



42 U.A.S. E2

Minutes from January 25, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

1. Statement of Purpose and Procedure

Jonté: As you all know, it's IAP. I think, though, we still have a lot of people in the audience. That's great! This is the second emergency meeting. I think you all received the email that the UA sent out to undergrads. Before we actually get started and go into the meeting, let's review the agenda. First of all, I'm going to yield the floor to the UA President to discuss the purpose of the meeting. After that, we'll have a presentation from Julie Norman, and, after that, they'll be available to answer questions. We'll move on to open forum at the end.

Vrajesh: As you just heard from Jonté, I'm going to give you a little bit of background. We'll talk about the ground rules. Julie will present; then, there will be an open forum. Then, we'll end meeting.

To give you a little bit of background, last week, Sammi and I met with Dean Norman and Elizabeth Young. They approached us to let us know about this. Together, we've decided this meeting would be a good way to communicate the changes and also provide a way for concerned students to give input. I would say...consider that context. We've been approached with this as an opportunity to give input, as opposed to last meeting, which was from a petition from the students last time.

Ground rules. As with all of our meetings, this is completely transparent. Alec will take minutes. If you want to have something not on the record, please don't say it here. Provided you're an undergrad, you'll have speaking privileges. Let's limit the length of comments. Let's make sure everyone can say what they want to say. The one other thing that I want to add is: I really think that, if we keep our comments respectful and related to the topic, this will help move this meeting forward.

One last thing, as far as procedure goes; when you speak, introduce yourself using your first and last name and, also, your living group and affiliation. That way, we know who you are and what experience you bring in.

2. Discussion of Changes for Orientation in Fall 2011

Norman: I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak with you this meeting and express thanks to the UA officers for responding to our request for conversation. Before I get started, I wanted to address a couple of rumors that we have learned are being passed around the campus. I think clearing the air will help this conversation be more productive. First, there is absolutely no truth to the rumor that the FSILG rush will move off the day or move to later in the term, during IAP, or during the spring term. Rush will remain on the day which it has been on for 8-9 years. Secondly, the REX or Residence Exploration Program and activities will not be reduced or will not be eliminated from the schedule. We'll talk about this a little bit more. There will be the same opportunity for student events and activities as there have in the past. And finally, the rumor that all food is going to be eliminated from the orientation schedule is not true. We, in fact, will feed them well during Orientation, as we have done in the past.



So, what I want to do this evening is to update you on what has been taking place within my office, as we are thinking about Orientation 2011, and how we can collectively move forward in welcoming the new class when they arrive in August. You've learned in the email that was sent to you that the Chancellor has charged us with viewing Orientation with the idea of reducing the schedule. That review is very complex; we need not only to think about what potential changes but also what should be accomplished during Orientation. We have stepped back to think about what an Orientation should include. Some preliminary steps have been taken, as the Chancellor has proceeded with the conversation around the review of Orientation and shortening it. So, one of the things that we did...the ASEs take a substantial amount of time during Orientation, and we looked at whether or not it can move. We met with the departments and talked to them about the possibilities, and they were open to learn what other institutions do with respect particularly around – how do we ensure students sitting for exams are not cheating or are who they say they are? We are interested in seeing how other institutions interpret this. So, we asked to learn about exams, and, in the course of looking at schools such as Harvard, Yale, and Stanford, what we learned is that no one except MIT awards credit for students sitting for any type of exam. All of the other institutions give exams to place out of courses. Students place out of Calculus 1, but they receive no credit.

Alex D: To be clear, they'll let you take, say, 18.01 – but not for credit.

Norman: Yeah, that's right. Whereas, at MIT, we need credit for 18.01 to graduate.

So, that didn't solve our issue. ASEs need to remain as they are presently offered at Orientation. We've also had a discussion with the Physics faculty around the Math diagnostic. You'll see that Dan Hastings and I have scheduled another meeting; we'll discuss if we can offer it in a different aspect. Again, it's not for credit; it's for placement. For Physics, we have a faculty committee we've met with. The chancellor thought that the staff that managed the situation should include faculty.

We've met with the learning communities. Certainly, before we shorten Orientation, we need to see how much time they need to do their work. We've met with the International Students' Office. If we make changes, how does this impact, positively or negatively, the programming that we're required to offer to international students? Liz has had conversation with all of the groups that manage FPOPs to look at whether or not we can move to common schedules. She has also looked at athletics; if the schedule changes and will still arrive when they are scheduled to arrive, there will be a several day longer gap between their arrival and their Orientation.

