



42 U.A.S. 5

Minutes from November 1, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm.

1. Guest Speaker: Leah Flynn, Assistant Dean & Director for Student Leadership and Engagement Programs

Jonté: We have a guest speaker tonight; it's Leah Flynn, the Assistant Dean and Director for Student Leadership and Engagement Programs.

Leah: Hi everybody, my name is Leah. I found that I have my old nametag when I had student government at my old job. So, here it is! I'm just going to speak really briefly; I know you have quite the agenda. I'm excited to be here at MIT; just to give you a reality check on the moving situation, the Monday previous to this, I was moving from Syracuse. I come from you from the Suny College which is the State University I came from, from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry. I started out as the Assistant Director of Student Activities. I organized Orientation, Convocation, Parents' Night, and student clubs. I had a one deep office with just me. Up until a year ago, I was a coordinator. Prior to that, I was at the College of Rochester. I worked in Admissions, and I advised and supervised. My first job, I caught the higher end; then, I got my Masters' in Student Education and Administration. I started full time in ISF, and I started my PhD program; I'm in my dissertation stage, just to give you a bit of background of where I'm at.

My philosophy is very student-centered. Relying on student feedback and student engagement is smart. You guys know best. I have an open door policy. I want to hear from students, I want to hear comments and concerns – discussing that with you and trying to move through those issues and concerns. MIT is very rich in tradition and culture here, and I think that's very cool. I will rely on students to continue to introduce me to the traditions you carry on here. I'm going to be listening and learning for quite awhile, and I look to students and staff to help me do that. In fact, there is an Open House this Thursday in our Student Activities Office just upstairs. This gives people time to come in and chat with me: I get to know you better. I think that, in reality, everyday with me is going to be an Open House; you should feel free to set up an appointment. I love to laugh, and I love to see everything in a good light. I do enjoy working with students; it's huge value to me, and I've been doing it for maybe 12 plus years now. I guess that's all that I want to share; just a side note, if you haven't applied to do LeaderShape, we're going to extend it to next Monday. Get your application in. Really again, my door is an open one. I'll look to you, particularly my first year here to learn about tradition and culture here. I'm not one to make quick judgments or assessments right away. As we move the Student Activities Office in a direction, that will be on student needs. I know that Kerri Mills has done a wonderful job of advising you. She'll help my transition as well. Does anybody have questions?

Allan: Do you have any long term plans?

Leah: Before I establish those, I'd like to learn from others first, and I would like to work with the office and students. I know that we'll definitely include diversity options, and I will look towards students to



help us create that course. We'll also move towards a student-centered option. You guys have a lot here, and that's awesome!

Jonté: So, you've been here at MIT for a week. What's been the most surprising thing so far?

Leah: That's a really excellent question; everything has been new and exciting. I can't think of one thing that has really knocked me off my feet. The fact that you can get a police car on the dome... sure it's MIT of course you can make that happen. I already knew you had a plethora of student organization, whereas some would be surprised by that, but I already knew that coming in. I already knew that innovation is key here, and students have a lot of creativity. What is surprising is how the resident life structure is set up, and how that is managed. Traditionally, we can't compare – but that was kind of a cool thing.

Hawkins: I was interested to see the words student engagement in your title. Are you aware of past student engagement, good or bad things, and do you have any plans?

Sammi: This is not a quiz, you can say no.

Vrajesh: We'll meet her on a weekly basis, too, so we can fill her in.

Leah: I feel engagement is positive, right? Does that answer your question, Daniel?

Allan: So, is there anything we as a body here could do to help you? Is there anything specifically?

Leah: I think it's to be patient, and I need to learn the numbers of all the programs and courses here. Just being patient as I learn how the structure works. Again, I'm familiar with advising student government. Everyone runs it differently; just teach me these kind of ropes, and give me an opportunity to build this relationship. It takes time to build trust and to get to know somebody. If we give each other time, I think it will work, and we'll have fun with it.

Jonté: I guess to the other part of Daniel's question concerning your title: the other part is leadership. Can you fill us in for a second on what type of programs you're going to be involved with?

