

1. Quote of the Night

“You shouldn’t be afraid to ask questions. We don’t bite too hard.” –Allan Miramonti, UA President

2. Summary

This was the first meeting of the 43rd session of the Undergraduate Association Senate, the first Senate meeting of the 2011-2012 school year. It was a special non-voting budgetary meeting to look at the budget of the UA for the Fall 2011 semester. Will Steadman, the UA Speaker, introduced the Senate and said that he would go more in-depth into the role of the Senate at the first legislative meeting. Allan Miramonti, the UA President, gave a presentation on the State of the UA. He gave an overview of the structure of the UA, highlighted some recent accomplishments, expressed optimism about the many different goals that UA Exec has for the year, talked about how Senators could get involved, and highlighted the main goals that he and TyShaun, the UA Vice President, have for the semester: these revolve around choice, safety, and student engagement. Alex Hall, the UA Treasurer, introduced the budget, and five-minute discussions on each committee’s budget, along with budgets for Senate, Exec, and Operating funds, were held.

3. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 pm.

4. Roll Call

The following members were absent: Victor Pontis (Baker), Diego Giraldez (Baker), Shri Canesharm (Bexley), Jiahao Liang (MacGregor), Alix de Monts (Sustainability), Christine Chen (Events), Alan Miranda (Public Relations)

The following members were late: Karan Takhar (Vice Speaker), Pikachu (New House)

5. Welcome to Senate

Will: Welcome to Senate! I’m Will and I’m the UA Speaker. Congratulations on being elected to be here. We will go over Robert’s Rules next week, so everyone has a basic idea of how Senate operates. For tonight it’s going to be general discussion. As for the purpose of Senate, you all were elected, and I will give you a small take on what I think it’s about. The key thing about you is that you were all elected to make sure that student government is representative. You’re here to make sure that all the other people in the UA are doing their job correctly. We’ll tell Allan this is what we want to happen. The rest of the executive branch will go out and do that. It will be hard for those of us sitting here at this table to make things happen. It’s hard for 40 people to decide the details of how things will happen, but we can set priorities for things that we want to have happen. You are required to be involved in some other way, in terms of joining a committee, and Allan will talk about in the State of the UA—what they’re up to. There are also institute reps. This is how you can get involved in the smaller things of the UA where the nitty-gritty can be worked out. That’s the general purpose of Senate.

My role as Speaker is to serve you and make sure Senate runs effectively. I prepare agendas and make sure whatever Senate says happens. I have a Vice Speaker, currently Rachel as Karan is not here, who aids me in that role. Later we’ll go through the other positions in Senate that you guys can take on to make sure Senate runs effectively. Now let’s go into an overview of the meeting. First Allan will give a State of the UA as an introduction. Then we’ll go to Alex Hall who will present and lead the discussion of the budget. Then we’ll go over the budget, look at it in its entirety, and provide the opportunity for you to ask questions. The purpose is not to set a final budget from this meeting. We have a whole week before

we can approve it. We have technology—the ua-senate mailing lists—which I already sent a welcome email to and where Alex recently sent out the budget. Email ua-senate; it makes our lives much better and more effective. Tonight we'll just do an introduction of the budget and answer questions you have. Next week we can actually finalize and pass the budget and make sure it is in its best possible shape.

Karan Takhar enters.

Karan is here now and is taking over as our permanent vice speaker. Now let's do the State of the UA.

6. State of the UA

Allan: Hello everyone. I'm Allan, the UA president. I'm dressed up today, but I don't expect you guys to dress up and I won't dress up in the future. I'm giving the State of the UA, which I give once in the fall and once in the spring. If you have questions feel free to stop me by raising your hand and talking.

First, what is the UA? I see it as a student advocacy group for undergrads of MIT. We work on issues pertinent to students and stick to these things. We do our best to improve the undergraduate condition; we work on new things and policies. We bring in things like the Produce Market, although I will go into specific accomplishments later. We try to find areas where our actions can benefit students. You are one of our largest and perhaps most important UA structures.