We also reviewed the mission of Orientation. That was given in 2002, when freshmen were required to live on campus and Orientation went through substantial changes. We went through all of the organizations that represent you, UA, DormCon, etc., and we developed this mission statement for Orientation. It's been reviewed over the years by the SLOPE group, and the faculty and staff who have roles in Orientation; so, as you can see, I think this represents the goals that we all want: for students to be welcome to make transitions into MIT, to be prepared to start the term, to be academically prepared, etc. One of the other goals we articulated is that we want students to find the right living community. It's very important that students you do know are in the right community.

When we look at orientation...this, my office, balances many different stakeholders. You can call them stakeholders, partners, etc. We need to look at the comprehensive needs, and this gives you Page 1 of the list...and there's Page 2. You can see there are a lot of groups that have a role and function within Orientation on campus. While some of the preliminary work has been accomplished by Liz, and some of



the other staff have been involved, a year ago, there was a meeting with most of the groups on the list. We met because I wanted to inform them that we were moving to an electronic mailing last year. If you're a freshman, you know you received all your information online, and we no longer mail documents. Many of these stakeholders provide us with information on what students need, on housing, and so forth. At the same time, I also asked everyone to begin thinking about their particular programs and what they do during Orientation – how they make it, could change it, etc. They should also begin thinking about what must be accomplished in Orientation and what, in fact, could take place later in the term, whether through Residential Life programs or during IAP. Is a lot of it critical during Orientation?

I'm going to tell you a little more about what we're thinking about. At this point, you're a stakeholder. One of the reasons I'm here is to include you in conversation and talk about what SLOPE is doing...who are your representatives, and how do you engage them? I also want to be very clear in articulating that I value your role in Orientation as much as I value everyone else's roles. Your programs have as much value in Orientation as other programs. I say that with tongue and cheek – maybe registration is a speck more important – but your role in welcoming students to campus, demonstrating your community at MIT, and demonstrating FSILGs is critical for students to make this transition and to fully integrate and feel like they belong to MIT.

When we met with the faculty committee and the other faculty in the GIRs, those departments and those other stakeholders mentioned to us and talked about what must be in Orientation and how we must prepare students to be at MIT. These three points came up. Certainly the academic piece – if they want, they have the opportunity to take the Advanced Standing Exams; meeting with faculty and engaging with them through FPOPs; the ability to navigate MIT; the piece around buildings; learning to navigate; managing the whole life; live in a community with people coming from many different backgrounds, many different value sets, and many different life experiences; so, that would be, certainly, alcohol, sexual assault, and diversity; and, the last piece being the “class identity and a sense of overall community” part. I certainly hope all of you are part of that – the parties you have at night, the activities meeting, etc. The academic exposure and knowledge in preparation for registration, this is what is helping you understand the community you have joined. This is where we are at this point. There's no defined schedule. I won't tell you that this is happening on Wednesday or Tuesday.

The FPOPs have agreed to go to 4 or 5 days. They have been previously at 2, 3, 4, and 5 days, but we believe starting all of the programs on the same day provides opportunity, opportunity for you maybe and maybe opportunities for the Housemasters and the staff. Maybe they'll talk about safety, talk to the students about when they have the opportunity to meet their students. What we are thinking about doing is...they start on the same day, but, on that 5th day, that would be the day we will offer ASEs. So, if the students want to sit for an Advanced Standing Exam and want to participate in an FPOP, they will be given clear information that you must choose a 4 day FPOP. Right now, this is what we're looking at for the 4 and 5 day FPOPs. You can see that the students that will make that choice still have that opportunity. Then, we probably have one other slot for FPOPs the next morning which will be just before the Advanced Standing Exams.

The President's Convocation will be the official kickoff for Orientation for parents and freshmen. I think all of you have hopefully attended convocation out in Killian Court. At least, you had the opportunity to do that. That's the kickoff for the programs I mentioned to you.



Dan Hastings and I are meeting with the Physics Department regarding Math Diagnosis – having 1150 freshmen that have to sit for the same exam, which is a significant amount of time, a big piece of one day. Prior to what I think is probably any one of you being at MIT, we did mail the Math Diagnosis to students. They took it and returned it to MIT, but, in 2006, I believe, the Physics Department made the decision that they wanted the exam back on campus. We accommodated that but now we need to think of a little bit of time.

We also considered putting the Health and Wellness Fair on Registration Day. We do it on Kresge Oval; it's always been open to undergraduates and graduates. We may have more attendance at that particular event. It's well-attended, particularly by the graduate students and their families.

SLOPE will be meeting/starting to meet in early February. This committee of students is organized and facilitated by Julie Rothhaar which is the Assistant Dean in Residential Life and First Year Programs; she will be soliciting from your organization your representatives for that committee. I think that's started; if not, it's happening this week. I believe she would like to get the committee together for its first meeting. The students that are on SLOPE are representing the FSILGs, DormCon, UA, ASA, and saveTFP.

