



41 U.A.S. 3

Minutes from October 26, 2009

1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:41 pm.

2 Senate Guest: Barbara Baker, Senior Associate Dean for Students

Dean Barbara Baker: Thank you so much for the Task Force document; it was very well done. I report to Dean Colombo, and I work with Student Development and Support. There are seven units under this umbrella. We work on comprehensive lists of programs, services, resources, and support. I am specifically involved with Student Leadership and Activities, Campus Activities Complex, Public Service Center, Office of Student Citizenship, Community Development and Substance Abuse, Student Support Services, and the broad area of Crisis Management (which I work with directly, including the Dean on Call service). The Dean on Call service has six deans rotating and on call at all times, and they do receive a large number of calls, around 700. Right now, we're working on 1. the search for the Associate Dean for Leadership and Activities to manage some of these areas (Mike Bennie is on the search committee), 2. the Task Force on Student Support Services to look at the role of S^3 to see how it fits within MIT and comment on its responsibilities (Liz Denys is on this committee), and 3. working on leadership development programs, such as Community Catalyst. I'd love to hear about the best ways we can get feedback from students in the student life areas. How can we connect with students across the campus?

Good ways to communicate with students suggested by students to Dean Baker:

- Students are more responsive to quick surveys.
- Cookies with Conversation and Dinners with Dialogue are great, but it doesn't reach a lot of campus. Holding more forums with the Dean would be useful.
- Publicizing Dean Colombo's office hours would be great.
- The opportunity to invite administrators into their living spaces would be a comfortable and familiar way to interact with students.
- Senate is a great opportunity to interact with students.
- We got a lot of responses to the Task Force survey we set up, and if you give us a place to point to, we can advertise it.
- Tapping the committee resources.
- Community Conversations are another opportunity for Deans, administrators, etc. to have informal conversations with students.



What kinds of calls does the Dean on Call receive?

Dean Baker: All sorts of crisis calls. From fire alarms to students getting transported to Medical who need support in the hospital. Everything from a sprained ankle to any other injury. The purpose is to figure out how we can serve the student if they have a particular issue or need and make it a little bit easier for them.

There is a lot out there that people don't know about, more outreach could be useful. Word of mouth tends to be the best way.

Dean Baker: We're trying to figure out successful ways to get this information out to students. Word of mouth is truly good.

Anonymous S^3 testimonials incorporated into GRT orientation to students and maybe some other orientation event. Something like Tech Theater. Paper brochures aren't a very effective way to communicating with students. Adding a personal side to S^3 's website would be very useful as well.

From the student leadership/activities standpoint, when a new exec board is elected or appointed, there isn't a program or set of best practices for how to be a student group leader. It would be nice if more than just experience and word of mouth got the word out about developing the necessary skills. A resource packet would be very useful.

Dean Baker: Would the ASA distributing that information be useful? Yes.

Dean Baker: My office is in 4-110. I usually have an open door, but Friday morning generally seems like a good time.

It's great if the office hours are more than an hour because more opportunities for students to be able to come in without missing classes. Staying after hours occasionally also helps.

Dean Baker: My office used to be on the fifth floor of the Student Center. That office felt like that had a lot of life, and I miss being so near students.

3 Roll Call

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

The following members were *late and excused*: Alex Dehnert (Treasurer), Debra Slutsky (Burton Conner)

The following members were *absent* without being excused: Ashwini Gokhale (McCormick), Daniel Zhang (Fraternities)

The following members were *excused and absent*: Austen McRae (Off-campus), Ashley Nash (Senior House)

The following were sent as *proxies* for members:

4 Retreat Recap

High exec attendance, which was awesome.



There are a lot of things that came up which might come up during Senate, such as when a bill is proposed, but neither has strong support or opposition. One solution is to create an ad-hoc “committee” charged to evaluate the bill. They’d then present an amended bill or set of amended bills. The “committee” would be chaired by the Vice-Chair. This suggestion was to formalize the process and make it more transparent.