Leah: DSL has a number of leadership opportunities. Leadership happens in informal operations as well. You're learning right now; they're learning too, and your learning that information. I learned from the students there what they learned from me. They were super awesome filling me in. I think that that happens in those informal conversations. Some of those things I'm involved in is obviously leadership; I'm also working on the community catalyst leadership program. There's also FLP (there's all kinds of acronyms I'm just learning) and things we do with FYE (first year engagement). A lot of those, I'll be learning what that is and getting my hands on learning. Maybe there's more to come down the pipe. This is where students can help assess programs. Do students need this? Maybe we need to adjust it more.

Leadership also happens through clubs and associations; it's as simple as holding a meeting and delegating tasks to each of your officers. That happens through student meetings; that happens through engagement. I think that SAO in general wants to let students know we're helping you through that process, to know what students programs and clubs are doing. That's all what leadership is for. There's a lot across DSL that is leadership focused. Encourage you to do things that are maybe department specific. And to be a leader does not mean just to be a president of the organization. Maybe it means serving on a committee or providing input or starting a program or leading a group meeting in your department or class; there's always ways to be a leader. I'm excited to be in this role. I knew this was going to be on my plate.



Allan: I'm curious as to your initial view of student government here. Do you see us as a think tank? Do you see us as a representative of the student government? How do you think of us?

Leah: First of all, your website is amazing. It's so well organized and so super. I'm going to see how student government operates. I definitely see it as a student voice, students connected on campus. I definitely get that. Meeting with Sammi and Vrajesh last week, that was super helpful. I think your structure is really great, the involvement here is awesome. I think what drives it is the dedication overall. I think engaging those you are representing, whether it is fraternities, sororities, student groups, class council, etc... I think that's really great. I think that's going to drive your government. You guys are going to have to learn how to meet and negotiate.

Will: I was wondering if there's a particular issue. Is there a specific issue you're interested in that we can help you with?

Leah: I think there's nothing I'm going to dig my teeth into right away, I'm going to listen to those issues first. There's a whole lot to say on those issues. Informing me will be great, if there's other issues I need to know besides dining. I hate to have my head in the stands about student issues here. If there are other issues I need to know about, you can tell me about it tonight, or you can certainly set up an appointment with me.

Suan: What do you think will be your biggest challenge in your new position?

Leah: The biggest challenge is being a Yankee's fan here. The biggest challenge here...I don't think what I'm going to say is a bad thing. Just learning about the culture and issues like Will has said because that takes a lot of listening and it takes a lot of patience. Sometimes a person wants to jump right in and not to fix thing and do it right. I think I've got to sit back, and be patient with myself. It's not a challenge but a really cool one.

Jonté: Well, thank you very much for coming.

Recess Begins: 7:57 pm; Recess Ends: 8:03 pm.

2. Opening Remarks and Updates

Jonté: This week has been pretty interesting. I think you guys have seen emails, articles from the Tech, etc. I'm going to go right into it. I'm going to give you guys some information on the meetings I have had from Dean Colombo and Chancellor Clay. I'll make a brief statement. We'll move the bulk of the discussion to the end. As you saw in my email, I met with Dean Colombo, and the objective is to kind of give him the Student and Senate opinion. I started with the legislation last year and moved on to the events surrounding our emergency meeting. The two events I'm trying to get to are: we had that first initial phase where students were saying they wanted to kind of see the dining plan; then we had a plan released, and then we had a final report. Now we're into next year. There was no additional feedback in a large way from the student body until we got into the implementation plan.

What I got out of it was: one, that the RFP process is moving forward. I also got that the contract with the vendor that was going to be selected at the end of this process is going to be 5 years long. Concerning people moving around due to whatever reason because of the dining plan, Dean Colombo said he did not believe there were many moving caps in place, that there being some kind of limit on the number of students that can come out of some house dining dorm, aside from the fact that there needs to be space for those people in the dorms that they are trying to do so. Both HDAG and Dean Colombo are willing to



listen to student concerns, but it sounded to me that they want to learn concerns about implementation and not that plan itself. This is a pattern you'll hear from me. Dean Colombo recommended that I go meet with Clay if there are student concerns and if students still had issues with the plan so far.