This coming August has been the case for the last three years. 75% of the class will be on campus one full week before orientation starts. International students, all of the FPOPs, and athletes representing four or five teams arrive early. That's a huge fraction of the class. I think it provides us with lots of opportunity. As it stands, the opportunity for you to do programming, the SLOPE activities, the residential activities, the parties, etc. will continue to be the weekend before Orientation starts. Thursday will be the advising and Registration Day. It will be the day you will move into the permanent rooms. That fundamental structure will remain the same for us. Thursday is the anchor; Thursday is the day we must register all freshmen. That evening, she actually runs all undergrad schedules, and we know how many students will be in different classes – more accurately the GIRs – and that's how the sections are defined. Of course, you can find your schedule on Saturday. We have to work around Registration.

So, that's where we are. We are thinking. We do need to make some decisions on the schedule in the next month because we need to start seriously putting out information by CPW and then move into the preparation of information and materials for the electronic mailing to the students. I'm available and ready to take any questions.

3. Question and Answer Session

Shuang: Hi. I'm Shuang Chen from Simmons. I was wondering: how many days would you like to get cut off from this?

Norman: Two days; our goal is two days.

Alex D: Is Orientation becoming two days or reducing by two days?

Norman: Reducing.

Liz: It's currently 7 days. We start and end at Greek Griller.

Logan: I'm Logan Williams, a sophomore at Senior House. I think you stated this. I just wanted to make it explicit: so, all freshmen will be on campus by Saturday?

Norman: Not all. It's Monday – the Monday before Labor Day – that all freshmen will be on campus



Logan: Only the freshmen doing FPOPs, athletes, and international students will be on campus. The plan is for the housing lottery to still close on Tuesday afternoon?

Norman: Yes.

Logan: Okay. And, will Orientation events be moved to overlap with REX more than they did last year?

Norman: During the day time or at night?

Logan: It's all about the changes that are being made from previous years. If you look at last year, you can see some overlaps starting on Sunday and Monday. I'm asking what is the amount of overlap? Is that about the same or is that projected to increase?

Norman: Well, that's an interesting question. Let me respond this way. On Saturday, there will be students who are engaged in FPOPs for at least part of the day. There will be other students that are not. International students, athletes, etc. will not be engaged at all. We have no programming either. Sunday, we will again have no events. The students will be on campus, again, some of them engaged on FPOPs.

Logan: What is the date FPOPs begin?

Norman: Monday. We're thinking Monday will be the Advanced Standing Exams. That would be the last day of the FPOPs.

Tim J: I'm Tim Jenks. I'm a senator from fraternities. Concerning the Chancellor's charge, when he approached the UAAP and asked to revisit Orientation with the idea of making it shorter, were there any comment about budgets or costs coming from the Orientation, coming from the Chancellor?

Norman: No, it's not motivated solely by resources. Let me be honest. In my budget, I will save no money. The greatest expense is feeding freshmen, and we're still feeding freshmen. We will not save money in that sense. If we look at the resources of all of these stakeholders, all of the resources and spaces, the institute will save money. I'll give you an example off the top of head. The EAPS FPOP is the one that flies students to Yellowstone. They fly west back to my part of the world - Montana. In the past they have not have the benefit of flying and having the Saturday night stay. Now, Tuesday and Wednesday, are the least expensive days to fly. If you add to that a Saturday night, you get the best rate. In this scenario, they will be able to fly students out on Tuesday, have a Saturday night stay, and come back on Monday. They're going to save a significant amount of money. There will be savings defined by different groups and Orientations events. There are already several groups. The International Students Office, their Orientation will actually be able to move about a full week. After they do their Orientation, until we start, they will not need to wait because, as soon as that Orientation ends, ours will begin. We're sort of increasing the efficiency of all of our resources.

Alex J: So, I kind of drew it out. To clarify, all students/freshmen will be on campus by Monday night assuming that the 5 day FPOPs will take advantage and fly back Monday afternoon...specifically the traveling programs. Let's say 100% of students are back or on campus by noon that day. Because you also have the other students that are not participating in FPOPs and such, they'll have about 24 hours to do REX. That's my question, is that the case?

Norman: Would you explain what you mean by doing REX? What activities?

Alex J: Any dorm activates before they have to choose whether or not they live in a dorm. The students there 4-5 days before that will be engaging in FPOPs, etc. I'm just trying to clarify when all students will have access to REX activities.



