



41 U.A.S. 2

Minutes from October 19, 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*: Albert Chang (Next House), Ryan Normandin (MacGregor)

The following members were *late and excused*: No members were *late and excused*.

The following members were *absent* without being excused: Tim Joubert (MacGregor), Ian Tracy (Simmons)

The following members were *excused and absent*: Janet Li (Baker), Cecily Koppuzha (Baker)

The following were sent as *proxies* for members: Jason Lynch for Alex Schwender (ILG)

Juan Valdez resigned as a Senator for Fraternities.

3 41 U.A.S. 2.1: Bill to Decrease the Minimum Meeting Interval Requirement

Must lie on the table because it amends the bylaws.

Motion to table. *Bill was tabled.*

4 41 U.A.S. 2.2: Resolution to Continue Transparency and Representation throughout the Institute-wide Planning Process

Project Teams: These are outlined in the Planning Task Force Report as groups to investigate implementation of recommendations that span many units. We'd like some student representation on these so implementation recommendations include student input.

Motion to amend "cuts" in the last to "budget decisions." Friendly.

Motion to cut "growing level of" from "appreciate growing level of involvement."

- Task Force great example of it growing.
- Reasoning behind it is because it is currently growing, and we are not satisfied with what is going on now.



- Pritchett restaurant opened earlier this year without student input.
- Need a way to indicate that we anticipate growing level of involvement.
- Motion to vote on the amendment. *Amendment failed.*

Motion to change second whereas clause to “Whereas undergraduates appreciate their growing level of involvement in Institute decision-making processes and anticipate its continuation.”

- These two words won’t make a big difference, so we shouldn’t whine about it.
- Students wanting to be involved in the teams is a clear indication we want growth to continue.
- Motion to vote on the amendment. *Amendment failed.*

Motion to vote. *41 U.A.S 2.2 passed.*

5 41 U.A.S. 2.3: Bill to Authorize the Treasurer to Reallocate Money to Student Groups

Can Vice-Chairs approve reallocation? No. Other officers is to state Paul for Senate.

Motion to amend to “that such reallocations must be approved by the committee’s chair, or other officer in charge of the budget area, losing said funds.”

- *Amendment passed.*

Remove “unless renewed by Senate?” No; this is just that the policy will not stay in place because we are testing it out for this year.

This bill effectively removes our power of the purse. This does not give unchecked power to other groups to allocate money, because Senate still approves Finboard’s allocations. Also, we approve budgets twice a year and trust the UA Treasurer to hold groups and committees to their budgets.

This doesn’t do anything to speed up money going to Finboard. This does speed it up this process because Finboard wouldn’t get access until a term later. This would speed up money going to allocations by about a year.

Motion to strike “current” from the first whereas clause.

- However, this has not always been the Treasurer’s intent.
- *Amendment failed.*

Clarify what the financial implications of this change are. There is no marginal interest benefit to having more money in the reserve, but it will help Finboard and student groups a lot.

What would happen if we waited until the next meeting so that we can have more information distributed first?



- We could table this by a week without altering Finboard's allocation by Spring.
- Explicitly already asked for questions; would like to specifically know more information regarding the reserve first.

If we don't know how constitutional this is, we should send it to Judboard. Could this be done before it passes? Yes, we can table and then have Judboard look at it before it passes. We could vote on it now and wait until Judboard rules before implementation.

We could have Alex bring this to Senate every time so as to always have final jurisdiction. Motion to change "be informed" to "approve of" in the third that clause.

- Unnecessary because Senate can already revoke this authority between money transferring and Finboard allocation.
- This will effectively make the bill useless because we will be discussing it every time.
- We could approve the moving of money all at once.
- We can investigate the budgeting issue over the retreat; this is more of a bandaid.
- Senate has been moving away from micro-managing finances instead of deciding every decision.
- Motion to amend the amendment to "the Senate, Finance Board, and affected Chair must be informed of each such reallocation the bill shall not take effect until the JudBoard has ruled on it"
 - Motion to vote on the amendment to the amendment. *Amendment is amended.*
- Motion to amend the amendment to "the Senate, Finance Board, and affected Chair must be informed of each such reallocation, and the Senate shall have the power to reverse each such reallocation."
 - Will there ever be a decision where Senate will be unable to overturn? Can always hold an emergency meeting.
 - Motion to vote on the amendment to the amendment. *Amendment is amended.*
- Motion to vote on the amendment. *Amendment passed.*

To clarify, the money will not be directly allocated by the Treasurer; it's moving to Finboard for allocation.

Delegation is an excellent way to exercise our power of the purse.

How much money would we be freeing up for student groups? This information will be difficult to find.

This would decrease the value of the line item, but the chair would only approve the reallocation if they do not intend to spend it.



Would it not be more prudent to wait for the FPRC report?

Motion to table this bill. Motion to reconsider the motion to table. Reconsidered.

Motion to postpone.

- Maybe task the Treasurer with a something specific.
- There is not a lot of relevant information in the FPRC's report.
- People now know what the bill means, which is why we originally were going to postpone it.
- The Treasurer cannot get some of this information.
- Motion to vote. *The bill is postponed.*

The Senate Officers will submit a Judboard request to look it over on behalf of Senate.

6 Discussion

Request that Committees on Dining and Athletics come next week. We could request they email UA Senate. We'd like to ask them questions in real time. They can be our guests, as we would like to hear what they've done so far.

6.1 Mailing Lists

Do we want ua-announce@mit.edu?

Is there demand for this? Could these announcements just go to ua-discuss@mit.edu?

Liz will send a summary of all meetings occurring every week to ua-discuss@mit.edu. Can we get an IT solution to do this automatically? Yes, but IT is already back-logged.

Liz will put UA Update on the website.

6.2 Retreat

The retreat is this weekend! Agenda will be sent out tonight as well as relevant documents.

Questions about finances should be sent to Alex before Wednesday if you have questions for the retreat. More information about specific accounts.

History Committee will primarily not be attending, so email ua-history@mit.edu with requests for research. Dining would be a good topic.

What to bring will be sent out this week.



7 Good of the Order

There will be an attendance spreadsheet on the website.

7.1 Parliamentarian and Sergeant at Arms

Tim Jenks is Sergeant at Arms. We still need a Parliamentarian.

7.2 Fresh Fund

Please ask Rachel for information you want about this now if you want information about this.

The Fresh Fund is for new groups recognized after Finboard allocations.

7.3 Retrospective

We had a productive conversation over email about allocating more money to student groups, and then Alex wrote a bill about this. He made himself available for questions over email, and instead, he was asked a lot of questions primarily during Senate, some of which could have been prepared for better offline. Senate is not just a once a week commitment, please keep up on email and discuss over email whenever possible.

8 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Denys
UA Secretary General