What do we look like? We are one unified organization. There is an executive portion, a Senate, and a Judicial Board, mirroring the federal government. As president, I am the sole spokesperson for the UA. TyShaun and I run the committees. For Senate, we have the Senate Speaker Will. JudBoard is less active; they only arise if there's a need—if we have a constitutional ambiguity and someone wants to challenge something that's happened. It's like a Supreme Court. They don't handle disciplinary issues; general students won't go before JudBoard.

As for the executive branch: we have committees and officers. David is the Chief of Staff and deals with institute committee reps. The governance of MIT is handled through institute committees. They're chaired by faculty or administrators and students are on them too. To put students on, they go through the Nominations Committee, which is chaired by David. This is one of the most powerful parts of MIT. For instance, CUAFA deals with undergraduate admissions and financial aid, and CJAC is part of the Corporation. Janet's the Secretary, who's taking minutes right now, and she's great at what she does. Alex is the treasurer and deals with the finances. As for Senate, you are a legislative body. You represent all of the undergrads at MIT; ideally we have undergrads from every living group on campus. You help feed information to the rest of the undergrads and get their opinions, and take positions on issues. Like last year, when dining was an issue, Senate formed an opinion to represent their point of view on the dining situation. It will become more clear how you pass legislation and things like that at our first actual legislative meeting.

As for transparency: we are transparent through you. You can go around through your dorm, talk to people, and email your dorms. You are a strong way in which we are transparent.

Again, JudBoard rules on the constitutional validity of actions of the UA.

As for some of the things we've done, and examples of how we've improved student condition: we now have a Green Bean recycling machine. You can return cans in the student center; we did it over the summer. You can get money on your TechCash for that. The Fall Festival and Spring Weekend run through the Events committee, and are really cool events. Over the summer as pharos, the new printing system, was implemented, we managed to save the old printers that would have been thrown out and gave them to fraternities and living groups so they could have printers. Over the years we've started some shuttles to Star Market and Trader Joe's, that go through living groups and shuttle people to grocery stores. We also started the Boston Daytime Weekend shuttle that runs to fraternities and sororities across the river and is a benefit for them. Student-faculty dinners have been around for a few years: we fund students to eat with faculty and have lively discussions. Last year we started the same thing with alumni. SCEP also recently just published 7 guidelines for professors, to remind professors of general guidelines, spoken and unspoken, that students want.

The question is where do we stand. There are good and bad things. My exec is very motivated. We have a lot of goals for the year; we have a goal-oriented exec. I have a big spreadsheet of goals for the semester, and I am hoping to get them all taken care of. Hopefully we'll get even more motivation through you guys and you guys can start contributing to the UA in a positive way. Right now we're taking a look at our structure – that's both good and bad. It's changed over the years. It's been about five years since we had a restructuring. We want to consider more ways for the UA to be effective. It's being chaired by the former chair of the faculty, Tom Kochan. You guys will come into the discussion sooner rather than later for how student government should be structured, and how it can be most effective. We had some inefficiencies last year and we want to shape things up a bit; hopefully we will be able to achieve that. We do have a lot of new faces, which is not too bad, but we have to help get you up to speed and develop you. You have a lot of potential that we can help develop.

Where are we going? Again, we are moving towards a new structure; hopefully it will make the UA more robust and responsive. One benefit is that we should be able to get a student response out quickly; we should be able to have enough time and effort to make the student opinion count when it needs to count. We have lots of new projects coming along; committee chairs have long lists of goals. For instance, we are looking into lighting across Briggs Field so that it is safer to cross at night; we want to re-optimize transfers between dorms; we want to start cooking classes; we are looking at the policies for how classes are taught and how technology can be integrated in new ways; Athena clusters and their availability, where should there be quick stations or clusters; discount cards for restaurants in Kendall; we recently got a 5% discount at Shaw's which is wonderful for students. I know I get all my food from Shaw's so it's great. The elections website looks like a geocities page; we will give it a facelift. We're also looking at more ways to get PE credit for club sports. They can currently apply to be a PE class but it's a little complicated. These are just some examples of things we're doing. I just highlighted a few of the more interesting goals.