Norman: Over the weekend, after 5 o' clock, somewhere around 75%-80% of the students are available. Monday, at noon, 100% of the students are. We will have no programming until the convocation. The departments will offer ASEs which is about 20% of the students. The largest exam last year has 86 students. That gave you a sense of why we are looking at the overlap. A little tail is wagging the dog; so, it's sort of saving the time. So, Monday, at noon, you'll have basically the whole class there. Our first official program will be the President's Convocation which will be 11 o' clock on Tuesday.

Jonté: We're going to recess for 15 minutes. That's an opportunity to discuss as well. We're going to continue questions afterwards, and, then, we'll open up for open forum on Orientation.

Recess Begins: 7:42pm; Recess Ends: 7:54 pm.

(Some confusion as Betsy tries to upload a calendar to the projector computer. She defers her comment until the calendar is setup.)

Robin: Robin Deits, East Campus. Just looking at the schedule, students will be arriving on Monday, correct? Students not participating in an FPOP?

Norman: We always tell the students the latest date.

Robin: When's the earliest date they can arrive?

Norman: By noon Monday. That's the latest of when the students should arrive here.

Liz: If I can give one little comment: students that have done FPOP...every day we do checklist of when people arrive. We probably had 20 people that came in the very last time block. Sammi, as an O-Coordinator, can attest to this. If we have Monday arrivals, most of those people are within driving distance. I would anticipate that the last big group will come on Sunday.

Robin: I'm just confirming that.

Rachel M: You were going to ask about students not in an FPOP.

Robin: Yes, when's the earliest they can come?

Norman: Sometime on Sunday.

Robin: Students come on Sunday and Monday that are not in an FPOP. Then, they have 24-48 hours to decide before the Housing Lottery closes. They have to move into their original dorms, at which, then, they're probably too exhausted to do anything. If they come on Sunday and the next day, that is two days. Do you think that is sufficient time for them to choose a correct living group?

Norman: I think CPW is a good time.

Robin: So you think CPW is good for this?

(Many expressions of discontent from the audience.)

James: James, East Campus. So, earlier, when we asked if money is a big issue, you said no – just overall. So, if money isn't the main motivation, what is the main motivation?

Norman: So, we have the longest Orientation in the country, at 7 days.

James: Is that a problem?



Norman: It's a problem in that, we see students losing their energy and participation. Faculty are concerned that, by the time they arrive at class, they're worn out. The Chancellor has asked us to step back and say what is essential and critical.

James: So, it's a student health thing,

Norman: It's health and other student related matters.

Paul: Paul Kominers, VP at Random Hall. The President sends her regrets; she's currently on a plane. The question I would like to ask: during recess, I was doing some math on the whiteboard. We estimate that the scribed schedule contains about 40% of the REX hours that would be previous seen. Probably our math is bad, we don't have perfect information. Say we're off by 20-25%. That means we still have 60-65%. We're losing up to 2/5 of REX which is a pretty substantial chunk of a pretty important time for students. The question that I'm asking is whether you guys have done the math and if you have a different number.

Norman: I have not done that math. I have not drilled down in a schedule and looked at hours, minutes, etc. I think the quality of your programs is important vs. the quantity. I understand you need a reasonable amount of time. I think the other piece in a previous question was around...when will we guarantee a significant number of students will be here. If we have 825 students or 850 students here in August, why are we not using some time during FPOPs to do some programming around REX?

Paul: The brief follow up I'd like to ask: do you think that shifting Orientation around to cut more time out of Orientation-proper, speaking as one who did not go to many proper Orientation events...

Jonté: I apologize, but I don't quite think this is germane to the topic.

Paul: I'm sorry. I retract my question.

Owen: Owen Derby, senator for fraternities. Jonté, I would like to ask what their plan is for future plans on City Days.

Norman: City Days is one of the programs we are considering moving to a different point in time, some other time during the term, for example. We're looking at...there are a number of things going on. Universities in Boston, BU, etc., they have days that are committed to a day of service at other institutions in the Boston-Cambridge Areas. That may work to the equivalent of City Days. Those discussions are underway during the course of this Spring. One of the pieces we're looking at with respect to the public service piece is: how do we showcase some programs and activities and some of the projects they're doing. Maybe something in Lobby 7 and 10. So, we do kind of have that exploration of what kinds of service. We're still thinking about what that might look that.

Owen: Are there current plans to maintain any service?

Norman: Are you referring to a day?

Owen: Not necessarily a day; just is there service.

Norman: There may not necessarily be a day. It will wait until we see some follow up of 500 students that value it. Is it essential during Orientation? I think that's the fundamental question we have asked any parties involved.

Prongel: Prongel Rhajas (?), freshman, East Campus. First of all, I would just like to say that, as a freshman, REX and Orientation were helpful to me in several ways. They helped me find a place to live.



