- Alexandra Jordan: we need more feedback before we write the final report
- “Motion to move on” – no objections.

#### Proposals for New Business

- 40 U.A.S. 11.2 – Bill to Amend the Senate Bylaws to Allow Flexibility in Scheduling Meetings
  - Be able to have more frequent meetings.
  - Authored.
  - Tabled.
- 40 U.A.S. 11.1 – Bill to Make All Committee Chairs Members of Senate
  - Make administrative committee chairs members of Senate.
  - Authored.
  - Tabled.
- 40 U.A.S. 11.3 – Resolution to place consistent undergraduate representation of Institute Task Force on Student Engagement
  - Make TSE members: UA P, VP, Speaker, and one other UA officer.
  - Authored.
  - Martin Holmes: We wanted this last year, but Phillip Clay and Kirk Kolenbrander thought this was incorrect. The current membership is pitting the governments against each other, and that’s the plot of the administrators to cause rifts in undergraduates.
  - Sammi Wyman: Why is the fourth person appointed by the President and not a set officer?
    - Michael Bennie: To allow for flexibility so the relevant person is there (on a year-to-year basis or semester-to-semester top, definitely not meeting-to-meeting – consistency is important).
  - Martin Holmes: The administrators want the student seats to be titled. It should be President, Vice-President, Speaker, and Vice-Chair.
  - Adam Bockelie: Unsure about internal UA issues, but is this even in our power?
  - Sarah Dee: How could we implement this?
  - Martin Holmes: There was a document signed by all the governments giving the UA the right to review TSE membership, so yes this is completely within our powers although the other governments will complain about the change.
  - Vinayak Ranade: Something to think about: is this the specific people from the other governments or the positions in general?
  - Paul Baranay: The UA is schizophrenic, in regards to trying to determine if there are 4 or 6 principle officers and who they are, that might be reason why to keep the fourth seat for flexible at least for now. DormCon just elected a new President that might change DormCon’s involvement, but IFC and Panhel are in office until the end of the calendar year.
  - Motion to table this bill, seconded, voting, passes.

#### Closing Announcements

- Michael Bennie thanks people for staying so long.

- Alexander Dehnert: Talk to him about funding philosophy and policy and all that.
- Rachel Meyer: Remember closed session means closed session, if you are not sure if something was on the record wait until you see the minutes.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:44am on Tuesday.