There will be more student committee representatives. David has a remarkable plan for reaching out to administrators who don't typically get involved with students and try to change that. Institute committees are the most powerful resource we have and we need to get as many students on them as possible. David is also organizing committee reps to get a more coherent voice among students.

Smarter student group funding – last year we revised Finboard. This is the first full year we will have two allocations cycles per semester, in order to give more student groups funding and let students do what they want to do.

Experience-building retreat: we will have a UA Senate retreat. It will be October 8 at Endicott House. You will receive more details in a week or two. I want everyone from Senate to go and as many Exec members as possible. It will be 8-5. Tom Kochan, the former Chair of the Faculty, as well as SAO, are coming; we will also do some of our own programming. We're kind of cramming six months of UA experience into one day so you can hit the ground running. It's a great experience; I went last year, and it changed how I looked at the UA. We also did brainstorming; you can get ideas for what projects you want to take on. I hope you will all attend; it's really a great experience.

You will have opportunities to chase your goals. I want you doing things that you want to do. I have a list of my own goals, but I am generally far more interested in your goals, because I can motivate you to do the things you want to do. If you come across a project or initiative you want to take on, I will help you in any way I can to get that done. Don't ever feel awkward about coming to us for help.

This year, we want to create a higher work to payoff ratio. We've moved both Senate and Exec meetings to every other week. My idea is that when you're working in the UA, you should work on getting things done, not on sitting in meetings forever. We want you to get more projects done.

As for me and TyShaun, you're probably wondering what our goals are for the year. This is a partial list. Choice, safety, and students are the themes that I'm shooting for this year. Choices in advising, and through the UAAP pilot – I want to see it come into play; I would like choice in people who are locked into their housing and see if that's really what's best for students; increase choice in learning environments, think of new ways to teach and bring technology into the classroom. As for safety on campus: last year the GSC did a campaign for safety at grad dorms, and I want to do similar thing with

undergrads—more lighting, police, etc. I want the UA to look at what the student life is at MIT and from a broad, strategic perspective figure out what we want to work on, what needs to change, what needs to stay the same, what we need to protect, what we need to get rid of.

Also, I intend to look at procedures for getting the institute to gather student input on issues. What is the procedure, what are the right steps that need to be taken to get students engaged on issues. I want to see a steadfast procedure that all parties can agree to and work on.

That's really the state of the UA from my perspective. Do any of you have any questions?

Will: Are there questions on any aspect at all?

Amanda: I'm Amanda, the 2013 class president. I just want to add that class councils are also a part of the UA. We're here to help and work with you all; it should be a two-way street. Class Councils can help promote what the UA works on.

Allan: I apologize; yes, class councils are very much a part of the UA. They tend to stay out of our politics, but I definitely want to share resources. Amanda is also our Class Council Coordinator, our link between UA Exec and Class Councils, and it's great to have her on board.

Will: In our first legislative meeting, we'll go into more about what the UA does. I will now hand it off to Alex Hall, who will introduce discussion of the budget, which I think is the most important thing Senate has to do.

7. Discussion of the Fall 2011 Operating Budget

7.1 Introduction

Alex: Call me Alex, not Alexandria. A version of the budget was sent out with Will; a couple numbers have been added in.

Will: The link on the agenda is the updated budget.

Alex: First I'll give you a brief explanation on what's on the budget so you're not completely confused. The first page is the budget overview: I solicited all the committees for what they thought they would have to spend on meetings and projects this semester. That's all in the first column, for fall 2011. The budget also includes what was allocated in the past three academic years, as a reference for you guys. As for operating and exec, they are run by Allan. With all the other committees, it has the email address of the chair of the committee. Some of them don't have names because there's no one in that position right now, so they don't have committee budgets yet. We can discuss deciding between allocating money although there's not a chair, or waiting for one to come before Senate later. I also have a question for Mr. Housing up there.