They helped me equivo-lize to MIT. They helped me find a way to get used to my role in MIT. I feel like learning how to navigate MIT was a really big deal for me at Orientation. You talked about the impact of students at Orientation. We didn't get burned out because it was too long. Rather it was more because it wasn't long enough. In such a short amount of time, we had to do my FPOP, 12 dorms, and so and so forth. I feel like if MIT Orientation is shorter, I'd be probably more stressed. I wouldn't sleep as much, and I wouldn't eat as much. It would have made it a far worse experience. It would've impacted my grades and mental health. I was wondering what methods Dean Norman has taken to address the issue.

Norman: Thank you for the positive efforts and feedback on Orientation, and thank you for participating at Orientation. Just to clarify, what are we...

Prongel: Doing so we're not as stressed during all we have to do in those days.

Norman: That's the fundamental question of what is it you must do to find the right activities vs. what are some of the activities that are not relevant.

Prongel: We're going to have 12 dorms including Maseeh Hall. Given time of transportation, that gives 30-45 minutes per living group; it's really hard to evaluate in that time. From an incoming freshmen's point of view, how will they deal with this huge flood of information that will already be several times as great?

Norman: I think that's a good question. As a Dean of freshmen, it's dear to my heart. I want students to not be stressed. I'm going to go back to a comment I have made which was not well received. I think we have to look at the whole concept. CPW is one of those opportunities. The information that you guys have developed during the housing guide goes into that information. I think another piece is what you have to talk about during Orientation and that final piece of time. I don't believe that every one of the freshmen visit every one of the residents. I think there needs to be enough time for students to visit those community; they're interested in either revisiting or visiting MIT the first time.

Will: Will Steadman, senator from Senior House. You have a slide of the essential goals of the organization. These are all goals for the students. So, therefore students, should judge the effectiveness of Orientation to achieve the goals. Would you agree with that?

Norman: Mhm.

Will: So, under these changes, students should be able to judge whether these changes are effective to achieve these goals.

Norman: At the end of Orientation, we do do an assessment with freshmen, and everyone is asked to evaluate all the programs in Orientation and give the feedback.

Will: What would you consider then, a failure? What are you trying to avoid?

Norman: Those values that we put up there are what we believe should be in Orientation, that has not changed from past Orientation. What would I view as a failure? I think someone that has taken advantage of touring the dorm, someone that doesn't feel like their part of the class and to the community, etc. I see that person as someone that is lost on Day 1.

Julie Paneton {?}: Julie Paneton, President and Secretary of New House. I would just like to make a general comment that I did not go to CPW. I don't know if Dean Norman has numbers on what percentage of the admitted class actually goes. I had 3 or more things that weekend, and I ended up not



going. Some students can't afford to fly out for CPW, and CPW is not a great time to say: oh, all the students can come and see what all the dorms are like. I don't think that's accurate. I don't know if you have numbers.

Norman: The yield for CPW is over 75%, of the students that attend, about 75% of the current freshmen class has been the trend for about the last 10 years. This, I think, speaks to why CPW is so important. The yield is students are satisfied with their experience and make the decisions on why this belongs.

Will: I heard the statistics that last year...35% of students changed their dorm during REX.

Norman: No, that number is not true.

Liz: 350 students did not switch dorms.

Norman: I think the number is around 135 or something.

Alex D: I have the Tech article in front of me. About 35% of freshmen tried to move during the Readjustment Lottery, and about 22% were able to this year. It has been generally trending upwards.

Karen: Karen Sittig, junior, EC. Just a point of clarification, you said that 75% of the students that attend CPW ultimately attended MIT.

Norman: 75% of the current class attended MIT.

Karen: I personally had parents considerate enough that they want to buy plane tickets. Are there any attempts to increase financial aid so more students will attend CPW?

Norman: That's an interesting question. It's not a financial aid problem. You don't receive until you get back.

Tim R: Point of information – it's called the fly-in program. It's just for students who can't purchase due to traveling costs. A good amount of students don't attend CPW because they're attending band camp, credit classes, etc. Even if you reach out to students...

Jonté: I think the point of information has expired.

Norman: Financial aid is not the mechanism to support prospective students. Maybe the admissions office would provide...

Karen: So, Admissions Office?

Norman: I have no sense if the Admissions Office has those funds.

Karen: But this was not a concern?

Norman: No; that was not my issue.

Tim J: I had a question for Elizabeth actually. I've seen Orientation from all sides, being an orientation leader, going to orientation, etc., by shortening Orientation, obviously you have less time to do all events. I felt like, maybe from the other side as the Orientation leader, the events were a lot better than they seem, but are there specific events you feel that would be able to be removed from Orientation that will also keep up the quality of Orientation.