Based on that, we set up a meeting, and I met with Chancellor Clay. His position seemed to be much more open and, maybe, relaxed is the word. This is the way Chancellor Clay laid it out. He said that we should consider ourselves at this point in the process to be looking at implementation and not at the plan that was proposed. Essentially we're at the point where we've had the review, and we need to start thinking about how we're going to make this work.

Choice has been a theme that I've heard throughout the process from HDAG. Colombo, and all the proponents of the plan, and the statement that was made today was that students have a choice on dining and that preserves. They can choose to live in a dorm with a dining hall, or they can choose to live in one that doesn't. As always, he said that's been the choice; how much people have weighted it is due to the individual person. He said, however, the cost of the dining plan, he hopes and believes, should not be an issue for those students that are on financial aid. People on financial aid should have the flexibility to choose whichever dorm they want, based solely on what they desire in dining and culture; however, they consider those different aspects. I asked him very specifically about those students who perhaps go through the moving process from a house dining dorm to a non-dining dorm, and his response was that they still have a choice. There's a process in place for them to move around, and moves happen. That's been one of the assumptions made with HDAG's recommendation. He essentially gave me a statement that was along the lines of, if I have 4 students that say I'm trying to move and they come back to me and 3 of them have moved. He does not believe that there will be a clear issue in terms of implementation, and those students that want to move will have the opportunity. And lastly, once this plan is implemented, there's going to be a lot of evolution and changes to the plan as people learn what it is that they want out of dining. And by that, I mean, once the plan is implanted, he's hoping that this will become a learning process, so we can figure out what part of this plan works. I think we can go forward and make changes to the plan once that happens. And lastly, he believes that the Presidents and Dining Chairs accurately represented the students' opinions. That was an assumption he believed from the process that evolved. He said that, as a constant issue, the degree to which it's true is debatable. With any student government, with any student representative, the question is how much that the student representative is going back to the constituents and bringing their input to the table. Those are the things I have in both of those meetings.

Concerning your next steps as an assembly, what we've seen, at least to me, you guys passed legislation, we passed legislation, saying that we believed the process should be halted. At this point, it does not look to me that that's going to happen directly through Dean Colombo or Chancellor Clay unless something happens. I would encourage you to continue getting your feedback from constituents to figure out what your constituents want to see in this plan, and if it's not reflected for you guys to be very clear and indicative about what that means. Whether it's running a survey or going around holding a constituency event. I would encourage you to keep that process going. By no means is this the end. While I feel as though the administration is very intent upon moving on, I believe that there is an openness and willingness to take student input where it comes. Based on what I've seen, if we have any degree of student input, we need to make it very clear and obvious to administrators. Those are my thoughts so far. I don't want to monologue too much. I'll go ahead and take any questions.



Jessica: What can you ask us to know for student input? If they ask that they still want the choice, are we still taking that as an opinion? Besides choice, what other input do they want? You said they already addressed this issue as kind of the choice. Should we factor that out as one of the student opinions or are we still pushing for that?

Jonté: In collecting feedback, I would factor nothing out. Although we have statements, if students are still opposed to it, it is our duty as student representatives to voice that opinion, even if the administration has a plan. I hope that the way in which I presented that didn't seem to diminish that in any way.

Adam: Did you explain to Colombo when the number of students who don't want to have a 3800 plan is significantly greater than the number of beds in a dining hall, that means there isn't choice?

Jonté: I did not explain it in that way.

Adam: Especially when we have another 400 students coming in.

Jonté: To clarify, you're saying that once W1 comes online, the total of number of beds will increase?

Adam: I'm saying it's going to get worse in the future.

Jonté: We had a petition of what seemed like a majority of Next House saying they opposed it. I brought that up. It didn't seem to, not sure really how I want to say this, the Dean was...the Dean seemed to question the validity.

Adam: Has the HDAG survey been sent out, and if so is it reasonable?