Patrick: Yes, I meant to request \$0.

Alex: Ok great. Line 30 – budgeted expenses – is the total of how much UA committees and officers and Senate want to request. Below is what money the UA is expecting to come in. This comes in from the Student Life Fee. That's how much we're getting, which is a lot of money. We also get some through resource development.

Will: Ben is the assistant vice president of resource development.

Alex: For resource development, we host Kaplan and Princeton Review, which run test prep programs. They pay us to do that here, so we get income from that as well. We can also take money out of the UA reserve account, which we've done a little bit in the past, but we can discuss whether we want to do that.

For past budgets, the UA has budgeted a lot for UA and Finboard, but has never completely spent what it's allocated for its budget. It never gets close. The rest goes into the UA reserves, into the UA reserve account.

After that, it adds up the total income and everything. Below are the random things we spend money on that don't fit into categories above. The Fresh Fund is run by Senate to help new student groups start up, and you vote on that when groups solicit you. Rachel asked me to put \$3000 in that because that's the usual amount.

Will: Rachel is the ASA president.

Alex: Senate Discretionary is run by Senate. If students or committees come to you and want more money, you guys vote on it and decide if you want to give more money to people.

The other line that hasn't been defined yet is the contribution from the UA to student-faculty dinners.

Paul: I can do the specifics on that, I figured that out.

Alex: MTVU gives us money to host Wellness Week, which is \$1000 every semester, and from the institute, we get some money to run student-faculty dinners; I don't have that number yet but Paul may have it later.

The next page is what committees sent me for what specifically they want to spend their money on. You guys can say if it's reasonable or absurd. The first one is ASA, run by Rachel Meyer. This is actually for the whole year. We'll only help with \$4600 this term and they're hoping for \$4600 next term as well. Then it goes through the rest of the committees. There are line items and subtotals for each of them. Also, I should add that before I brought the budget here, we had a small Senate committee meeting on it.

Will: This is part of the constitution, for the principal officers and three senators to have a meeting before the first Senate meeting. It was last Friday.

Alex: We had that principal meeting to discuss how to make the budgets most acceptable. Now it's your turn to see if you think this is all right with the UA, or if you have severe problems with how the committees are doing that.

Will: At this point, I just want to have a general discussion about the whole budget. Any questions you have can be answered. At every Senate meeting, the chairs of the committees are required to attend for the first hour. I think we have most of them here now, so if you have questions for that committee, you can ask the chair or the treasurer. Later we can do more detailed questions about whether or not things are justified. I was hoping to start going through the committees, allowing five minutes for each. At this point, if you want to say anything, just raise your hand, and I or the vice speaker will answer you after starting the queue.

7.2 Student Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP)

Paul: I have to run out shortly, so I was hoping to talk about student-faculty dinners before I left. Return to the first sheet. There are two items: the Dean/Student Life contribution and the UA contribution. \$15,000 from DSL (Department of Student Life) is earmarked for student-faculty dinners. Because this money will get spent and I think student/faculty dinners are an important project, I'm asking the UA for an additional \$2500 per semester. Any questions?

Regina: Student-faculty dinners: how frequent are they?

Paul: I don't have the precise numbers. I think there were about 140 last spring.

Rachel: Individual students can go once a semester.

Paul: Many students go on multiple dinners and are only refunded for one of them.

Will: I'll let committee chairs go through these and we'll have discussion.

7.3 Association of Student Activities (ASA)

Rachel: I'm the Chair of ASA, the Association of Student Activities. Our budget is done for the entire year, because a lot of our expenses are for the summer or disproportionate throughout the year. It's basically the same as last year. If you look in income, it accounts for funding we receive from the Graduate Student Council.

ASA recognizes new student groups, allocates resources to student groups, and advocates for them. Big things we do are the Activities Fair during orientation and CPW.

