



# 41 U.A.S. 1

Minutes from October 13, 2009

## 1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

## 2 Roll Call

The following members were *late without being excused*: Ian Tracy (Simmons)

The following members were *late and excused*: Eleni Orphanides (McCormick), Ryan Normandin (MacGregor)

The following members were *absent* without being excused: Juan Valdez (Fraternities), Katherine Fang (Sororities)

The following members were *excused and absent*: Debra Slutsky (Burton Conner), Tim Joubert (MacGregor), Edner Paul (New House), Albert Chang (Next House), Joseph Daly (Fraternities), Spencer Williams (Fraternities), Alex Schwender (ILG), Austin McRae (Off-campus)

The following were sent as *proxies* for members: Anila Sinha for Ashwini Gokhale (McCormick), Geoffrey Thomas for Jonte Craighead (Next House)

## 3 Senate Guests

Tonight, Jed Wartman, the Assistant Dean for Student Activities, Alicia Erwin, and Paul Spangle from SAO are here.

Jed Wartman: We are all upstairs in the SAO. We do community development, leadership development, and diversity celebration and awareness. We work on making good ideas come to be through supporting student organizations with retreat development, event planning, etc. We also work on Charm School, Fall Festival, and Spring Weekend. We work with various diversity groups and offices and the class councils.

Alicia Erwin: I directly work with Class Councils, and handle their planning and reimbursements.

Jed Wartman: Our primary function is to be a resource for students. It's about helping you connect with your college experience in a way that is exciting for you. We need information from you about what's going well.

Paul Baranay: Jed is also the unofficial adviser to the UA.

Jed Wartman: There are 7 people in SAO, 2 dedicated to finances.

Daniel Hawkins: We're looking to get PLUS funded through outside sources. Do you think that will be possible next year?



Jed Wartman: There is real viability to that happening. There are a lot of leadership development programs that have come about recently, and we'd like to make sense of all of them and see how they all work together in the long term. We would be willing to consider funding PLUS in the future.

Paul Baranay: My question was How do you see the UA getting involved in helping shape things for Coffeehouse?

Paul Spangle: I'm working with quite a few students to organize programming. If there's an idea, come to us with it. Students have come to us with Coffeehouse ideas, so it's getting used more. There is plenty of room for other opportunities.

Jed Wartman: I'd like to plug Leadershape before I leave. The applications will be due November 2.

## 4 State of the UA

Mike Bennie: Capital improvements happened this summer: making the projector and TV in the office ready to go.

The policy work this summer mostly focused on the Student Life Fee: how it is allocated and where it goes. This information got released a couple of weeks ago. We also picked up some funding.

We also wrote two reports this summer via the Constitutional Committee and the Financial Policy Review Committee. These reports covered things that we cannot normally address during the school year. We really wanted to look into how we are spending our money. Also, wanted to get our governing documents up to date both with how things have changed and adding institutional knowledge. These reports will be heading Senate's way soon.

Our funding went up through the increase to the Student Life Fee. There is \$15K towards SCEP's Student-Faculty Dinners, which can now be run both in the Spring and the Fall, and \$20K more towards the UA and student groups.

Special Projects Committee: The UA does a lot of important policy work, but this committee is doing work that students will notice and appreciate in their everyday lives. The policy work is a lot of the selfless work, but for example, students love the produce market: Google Analytics showed that more students went to that page than any other. These projects are what get the undergraduates interested in the UA. The Star shuttle just got created, and there is now a winter location for the produce market. Our hope is they will look at other parts of the UA after seeing pages about special projects this year.

I'm very excited for our report on the Institute-wide Planning Task Force. Many times, reports are written by committees or a small handful of students, but this was a very collaborative effort. This report was coordination between the seven committees involved and the Principal Officers of the UA. There are 17 recommendations in the final report tonight. This report, including data collection, happened start to finish in two weeks. Committees were very able to use their expertise to add more detail to each position piece, including research coming from reports from ten years ago. The report being a product of twenty people makes it a lot stronger. The UA has been



working on this literally straight since Saturday evening.

Where we are going: Senate Retreat-it's a great opportunity to bond; Exec just bonded over this report. It'll be a lot of fun for everyone, and you'll get to meet and get to know everyone. Hopefully, we'll have a week's break or so with the budget issues. Once the final report comes out, we'll be doing a lot of advocacy. Committees are up and running. The whole UA at this point is up and running. Hopefully, report writing will take a backseat soon, as well. The reports give a nice piece of feature context for those looking back.

There are two out of four articles on the front page of the Tech today about UA work that are positive. We've published our goals over the past few weeks. We'll be having an exciting fall, and we're ready to go.