Ellen: The group that tasked HDAG to make a survey was DormCon. That was about 3 weeks ago. When we brought it back to DormCon, they determined that it was no longer necessary, so there's no longer an HDAG survey. It's not that there's no longer a possibility, but the survey we're working on is not allowed to continue to happen:

Adam: And the UA can't do one because Colombo doesn't approve?

Ellen: I would recommend that the UA work with HDAG to move forward.

Betsy: Do you know what sort of variety? Do you know how much room there will be here for student opinion to matter?

Jonté: I asked Chancellor Clay about that pretty directly. The way I asked the question was, when we get these vendors in and the committee appointed to review it, when they're reviewing these proposals, how will they gather student feedback? Obviously, I was speaking to the Chancellor. I think what he was trying to get at was, the elected representatives on HDAG on the evaluation committee should try as best as possible to reach out to students. There are going to be some aspects of these proposal that are going to be confidential because they talk about pricing and how we're going to provide a certain service at a certain cost.

Ellen: Almost the entirety of all the proposals will be confidential. The contents are not something that can be released to the student body. If there's something let's say that 5 vendors have 5 different vendors ideas, we can go ask the students, but we can't release any part of the documents that are given to us.

Suan: What's our current relationship with HDAG?



Vrajesh: Given that our dining chair has resigned, currently Sammi and I are filling in. As far as I'm aware, HDAG doesn't have many meetings scheduled in the near future. We're in close conversation with the Dean.

Will: In regards to that, there's also the possibility of working with a faculty member. They could verify it's accuracy. Therefore, Dean Colombo might be more likely to recognize the survey.

Jessica: When they make the future changes, will that be during the five year contract or are the changes after the five year contract?

Jonté: I asked him about that as well, and it sounded to me that there will be flexibility. I was not very sure about whether things like the plan itself will change.

Ellen: So there will be review periods built in to the 5 year contract. We have a meeting tomorrow morning, and there is going to be room for flexibility. It will be changeable within the 5 year period. I know breakfast is a huge concern for people. If we implement it and it's not successful for the first month, we're not going to shut it down for a month. It's not something we're going to completely back off the plan for, but there will be review.

Abel: You mentioned that a lot of the deans arguing was based on the fact that it will be very easy to get out of the dorms. What avenues can you take to move out of a dining dorm?

Jonté: To my knowledge, you can submit a housing form at any time. There are different lottery periods. I remember last year that there was an opportunity for people to move out at the end of the 1st semester and the end of the 2nd semester.

Abel: One of my friends is trying to get to another dorm, and his number is 75 on the waiting list...

Will: Is the length of the waiting list public?

Jonté: Yes, it's on MIT Housing's website.

Jonté: I think I'm going to go ahead and move to the next item. We will continue this discussion if there are any other questions, concerns, and suggestions from the assembly.

3. Exec Updates

Alex J: Institute CSL meetings, the Committee on Student Life, are open to everybody. They have a meeting this Friday on undergraduate advising, this Friday afternoon. I would recommend that you email ua-clc-reps. That will go to the reps on CSL. If you can make the meeting, you can ask for more at the meeting. Since this is Vrajesh and Sammi's platform, this is an important issue.

David: Why is CSL doing this?

Alex J: It's on the schedule.

Jessica: When you say it's open, is it open to Senate, or is it open to everybody?

Alex j: It's open to everybody. If you can't go that's fine, but you should send reps an email, so you can tell the reps there what you want. Generally they don't accept students to come, so you can email them so they can get a bigger room. It's 12-2 this Friday. You can tell your constituents if you think they'll be interested.

Jonté: Is that all for the Exec Update? Let's move on to business.



4. Approval of Minutes from 42 U.A.S. 4

Approved minutes from 42 U.A.S. 4.

5. Additional FinBoard Allocations for LSC

Cynthia: Hey guys, generally throughout the semester, sometimes groups just apply back to us to fund other things. LSC would like to do a few showings of Love Actually. They plan to have free showings, and they're looking for \$300, \$250 will go to have rights, \$50 will be for shipping. They generally spend from \$250 to \$1000 per film, so I figured this would reasonable. They just added this, since they want to do something for fun. They're not looking for food, they're doing that with their general budget.