Liz: The top 3: alcohol, sex, and diversity...one of those 3 areas. The speaker we had this year wasn't that effective anymore. The diversity program, the staff, and student life, could decide who the speaker is and who's good. The alcohol program comes out of that office; many of you have participated or are going to



Tech Fair. When I think about the program, what's important for us is to go to those rooms. We have to look at them and see if it's the best way. We go back to the office... maybe alcohol conversations should take place in freshman halls with their residents and students.

You, as freshmen, are the best ways to have this conversation. Does the shortened schedule drive everyone to look at things differently? Yes. Take time to step back to see if this is the most effective way. Does that help answer that? Convocation isn't going to go anywhere. Core Blitz is the number one attended program. That mechanism needs to still happen. It's about how to do things differently and more effectively

Tim J: My experience with REX is that there are 12 dorms. With all the mailing and things that come out, there's definitely not, I'm pretty sure at least in my perspective, a need to visit 12 dorms to know that there are several dorms that I may fit into. Just like, when rush comes around, there are 27 different frats, and we have 6-7 days to rush. They have little time to figure out which fraternity they want to look that. People do have an idea from the i3 video. So, there is some preconception of: okay, these are my top 4 dorms. I'm going to look at that once I get on campus. You don't need to look at all 12 once you get up.

Betsy: A group of us at EC decided to put all REX events from 2010 onto the calendar. If you scroll up and down, you can see there are about 250 events. It is completely impossible to fit these events into 24 to 48 hours. The fact that 35% tries to switch dorms says they're not getting all the information. These 4 days are crucial for them in their decisions office.

I also think that the point that you get some of the information over i3 in the package over the summer: from the 2006 report, it seems like there was a resounding opinion that you can get the same exposure to the dorm virtually.

It's very important to visit the dorms. CPW is not an appropriate time. Students are trying to decide whether or not they should come to MIT or not, not Next House or New. Furthermore, CPW – it's not possible for MIT to do as well in portraying our dorm culture when we also have classes and such to worry about. I think this calendar as it stands is very important.

Norman: What dorms are represented in this schedule?

Betsy: Every dorm.

James: That schedule is based off the official guide to REX that was sent. This was the official guide.

Ashley: I also think that CPW isn't a good time. If we decide where to move at that time, we get a lot of people with the wrong idea. I think people should figure out whether or not they should be here instead of trying to figure out where here they should be.

Norman: I think there's my question asking in response, why do some of the dorms that hold activities during CPW not show more?

Ashley: I'm not saying that dorms shouldn't have events during CPW; I'm saying that shouldn't be the only objective. I think, whether or not they should be coming to MIT needs to take more precedence over dorm activities. I think people need to figure out what they should be doing.

Paula: Paula, senior. I was rush chair this past year. I have so many comments to say, I don't even know which ones to say. As far as CPW goes, and student opinions, there is talk at Senior House every year about how we shouldn't even participate because we're just being the work horse of the institute. They're just going to come here because they think we're cool not because the institute is cool. There's also the



aspect with rush. REX is, more than anything, getting to meet people, and meeting people takes more than a half hour. If you like two dorms, the only two you want to visit, you need a lot more than 3 people significantly at each dorm. You're going to need an afternoon for each dorm. You're not living with the movie, the booklet, or the events.

Norman: I don't need to imply that students should be making choices during CPW. They have to decide if this is the right academic institution, but they also have to decide if they want to live this way at this time. They also have to feel the community to give a sense about what you're about. I do think that of the opportunities, we have to expose students based on how students live. That type of exposure is based on decision making. We are not in disagreement. I've said to you before, I want these freshmen to be living in the right place. They need to be at home. If they're not, they're not going to be good academically. That's why you are so important; students want that exposure.

Paula: You feel like the new Orientation is going to reflect that?

Norman: I'm going to put some time on the schedule; so, they can be with the women in purple, so, they can get to know you. I understand what you're saying, but you ought to be thinking with me on how we can utilize the time that we have.

James: James, EC President. So, my name is James. I'm the East Campus President=Elect, I guess since CPW is really important, and for getting students to come to MIT, and REX is very important for any students to pick dorms, then how do we want to merge these. Effectively, we're losing 2 of the 3 days. Now they have 12 hours. How do we expect to merge all of those 4 days of REX activities into CPW while we're still in CPW. At CPW, my goal was to coming to MIT. I know, if at CPW, it's our job to convince them to come to our dormitory...at CPW we'll have approximately 5 people helping me. This is exactly when everyone is completely stressed out. How do we expect to take these days of REX and cram them into CPW when we're stressed and have no time to do that?

Norman: I understand the passion with which you are asking this question because I do understand what's happening at that term. I understand your frustration. I do. I don't have a solution that. And I am going to push back just a speck because, again, I don't want you to...use the you must be here deadline as your starting point. Don't! Most of them are here before the last time.