Paul Baranay: The Senate is already really growing into their positions, and I look forward to seeing more from Senate over the next semester.

## 5 Approval of Minutes

The minutes from 41 U.A.S S.B.S. 1 on October 5, 2009 were approved.

## 6 Confirmation Hearing for Adam Bockelie as Dining Chair

Adam Bockelie: I got involved in the UA last year with the Dining Proposal Committee because I was unhappy with the recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Committee. I want the dining committee to make progress working with administrators over the two reports from last year to find the best recommendations from each to make something that will both benefit students and the Institute. Smaller scale changes: more vegan and vegetarian options.

Highlight some of the key differences between the DPC and BRC reports. Adam Bockelie: The biggest difference is mandatory dining. DPC does not want that. DPC also suggested closing some dining halls and creating a large central dining hall. There is a lot of overlap, such as with having quick breakfast stands in dorms.

How do you plan on changing what dining halls offer? Adam Bockelie: I want to work with the dining chair of each dorm with a dining hall.

*Adam Bockelie was approved as the Dining Chair.*

## 7 Confirmation Hearing for Alexandra Jordan as Sustainability Chair

Alex Jordan: I was on the DPC last year, and I am a Senator for Sororities this year. Sustainability is going to try and take on metering of dorms this year because students are very much in favor of it other than changing how much students are charged for housing. Some other projects: expanding



projects from last semester, such as reusable grocery bags program in more dorms and plastic bag recycling program in dorms and with better publicity. We also want motion-sensor lighting in bathrooms, both in dorms and on campus.

Does metering include water as well? Alex Jordan: Most likely just heat and electricity, but it could also be about water usage as it was specified in the report.

Would it be metered on a dorm basis or personal basis? Alex Jordan: Not addressed in the report, likely halls. There will be a large effort researching this proposal should it be implemented.

What is the likelihood students will be charged for overages above some allotment? Alex Jordan: Maybe in 5 years. There are also major inequities in the housing system, which would affect housing issues, and we don't want to put any more stresses on the housing system similar the stress on choosing based on dining systems. There also may be a large advantage to desktop computers and hall servers. There are a lot of problems charging on a room by room basis, so we suggest MIT does not do that.

Is there a way to install it such that individual usage cannot be noted? Alex Jordan: Yes. This would also help the dorm electricity competition, and encouraging people within dorms.

What is the changes to this year from last year? What are you continuing from last year? Alex Jordan: Last year, we got FSILG recycling, plastic bag recycling, piloted reusable grocery bag system, starting up Recyclemania (now its own group). This year, as mentioned, expanding existing projects, utilities, working with dining committee to have reusable containers for take away from dining, so as to stop using styrofoam. More long term, we want to use composting.

*Alexandra Jordan was approved as the Sustainability Chair.*

## 8 Confirmation Hearing for Aaron Liu as Communications Chair

Aaron Liu: I wanted to be in the UA last year, but I didn't know how much time I'd have. Seeing openings, I applied over the summer, and I feel like I can make a solid contribution to the public relations side of things. I'm working on strong communication skills and leadership. I want to restructure Dorm Storm to be more meaningful. Also, I want other meaningful interactions with students and UA or administrators and really build them up.

How much time do you have to commit to an average week or a very demanding week? You will be very important member of the UA, if approved. Aaron Liu: I can commit 5 during the week, or 10 if needed during the week, and a lot more time on weekends.

How do you want to restructure Dorm Storm? Aaron Liu: Make it more interactive. Make "cheat sheets" so UA members who will be at these events more knowledgeable.

What about Dorm Storm for FSILGs? Aaron Liu: Saferide, working with Senators to email and reach out, especially for FSILGs.

How do you plan on forming a committee and tasking the committee? Aaron Liu: This has already happened. Already given out some tasks.

Mention one policy to keep and one policy to change from previous year? Aaron Liu: Better



communication of what's going on. Something to keep: Dorm Storm is something to keep.

Does anyone on committee have graphical design skills? Aaron Liu: Liz and another member.

What are you going to do to make students aware of Dorm Storm? Aaron Liu: Reach out through Senators. Committee members tasked to help as well. Postering.

Anything else that you've done since becoming chair? Aaron Liu: No because of time frame. After forming the committee, worked on getting members and starting up Dorm Storm.

*Aaron Liu was approved as the Communications Chair.*

## 9 1.1 UA Response to the Institute-wide Planning Task Force Preliminary Report

This report is awesome.

Typos need to be fixed: very important to fix these as it will go to a lot of important people. This will be addressed. In general, this need not be amendments. Part of the job of Exec, especially Liz (Secretary General), is to copy edit it.