Allan: We do have money for this right?

Cynthia: We have plenty.

Jessica: Is the free showing during finals week?

Cynthia: It's just a week before.

Hawkins: I'll let the speaker call the question.

Approved allocation to LSC from FinBoard.

6. Confirmation of Ashley Nash as Chair of the Alumni Relations Committee

Jonté: I don't see Ashley Nash; I think we're running well ahead of schedule, so we'll now take up the confirmation of Allan now.

7. Confirmation of Allan Miramonti as the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Athena Printing

Jonté: You guys appointed them; do you have remarks?

Vrajesh: We think Allan is the best person for the job. It's implementation, so we'll work directly with Oliver to roll out all the stuff you heard two weeks ago.

Allan: Hi, guys, I'm Allan; I hope you've learned this by now. We've created the committee last week; they want someone to run it. I'll contact Oliver. If he needs a living group to demo the printing stuff, we'll find some mechanism to take up the office in different living groups. We're trying to be transparent, but this is also short term. I'm going to do my job and get out of there. I'm also going to have committee members, and I don't know who else we have on the list. Any questions?

Closed session.

Allan Miramonti is approved as the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Athena Printing.

8. 42 U.A.S. 4.1: Bill to Establish Bylaws for the Nominations Committee

Alex J: I want to make some amendments in line with the conversations that we had. We had basically just talked about, instead of adding all committee bylaws to Senate Bylaws, it would make sense to create a separate document. I'd like to strike the last whereas clause, and also add that these bylaws be added to



a document: UA Committee Bylaws or something to that extent. And the last that clause: “update and publish the UA Committee Bylaws.” We actually need to add a final that clause that just mentions the existence of the Committee Bylaws to the constitution: a final that clause that says, that the location and existence of the UA Committee Bylaws be added to Article IV of the UA Constitution, and Adam can decide where best to put them.

Jonté: (Point of Information) Are we going to amend the constitution?

Alex J: Yes, actually, if you guys would like, I can write a separate bill. Tim Jenks, can you just remove that last addition? Sorry!

Allan: Motion to approve the amendment.

Motion to amend passes.

Jonté: We can vote on this bill now, if the amendment is ready. Is there any discussion?

Alex J: You were retasked last spring, committee chairs, to write your own bylaws. Now would be an awesome time, and we can add it to the bylaws document. It will all be in one place, and that will be great.

Jonté: Any additional discussion? Seeing none, we’ll move to vote.

42 U.A.S. 4.1 passes.

9. Confirmation of Mun Ngah Cheong as Vice Chair of the Committee on Student Life

Jonté: We’re moving on really quickly, so what we’ll do is to move to the New Business and Discussion section.

10. New Business and Discussion

Tim: Last meeting, point of information – how many pages are we at right now?

Alec: 8.

Tim: I’m going to motion to bring back the minutes bill. I think we should bring it back to have some kind of guidance on minutes. I think we’re going to motion to reconsider... We postponed it indefinitely, but I motion to bring it back on the table.

Motion to reconsider passes.

Tim: I would like to amend the bill to change these numbers. When 2 pages an hour might be appropriate for our discussions...2 pages an hour, if a speaker actually talks for a full hour, we need more pages for that. I’d like to strike the entire that clause – just set a hard cap except for extenuating circumstances. I think a 15 page hard cap limit would be overall a good idea.

Sammi: I think verbatim minutes are something that’s really important. I think the Secretary-General has done a good job. We’re working toward eliminating stuff. I think adding a hard cap is not helpful.

Alex J: I just have a general question: are there any crafty alumni here?

Will: We can post it on the list.



Alec: I don't know about crufty alumni, but, with regards to this, I can see two reasons that this should pass. 1. Senators don't feel like reading 15 page minutes, because you don't want to check your own quotes. But I feel like it's not that difficult to check your own quotes because they usually don't add up to more than a page. 2. If this is sympathy for me, because I have to do a lot of work on these minutes: if I have to type 17 or 18 pages right now, to have to tailor them down to 15 pages...that's a lot more work for me, and I would rather just do the minutes pseudo-verbatim as I do them now. Otherwise, I may become a crufty old man.