Liz: Can I add one thing that might be helpful? A lot of academic FPOPs end at 5 o' clock. A lot of them, the departments fund the programs; they also don't want to charge freshmen \$50 dollar or \$100 (like Outward Bound is \$500). If you can't afford it, you shouldn't choose it. A lot of these activities end at 5. What Julie was talking about is: there's over 600 freshmen here just for FPOPs. A lot of them in the evenings, they want to make it open. For every given night, we have 50-100 people. That's an opportunity for resident halls.

James: I'm just curious if we want the freshmen to sleep or not.

Chen: I'm an international student from Southeast Asia. It's impossible for me to fly all the way here for CPW and the weekend. Is there a provision for international students if they're going to have so much exposure during CPW?

(Some clarification on the question.)

Norman: He's asking: how does he get information as an international student?



Liz: The guide to residential life is not mailed. For you we, mailed the packet to you. Last year was the first year it was not sent to international students. Danielle is looking at how they plan on giving the info to international students.

Norman: I think that's a good note for us to take, housing is not something we handle, but that's a conversation we can have. We need to make sure international students received a lot of information ahead of time before you're asked to make a decision.

Mike: Mike Salvati (?), resident of EC. You mentioned that FPOP would be a good thing. With the enrollment increase, do you expect the FPOPs to increase?

Norman: We are in conversation with some of the FPOPs who are considering FPOPs. Potentially, the other piece we're looking at is whether or not a program can increase the size and take 32 or something. We think we can have a little bit more capacity.

Mike: Do you expect the number of early returns to increase if we're going to be doing REX during FPOPs?

Norman: Unfortunately, that's a question I cannot address. We have not talked to them about these kind of issues. We haven't drilled down to the earlier question about when the Housing Lottery can close. Those are questions we have to ask Henry Humphreys.

Donald: Donald Guy. I have a short-ish question, it has some background. From approximately 1963 or so, until 2001, Rush and Orientation were separate. During that time, you had time for fraternities to consider housing. There was an extended amount of time that they can vision housing. As soon as freshmen was implemented, there was a decrease in time. There were many meetings with official student organizations. After an extended period of protest, there was settlement which we now have and understand as REX. As these things come together, and it appears we may or may not decrease in time, it is a question of student interest whether or not the administration prefers REX less than orientation, and if it doesn't, why don't we consider separating REX and Orientation in time.

Norman: Let me tell you what orientation looks like back then. It was three days of orientation and 3 days of rush, and it was Independent Living Groups and the dorms all rushing in that 3 day period to the class. Then, Orientation began again for another 3-4 days to finish the programming, advising and registering of students. In that period in 2002, when freshmen were required to live on campus, the rush period changed because now students were no longer being rushed for living option by all of the dorms and FSILGs. That changed the number of options that a freshman had, and that's when the schedule separated REX from the rush that starts on the weekend after in a completely different configuration. The freshmen are not choosing a fraternity, for example, and moving off campus. I'm not sure what your actual question is.

Donald: The question is if the institute considers housing options as a priority. The fraternities are still given a 7 days period and 3 of which are very much desired to attend. Why is it that dorms are given pretty much the exception of some evenings when students are busy and sleeping. There is no dedicated time for dorms to "rush" people. We are rushing people, and we are trying to get students to live with us because we think we are better than some other option. I feel like the dorms of the party have just gotten the last out of it. The IFC protected its share. Your option protected its share, and the dorms lost something.



Norman: I think that is a very interesting perspective. I'm not exactly sure how you would like me to respond. I think the institute, when they made the decision that freshmen should live on campus, was not here for that decision. I think that at that time, philosophically, the institute wanted to utilize these other opportunities to begin exposing students to what living options there are, i.e. CPW. The fraternity piece, I really cannot respond to why they have the period that they do. We need the FSILGs to set an example. Freshmen may not have the experience, but we have over 4000 undergraduates that much have housing experience. They need to find those relationships and affiliations that they feel comfortable with. The FSILGs play a very critical piece to be part of the whole system of Student Life. I cannot respond to the question of why there has to be period for rush.

Liz: One year, frat rush was 3 weeks after the semester, and it did not help them academically.

Donald: I think the year is 2002.

Jonté: We're going to have to cut you off.

Donald: I don't think my question was answered

Hawkins: Hawkins, Chair of Housing. I was deployed to the Gulf during my CPW. For, I guess, since I was 12, I knew what I wanted to do; so, I was only interested in one FPOP, and I applied for it. I didn't get it. 75% is a lot, and I'm wondering, as part of the 25%, are we going to be left out in the cold?