Google Analytics provided with percentages of students who voted one way or another, and we should include this data (at least the portion that the Tech published) to bolster our thoughts. Put this in before it gets sent off.

Motion to approve report subject to the performance of copy editing and adding Google Analytics/vote data to an appendix at the discretion of Exec.

- Motion to amend motion to add Google Analytics/vote data information in line with the text.
  - An appendix can easily be referenced, and it would not distract from reading the text-the most important part.
  - Could non-students vote?
    - \* Technically yes. The majority of votes came from Massachusetts.
    - \* The Task Force's report was cert-locked, so they would lack context.
  - Amendment fails.
- We particularly want percentages for votes.
- The information in the Tech is already clearly written out and will all be included.
- Bill approved subject to the performance of copy editing to the report and adding Google Analytics/vote data to an appendix at the discretion of Exec at the end of the report.



## 10 Confirmation Hearing for Shee Shee Jin as Space Planning Chair

Shee Shee Jin: I've been on the Institute Committee for Student Life for the past two years. The goals for this year, coming out of yesterday's meeting, is figuring out what to do going forward and getting feedback from students.

Two examples of space planning issues from the past two years, ie. things you would have worked on were you here. Shee Shee Jin: The former W20-1 game room, the open space between 6 and 8 in 6c.

Can you actually touch that space in 6c? Doesn't it belong to the Physics Department? Shee Shee Jin: Maybe working on getting furniture. I'm not sure that I can.

What are your thoughts on space economy? Are you aware of this report section? Shee Shee Jin: I really don't know that much about it. I will familiarize myself with it and meet with members of the administration.

*Shee Shee Jin was approved as the Space Planning Chair.*

## 11 1.4 Bill to Temporarily Suspend Minimum Meeting Interval Requirement

The idea of the 7-day rule was to not have Senate run everyday.

Motion to amend to strike "and other concerns."

- *Motion withdrawn.*

*This bill was approved.*

## 12 Discussion

### 12.1 Student Life Fee

We got transparency regarding where the Student Life Fee goes. We're starting to look at the schedule for assessing the fee for 2011. It has been increasing lately to address additional needs for student life. What do you think should happen? It's \$272 per year right now. The breakdown is at [ua.mit.edu/slf/](http://ua.mit.edu/slf/).

Don't want it to increase too much. Without good, specific reason, we should not yet raise it.

The only reason to increase it would be to have extra money at the UA's discretion to help fund programs that will inevitably get cut next semester. Students would still be directly paying for the programs. However, we cannot think of where the extra money would go and have large enough an impact.



Can we actually cut the fee? This money is focused towards undergraduates.

Who decides this? Dean Colombo recommends to Academic Council. There is a lot of influence.

DAPER summer access used to be fee-based. This really upset graduate students. Additionally, this was already scheduled to be increased. A sizable population of both grads and undergrads are around over the summer.

Senate mostly feels that it should not increase, but we could do some good with that money. We need to sell specific projects to get that money, and we should say how much each program we'd want to save would cost.

We could try to fund the regrading of problem sets in GIRs. Or something on this magnitude. SaveTFP lost a lot of money, as well.

We would be setting a dangerous precedent if we attempt to rescue programs with this money. People who want these programs should fund them. However, without this fund, we won't have the right order of magnitude to fund this.

## 13 1.3 Election Transparency Act

Sometimes, this might not be enough time. Motion to amend to "10 pm."

- *Amendment passes.*

Motion to amend to include "That the Elections Commissioner ensure that amendments are made."

- *Amendment passes.*

*Bill passes.*

## 14 1.2 Bill to Create Committee on Alumni Relations

Objectives basically to act as a switchboard connecting undergrads to alumni, identifying opportunities to connect alumni to students, become a central resource to student groups and undergraduates, and advocate for the undergraduate student body with alumni.

How will the committee interact with the Career's Office? They have a lot of pre-professional programs, and we seek to act as a central umbrella and switchboard. We would be contacted and then connect students with proper alumni or programs.

This is about informing undergraduates about the opportunities more than doing the Alumni Association does. Also, creating informal meetings between alumni and students, partially in conjunction with the Secretary General and Communications Committee. The Committee will do more outreach than the Alumni Association. Some of these programs are student ambassadors and professional programs.



Plans for connecting with more distant alumni? Mostly focusing on Boston to begin with. In the future, more specific groups could help.

If this committee is created, it will get some money. Keep this in mind when voting.

Adnan is a Senior, how will this continue after you are gone? Plan on the bulk of the membership being younger. Secretary General will continue communications in the future.