Rachel: I just don't feel like looking through it. I think it seriously diminished transparency. It's not like: oh, you want to figure out specific wording. As far as the amendment, there's a reason it says roughly. I'm not going to go and count if it's 2 pages an hour. As far as being old and crufty, I took minutes for several 7 hour meetings, and they were all 15 pages or less. Some of it was off the record for committee chairs, admittedly.

Tim J: I don't think this is really feeling sorry for you. I think this is more of, I think this is important that Senators are going to read the entire set of minutes. I don't think the argument that minutes are 30 pages long is fine. I think 15 pages of minutes roughly is doable for reading the entire thing. For that, I call the amendment.

Jonté: All those in favor to close discussion, please raise your hand.

Motion to close discussion passes 14-2.

Alright, we will now take a vote on the amendment. All those in favor on amending the legislation as displayed, please raise your hand.

Motion to amend passes with a clear majority.

Alex D: Somebody asked what sort of page counts previously years had. The locker contains minutes, 05-06 minutes were exactly 5 pages long. 07-08 minutes tended to be in the 12-15 page range.

Sammi: Point of information, were they in LaTeX or Word?

Alex D: I think 05-06 were in Word and 07-08 were in LaTeX.

Alec: To address one of Tim's points that senators should read the whole set of minutes: the last set was 9 pages long, and when I sent them out, I had some blanks where I didn't have some senators' wording. I asked people to fill in these blanks, and some didn't even respond to me. So, I think that it wouldn't help people to read all of the minutes even if they were less than 15 pages long.

Rachel: To follow up, that's also when Senate was meeting. The meeting was by default longer.

Vrajesh: Point of information, do the minutes say when the meetings were adjourned?

Alex D: This one is 4 pages long. This one is 15 pages, March 16...10:30 to 3. Looks like 4 hours in 15 pages. (Statistics may or may not have been recorded correctly, but the generally gist is portrayed.)

Adam: While it's right to have minutes that are short, I think it's important to know that minutes are a record of what Senate did in the past. If any of you want to know exactly what amendments were opposed and what exactly happened, it's really important to have detailed minutes. Make sure that information doesn't get lost.



Will: I feel like a lot of views have been stated. I suggest that we vote on the bill, and if people feel that they don't know enough information now, they should vote against it and the question should be clarified. I move to call the question.

Motion to close discussion passes.

42 U.A.S. 4.3 passes – 12-11.

Alec: Motion to recess for 5 minutes.

Motion to recess passes.

Recess Starts: 8:56 pm, Recess Ends: 9:02 pm.

11. Confirmation of Ashley Nash as Chair of the Alumni Relations Committee

Ashley: Basically, what I want to do with Alumni Relations is to change the way it was done. It used to be to have events. I think a lot of the alumni, they feel connected to a major or FSILG. What I want to do is to start having and helping these events: having fraternities and sororities reach out to their own alumni. I think those are useful. I basically want to help facilitate organizations reaching out to alumni. They'll be in charge. Also, I thought this would be a great chance to get funding. When alumni donate, they can also donate it by factions. We started taking advantage of those. So, if a dorm wanted to do a project, they could be like: hey, we're so and so, and we want to do this. Things like that would also be helpful. Two suggestions that were brought to me: we might do something with careers, if they can find alumni, like what's it like working for company. Also, we do open houses for majors. We can get a sense of what we'd like to do and something like that.

Jessica: About the living groups opening alumni events, I thought some of them already do.

Ashely: I'm not telling them what type of event to do, if they want to reach out to alumni. If they don't really know where to start, I'm helping them out. I don't really have any goals for them. It's about helping them.

Shuang: Would the committees be about you coming to help get alumni, or would it be you coming to them about trying to help get alumni?

Ashley: I don't know dorms that don't have events. Let's say BC needs to get a hold of alumni; they don't know if they have something they want to do, and they have something to do it. They'd be like hey dorms, we need to have this. It would be really weird for us to impose events on them. It's a waste of my time and probably a waste of their time.