There are a few documents to be sent out from the retreat, such as the reports which were part of the agenda as they make up a large portion of the UA’s history. Also, Alex’s presentation about UA finances and Institute finances will be sent out soon.

5 Update from Exec

Many of the committees attended the retreat. The Committees did a lot over the weekend at the retreat.

President Hockfield announced that enrollment will be increasing at the Faculty Meeting, so the Enrollment Report will now focus on how to best implement this increase.

Institute-wide Planning Task Force Working Groups have been finalizing their sections of the report. The final report looks like it will be quite different from the initial report, which will be out at the end of this week.

The Committee on Alumni Relations had a ton of interest. Adnan is building the committee, starting the informal alumni meetings, and the publicity aspect.

The Career Fair Holiday motion is still on track. The vote will be brought forward in November.

Maggie did a great job summarizing and sending out the S^3 and DUE articles.

Hockfield lunches have been happening, and we will be soliciting undergraduates for a list to give her office soon.

We’re working on rolling out Student-Faculty Dinners, likely going allow dinners for this semester to happen between November and the end of IAP.

Think about questions to ask Dana Mead, the Chair of the Corporation.

Committees will be writing permanent mission statements. The status of UA goals will be going online. We’re also working on an elevator pitch for the UA and an organization chart and more comprehensive “UA for Dummies.”

There will also be an introduction to Senate/Senate resources document.

Email lizdenys@mit.edu about concerns, comments, etc. about S^3 .

The MIT homepage is changing; we’re currently working with the News Office. When we learn more, we’ll bring it up in Senate for discussion.

Chancellor Clay read over the report, and he appreciated the time people put into it.



6 Update from Dining: Adam Bockelie, Dining Chair

Mostly been working on implementing a Pilot Breakfast Program in dorms. We're working with the Special Projects Committee to have a grab and go breakfast for sale.

We're going through the Blue Ribbon Committee and Dining Proposal Committee Reports with Dean Colombo. Both as a refresher, and to state the undergraduate opinion on recommendations within each. We're working on developing a framework to work with administrators to create the new dining.

We thought the endowment subsidized McCormick's dining hall, but it might only pay for upkeep and renovations, which would mean campus dining would still be subsidized by MIT dining. We're unsure which is true.

Colombo does not want to work on dining until after the Task Force report is finalized, so that all the relevant information is available for discussion.

We haven't decided what dorm to pilot the breakfast program in? No, asked all the dorm presidents and are waiting for responses. The dorm that has the most interest and most willing to work with us. Maybe a dorm with a dining hall would be a good place to start because they don't have a well-stocked kitchen. Dorms that have a central exit would also be a good candidate.

The pilot will run the first two weeks of December in one dorm. We are trying to see if students will actually use it. The food will be non-perishable.

What kind of publicity for the pilot program? Use the Senators and house government. It will be in the UA Update as well.

Prior to meeting with Colombo, can you tell us about the BRC and DPC issues? Yes. The Dining Committee will be going through these reports on Thursday at our meeting. These summaries will also be mostly persuasive.

Thanks for being proactive with the pilot program.

Problems with hot food in the pilot program? Overall, its not necessarily impossible to have unpackaged food; when you lose packaging, you need food handling permits, and health and safety stuff. It's another level of up-keep, bureaucracy, and costs, which would be difficult for a pilot program. For the overall program, well look into it.

You can yourself to ua-dining-listeners@mit.edu.

7 Update from Athletics: Cathy Melnikow, Athletics Chair

Athletics Weekend was a success despite the rain. A lot of people attended, and there are a lot of shirts around.

Our committee is going to reorganize because we have SAC, CSC, and Intramurals Council. We will be more administrative. Before that, we will be hosting more events. One type of event will be to really boost a single game/meet, such as the first basketball game.



Are you looking to hand off Athletics Weekend to those three groups and have them apply through Finboard? Yes, we want to move towards this.