Norman: I certainly hope not. I think that number of 75% is what we think is an opportunity during CPW. The other students that don't have the opportunity to come to campus, they can't be left out. They must have the opportunity to find the residents and the right community. We have to assure that.

Jonté: Do you have any closing remarks?

Norman: I think my closing remarks are: I want to thank all of you for being so candid and honest. Your REX activities are near and dear to your heart, and they are very important to you. They are very important to us, but as you can see in our earlier comment, we're balancing a lot. We need to accomplish a great deal during this period. It is not my Orientation; it's the institute's Orientation, and the Institute does indicate to us what must be accomplished during Orientation. With student life and the academic departments, we work hard to meet those expectations during the program. Moving forward, we will be looking towards student reps to look at opportunities during orientation, look at if the schedule will be able to ebb and flow, etc. We'll be looking towards you to accomplish those goals and objectives also. Thank you for this opportunity. We will be continuing this. I know I don't make all of you happy all the time. I think we all share the same values; we want to welcome them. We want them to be ready by the first day of classes, and we want them to find the right community to call home. I'm committed to work with you to help your students find that niche on campus.

4. Open Forum on Orientation

Jonté: I think what is best for you guys is to discuss what you think is important and what you think is best to represent the committee.

(Some confusion about adjournment and recess. Decided to allow some final statements.)

Amy: Amy Fritz (?). I'm a junior from Random Hall. I just want to say that this upsets me in a sense. You're expecting people to come during FPOPs. I already felt left behind a lot of people coming in. I was more left behind in REX, furthermore, and you're making REX smaller and smaller. We can have



them change dorms later during the week. I realistically think it's too unrealistic to do it in that point of time that fast.

Anonymous: How set in stone is this schedule? Will we have time to make decisions, or is this futile?

Norman: I will not say it's futile. I think we need to step back now and see what are our foundational things are. The feedback from your representatives, UA, DormCon, etc. will be helpful. It can't be next April or May; it has to be the next couple of weeks.

Sam (East Campus): I did FPOP, Orientation, and REX. Of these, REX was by far the most important. It was the one that changed how my entire experience went. I played a lot of dodgeball in CPW and I didn't sleep. Orientation, I went to events. And, REX was the most important time.

Logan: Has there been any cons of moving the cutoff date for housing lottery date from Tuesday to Wednesday to extend the time? It makes sense to me, and you can still have stuff after the meeting.

Norman: That's very important information. We are pleased with the information. That's something we need an answer from Henry Humphreys and staff to see how much time they in fact really need to run the lottery and make the announcements. We want that window that's absolutely small. We're looking as late as possible on Tuesday. That, in fact, should happen at 8 o'clock in the morning.

Recess Begins: 8:59 pm; Recess Ends: 9:05 pm.

Jonté: What I was hoping to get out of this is what you guys think we should do concerning this issue. We've had lots of questions, but we haven't actually set what we should do about this topic. At the end of last meeting there was a piece of legislation.

Betsy: I agree we need to do something. I don't think we've had enough time to talk about that, so I move to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alec Lai
UA Secretary General



Appendix I: Notes on Presentation Slides

Mission Statement:

The mission of the MIT Orientation program is to assist new students in their transition to MIT by providing programs and services which outline the Institute's academic requirements as well as social/developmental opportunities and to welcome students to the MIT community, introducing them to each other, upper-class students, staff, and faculty.

Essential to Orientation:

- Academic exposure and knowledge in preparation for registration
- Ability to navigate MIT
- Class identity and a sense of overall community

Stakeholders:

Academic areas

- Departments sponsoring pre-programs
- Departments that offer Advanced Standing Exams
- First-Year course instructors (Core Blitz)
- Learning Communities
- All academic departments

Administrative offices

- International Students Office
- Medical

DUE

- UAAP, including S3 and SDS
- Registrar
- OME

DSL

- Public Service Center
- DAPER
- Housemasters
- Residential Life Programs (FSILGs)
- Student Life Programs (LBGT, Women programming)

Students

Operational/Functional

- Housing
- Campus Police
- Libraries
- Information Systems & Technology
- GECDG
- Chaplains

(Continued on next page.)



FPOPs:

5-Day Programs

- Arts Program
- Biological Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Cultural Exploration
- DEAPS: Colorado
- Energy
- Leadership
- Mechanical Engineering
- Outdoor Program
- Product Design
- Urban Program

4-Day Programs

- Architecture/Urban Studies
- Brain & Cognitive Science
- Comparative Media Studies
- DEAPS: Weather & Climate
- History
- Literature
- Materials Science
- Nuclear Science & Engineering
- Ocean Engineering
- Physics
- Wellness