Almas: Are you considering having large-scale events?

Ashley: I'm not considering getting rid of them permanently. People just kind of grab their ice cream and ran. We can start small scale; it will get alumni a chance to get used to it. If there was a demand for it, I'd bring it back, but it doesn't seem like it was super successful. So, I don't want to spend too much information on it.

Closed session.

Ashley Nash is confirmed as the Chair of the Committee on Alumni Relations.



12. Confirmation of Mun Ngah Cheong as Vice Chair of the Committee on Student Life

Mun Ngah: My name is Mun Ngah. I joined UA last year. This is for UA CSL. So, I'm going to try to be very active, and I wanted to do this since I thought I can help out.

Jonté: What kind of projects have you worked on so far?

Mun Ngah: So far, I've been working for the Health and Wellness Week for the fall semester. We're also looking for the Produce Market during the Wellness Week for the spring semester. We also held out for the Athena printing project.

Sivakami: What's your vision for the committee next term?

Mun Ngah: Next term, we're going to focus more on the Wellness Week. We want to have everyone to have a very good life. For the final, they are not so stressed out, and it will be fine. We are currently working on seeing what other students want. As being a student, we asked around for their suggestions. We're going to put out a survey. We are now planning for this stage.

Closed Session.

Mun Ngah Cheong is confirmed as the Vice Chair of the Committee on Student Life.

13. New Business and Discussion

Will: I would like propose a bill about a survey with HDAG. *Reads bill.* We talked with Ellen with regards to this bill, and we think it would be useful for us.

Shuang: Is that only limited to the RFP process?

Will: I motion to amend the bill to remove "in the RFP process."

Adam: Can you make it "publically"?

Will: Change that to "The results of the survey will be publically released and used by HDAG."

Almas: I wanted to say that...I move to add to this amendment that the results shouldn't just be used by HDAG, and that HDAG should collaborate with the Senators.

Jonté: So, what are the specifics of this?

Almas: I move to say that it should be used in collaboration with the UA.

Some confusion

Jonté: We're now considering an amendment on this amendment.

Almas: "The results of this survey will be publically released and used by HDAG in collaboration with the UA senators from the dining dorms."

Shuang: I think what she's saying is the UA senators from dining dorms should be involved alongside HDAG for this process. Are we allowed to work with HDAG, go to the meetings, etc.? How do we exactly collaborate?

Almas: The senators are supposed to stay in touch. We're a resource that HDAG should use. This is good for students because every time we talk to HDAG, they always say that. If the students are uncomfortable with this plan, by collaborating with the senators, we can get what we want.



Will: The point of authoring this bill is to get the UA to work quickly with HDAG. I get that you want a bill that says exactly how the UA should work. I would like a bill that says we should do a survey that says we should want a bill later.

Betsy: They already have representatives, and I think we should talk to those representatives on HDAG to make sure we already have what we're saying.

Vrajesh: I sympathize that this is what we want to do, but this is not well thought out. The best time to do this is not during a Senate meeting, so I move to commit this.

Motion to commit passes.

Alex J: The nominations committee would like to put forward Tyshaun Wynter to get him approved on the ROTC committee.

Tyshaun Wynter is approved for the ROTC institute committee.

Jonté: We will now consider the discussion on dining.

Hawkins: I believe that it's evident that HDAG is not taking guidance, so I believe bills that are doing certain things are probably not going to happen.

Ellen: I disagree with that. I think if there is a direct collaboration between the two groups, both groups will accept whatever results come out of it. Right now it seems like the UA is working directly to oppose HDAG, and HDAG doesn't want to listen to direct opposition.

Almas: I'd like to disagree with the fact. So far what we've been doing is gathering input on what students think. The fact that students are opposed to it doesn't mean we are working against it. We just want to know what students think.

Allan: We're working with the desires of the student body, and if the student body is against HDAG, then it's not my problem. I like the bill, but I do fear that HDAG can use this as a rubber stamp and say that the UA is now approving the survey. I don't want this to be an excuse for HDAG to shove through the survey and say we're approved it.