How many undergraduates will this committee serve? At least more than half. We also plan on interacting with other alumni relations programs like Student Ambassadors. What if those programs don't want to work with you? We hope they will, but it is not an essential component.

Ad hoc means that it can die if it fails, and we will ensure that it does. A lot of groundwork has been done, so it should be able to grow, but if it does not work, it will die as it is ad hoc.

*Bill passes.*

## **15 Confirmation Hearing for Adnan Esmail as Alumni Relations Chair**

How much time will you put in? Adnan Esmail: A lot of time, up to 20 hours a week as needed.

*Adnan Esmail was approved as the Alumni Relations Chair.*

## **16 Approval of Finboard Summer/Fall 2009 Appeals**

Still under over-allocation amount, not including recycled money from previous funding money. We are working on some capital improvements such as microphones, speakers, etc. for a capella groups and working on La Sala renovations.

Who will be responsible for maintaining the equipment? We are working on this with the ASA.

A capella groups will keep their own equipment, but replacements will not be made to that equipment. We will pilot this.

- This is not a final idea yet, but groups that requested capital improvements for musical equipment will not be funded this term. We can fund one new set, but not more than that.
- It's not fair for Finboard to buy one set for one group and then have other groups rent from them.
- However, have not allocated up to the overallocation allotment: We have been told by SAO to overallocate as little as possible.

Why was a group that was no longer to be funded after two terms (which have past) being funded?

Also, many groups were zeroed out in appeals: because of poor defenses. Many groups got more money during appeals, when some got none: this was because of poor defenses or because of capital requests without storage space.



Issue with groups getting more than 80% of their original request, asking for more, and then getting more on top of the 80%. This was due to very well written defenses.

Italicized are adjusted after appeals.

La Sala light renovations are being funded by Finboard because the CAC will not fund enough of it. Money was not to any individual group, but rather allocated to this one project. Also, depends on other sources of funding as well. This will replace a really old set of lights.

Are ASA groups reevaluated at any time if they become inactive? If they do not fill out a hazing form or don't show up to ASA general body meetings in fall and spring, they become derecognized. 60 were derecognized out of about 400 last year.

We have the Finance Board to spend the weekend allocating this money, so that Senate should not have to comb through every item.

In the future, Finboard will send Senate zeroed-out information, but this year, the notes will go to the individual groups.

#### Policy Changes

- Travel by T preferred, if need to go elsewhere or use other means, must justify.
- Cap for dance group costumes at \$250.
- No Zipcar memberships funded because belong to individual, not the group.

Motion to amend to remove both Alpha Phi Alpha and Egyptian Association allocations.

- They are of questionable funding status.
- *Amendment passes.*

*Finboard appeals as amended pass.*

## 17 Approval of UA Semesterly Budget

Following changes since last week:

- Added a Space Planning budget.
- Athletics projects name fixed.
- Added two projects to Special Projects.
- Added surveys for Dining.
- Added a note to defense about SCEP dinner expense overallocation.
- Added a note that Special Projects must get projects approved by President or Vice President.



- Added \$10K to general budget and \$7.5K to Student-Faculty Dinners.
- Athletics got funding from LEF.
- Proposed budget to Alumni Relations added.
- SAO will be funding at least \$1000 of the retreat. Could be up to \$1500. Thus, \$1000 less is being funded by UA, and if we get the other \$500, \$500 more will go towards student groups.

### Space Planning

- Do you need money to host surveys? Can ask Senate for money later, so didn't add it in.
- Community feedback event: any ideas for this? Would it be useful to host with Dorm Storm? Yes, we will use that as well, but it is fundamentally different that gathering general feedback such as at Dorm Storm.

### Alumni Relations

- Meeting food will cost \$200, so total budget is \$1000 for Committee on Alumni Relations.
- Doesn't the UA have Domeview points? Yes, but not nearly this many.

*Budget is approved.*

## 18 Discussion

### 18.1 Senate Minutes

Idea to release Senate minutes about two days after Senate subject to their approval by the Speaker and Secretary General and also Vice Chair, President, and Vice President as appropriate.

- Detracts from ability to share information to constituencies.
- They would be published as draft minutes.
- There will also be a day for objections.
- Minutes don't have exact names so that they are shorter and easier to read. We want people to read them. Recommended that Senators email constituencies with items specific to their dorms or their efforts.
- A bill would establish precedence, but is not necessary at this time.

Solution: Draft minutes will be sent to Senate members, and a day later they will be posted as a draft with the changes proposed by members.



UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139  
ROOM W20-401 UA-SECRETARY@MIT.EDU

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## 19 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Denys  
UA Secretary General