Have you been working with the wrestling team? Given that they have a donor who will give a lot of money. We are investigating this. Is there a standard for endowing a sport? No, the decision is done by DAPER based on Health and Vitality requirements. Wrestling is trying to be a club sport now.

8 Approval of Minutes

Minutes from 40 U.A.S. 11, 40 U.A.S. E2, 40 U.A.S. 12, 41 U.A.S. 1, and 41 U.A.S. 2 were all approved.

9 2.1 Bill to Decrease the Minimum Meeting Requirement Catherine Olsson, Random Hall Senator

Motion to take it off the table. *Bill taken off the table.*

We already have weekly meetings, and I don't think we should meet more frequently.

This would save time with further motions to deal with holidays.

Motion to vote. Now voting. *Bill was approved.*

Just like to keep in mind that the intent is to schedule around holidays, not increase meeting frequency or schedule without sufficient planning and a lot of inconsistency.

10 2.3 Bill to Authorize the Treasurer to Reallocate Money to Student Groups Alex Dehnert, Treasurer

This bill will now amend the Constitution. This is because Judboard mentioned that without this amendment, Senate would need to vote on each transfer.

This now feels like bundling because we're now doing two things at once with this bill. Perhaps two separate bills. Or maybe make a new bill.

Would there ever be a concern as to what constitutes a "timely fashion?" In the case of ambiguity, it would warrant a Judboard ruling. Can we tighten this language?

Why do we need the constitutional amendment? So that Senate can delegate this responsibility as it sees fit, and thus, make the process to reallocate money to student groups more efficient.

Motion to vote on the constitutional amendment. *Amendment failed.*

Motion to table. *Bill tabled.*

Motion to consider new business. *Motion fails.*



11 Discussion Items

Reallocation of Money to Student Groups

- Confused as to what Senate is trying to do here by seeking to work on this legislation, but failing to allow for new business.
- Why not just come to Senate each time? It takes too much time, and I won't use it if I need Senate Approval. Notification can come through an email.
- It is unclear as to how proactive Judboard should be dealing with legislation. We asked them multiple times about the constitutionality of this bill, so it may be wise to continue to ask them regarding this legislation. Generally, you do not need to ask Judboard about a bill before presenting it.
- What is the difference between minutes approval and this? Minutes and money are different sorts of discussions. Also, discussions surrounding minutes have not always been quick.
- I'm not sure this requires a constitutional amendment to effectively happen as it can go through Senate. However, this bill was initially tabled because it's not worth consideration without the constitutional amendment.
- These reallocations need to be somewhere other than the mailing lists. It can be put online.
- The language is too loose in the Constitutional Amendment. We can consider the bill today, and vote on it next week. The Constitutional amendment states that Senate can delegate this power, but does not actually delegate it.
- Why didn't more people want to consider the Constitutional Amendment? Should Constitutional Committee look at this? It's a new issue, so there's been no discussion in ConstComm, nor was there in FPRC.
- Can we ask Judboard to come to Senate? We could, but it's not traditionally the way it's done.
- Motion to close discussion on this topic because it's virtually become a closed meeting given that it's 10:00 pm. Discussion on this matter is closed.

Request for Parliamentarian: even if you are just willing to learn Robert's Rules of Order, this is a good position for you.

DormStorm Logistics and Schedule

- Nov 2nd: Simmons (9-11 PM)
- Nov 3rd: Safe Ride (7-9PM), Baker (9-11 PM)
- Nov 4th: Next House (7-9 PM)
- Nov 5th: East Campus (7-9 PM)



- Members of both Exec and Senate will be there. This is more than just Senators from an individual dorm or set of dorms interacting with their members.
- There will be cheat sheets with all the information about what has been going on the UA and the Institute as refreshers.

The longer meetings go, the less transparent they are because people have other commitments.

Maybe we should have an IRC channel for clarification regarding discussion points. We already use zephyr for this. However, people should speak their comments publicly. Email (even directly to just the one person) works better to keep a record of questions that are not simply clarifications.

12 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Denys
UA Secretary General