Will: Just a clarification, I think she said that "HDAG believes."

Ellen: I think it's a perception. I don't think anything negative can come out of the two groups together.

Jonté: Further discussion? Seeing none, I hope you guys will continue to collect student feedback. Collaborate with one another, and I think we'll leave it at that.

Jessica: Sorry I just have one more question: did they ever decide what to do with W1 dining?

Ellen: I thought this has been public for awhile, but W1 has been on a 19 meal plan, which is 5 breakfasts and lunches, 2 brunches, and 7 dinners.

Sammi: Point of information, do you know how much it costs?

Ellen: \$4900.

Alex: Point of information, do you know why that hasn't been released?

Ellen: It has.

Jonté: We'll move on to Athena printing.



Allan: I've already gotten an email. Just a general call out: if any of you want to work on this, let me know, and I'll generally try to put you on the committee. If any of you have general guidance, I'll be receptive of that. Feel free to email me.

Richard: There are two types of issues here; I think maybe the printing committee is dealing with one of them. I think CSL is kind of fine on the technical issue for printing. The second is: random study spaces, such as opening Barker. My question is, Senate, does Senate think it's worthwhile to look into this second one, too?

Vrajesh: So, I think both issues are important. I believe that the space planning committee is working on planning space.

Will: I believe it was proposed last year that I think they're going to shut down Athena clusters. We're not currently working on it, but we're waiting until whether or not those are going to be shut down and the processes involved.

Allan: Unless directed by Senate, I'm not going to tackle space issues.

Vrajesh: I think it would be helpful, with regards to some of these questions of where these particular items are being tasked, just because we're trying to balance the load, to ask us what we would prefer them. As an example, although Paula has originally been tasked on the smoothie issue, that has been retasked to Will because of the increasing scope. In general, it would be nice if Senate consults us on where things should fall.

14. Presentation of Midterm Reviews for Officers and Committee Chairs

Jonté: Well now move into Midterm Reviews.

Rachel: Can we take a vote on closing session?

Vrajesh: I think it's very important that this be under closed session since we're not going to have Senate critique committee chairs and our evaluations. This is more for information for Senate and discussion, and it would be easier if privacy was maintained.

Jessica: Does this mean it cannot be repeated?

Vrajesh: Yes, they also all know what we got. They know what their score is and what they're working to improve. I think it would be disrespectful to them. How people are performing is kind of a sensitive topic. We're presenting things to Senate in a much more detail. Senate did ask for midterm reviews, I don't think they envisioned this though. We want to show how people have done, and we expect a certain level of respect.

Jessica: So, this is not what they're doing but how.

Vrajesh: Yes.

Alex D: Can you elaborate on why the people that are being reviewed may leave?

Sammi: I don't want it to become an interrogation, and I don't want them to take it as an attack.

Richard: The other side of the coin is people could defend themselves and get constructive criticism.

Ben: For the officers being removed, do they have access to the reviews?



Vrajesh: Yes.

Will: Call the question.

Closed Session

15. Closing Remarks and Good of the Order

Jonté: Things that we should be working on as an assembly...I think we still have maybe a little over a month left. I'm looking forward to seeing your work on constituency events. I'm hoping you'll be in touch with your constituencies. It's been suggested that I keep in touch. Starting tonight or tomorrow, I'm going to send an email that will be weekly listing for all the constituencies for which I have a fixed schedule and those for which that I do not. Please make an effort to get plans for us. If you have any questions or are having trouble coming up with any money (or have any special projects you want to us to bolster), please do not hesitate to approach myself and Tim.

Sammi: Ellen and I are working on the Spring budget soon. If no one uses the Senate Constituency Fund, there will be not much money left for next year. They won't be happy because you're taking money away from them.

Jonté: Please make use of this, and I hope you will look forward to holding constituency events.

Ben: How do we roll on the transparency for the reviews? We decided to keep that closed correct?

Jonté: Correct. Alright, thank you guys for coming.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alec Lai
UA Secretary General