Will: As part of the budget, there is a meeting for all student groups, and meetings for the ASA itself. The first is to serve groups' needs and answer their questions. We will move on if there are no questions. We will look at this again next week. Athletics is next.

7.4 Athletics

Michael: The big cost this year is Athletics Day, which will be in two weeks. Catering is our biggest expense; it doesn't happen every year so it's important to have this year. I also budgeted food for meetings. We work with DAPER on policy issues, which don't require a large budget. MIT pays for a lot of the programs that we work on.

Will: As a general rule, for food for meetings, we set price of \$5 or less per person per meeting. That's generally what we try to stick to. We thought it was a reasonable metric to go on.

Moving on to the Chief of Staff.

7.5 Chief of Staff and Nominations Committee

David: I want to explain a little more about the Chief of Staff role. There are student committees but there is also the faculty governing structure; there are administrators, the Corporation, and the faculty floor, which has faculty committees run by faculty. The student reps we have are on these faculty committees. The Chief of Staff position was only started last year, and the UA has not traditionally had a strong connection with the student reps. Student reps haven't had a strong connection among themselves either and tended to be isolated. So when policies go from subcommittee to committee to faculty floor, faculty are aware of what's going on and what's next, and students are unaware. Thus, the Chief of Staff position was created. I'm keen on using students who are pragmatic, informed, and know MIT really well, and turn them into a force of power for the students. As a result, we have a lot of high-touch things this year. I'm having lunch with the institute committee reps two times a semester, in order to communicate with the UA as often as possible. The other big -icket item is dinner with institute committee reps. We recently had a dinner; it was good to see each other, meet with other reps, and talk with them about important issues. Those are my three big-ticket items.

Will: There's also a NomComm item.

Alex: It's on its own line.

David: I'm also the chair of the Nominations Committee, which is responsible for getting students on these committees. It's a big time commitment so we generally like to feed the people on it. It's pretty low cost because we only do it once a semester. It's \$90. That's the other line item I'm also in charge of.

Allan: I want to say that you shouldn't be afraid to ask questions, we don't bite too hard. At the next Senate meeting, we will have budget approved. Take this time to think about the items on the budget, though. Now my question for David: can you extoll the benefits of why these lunches are happening a little more?

David: Committee reps have direct contact with faculty and administrators. A lot of the time, they don't seem to be talking about the same issues the UA is talking about. There is this disconnect between what

Senate says and what the institute reps say. I want there to be a better connection so that institute reps are thinking about what students are most concerned about. This is high-touch; we'll see what works and what doesn't. We may dial it down, but for now, we want to work with institute committee reps as much as possible.

Alexandra: Can you give some examples of these institute committees?

David: I would love to take on Rachel's challenge to name them all. I have a spreadsheet of all of them; I think there are around 38 now.

Will: Can you send these out to ua-senate?

David: Sure. Let me give some big examples though. The Corporation is like the board of directors for a company, and we have some students on there. The Faculty Policy Committee – everything that the faculty are about to vote on must go through this. The Committee on the Undergraduate Program deals with many issues that affect undergrads. For instance, GIR changes, but also things that you wouldn't expect, like what happens when a flu epidemic happens at the end of term—what do we do for grading if finals week is nonexistent. A lot of interesting things get done there. There are also Subcommittees on Communications and the HASS requirement. We also have committees for DAPER – there is a Recreational Activities Committee for students who use the Z center recreationally, not for club or varsity sports, but there are committees for those too. There is a whole gamut of committees. I would definitely recommend you guys to apply for these positions. The next round of NomComm applications is in the spring, but some positions are still open now.

Katy: I remember looking through the descriptions of committees last year. A lot of the descriptions of committees were great, but I talked to some people who had been on them, and sometimes students said that they weren't as impressive as they sounded. Professors said the same. I would appreciate it for students on committees to actually talk to us about what they really do. For instance, when someone from my dorm asks me about institute committees, I don't know what to say because I don't know that much about them.

David: There are some committees where a lot happens, and they have a lot of say in the faculty governing structure. Like, for CUP, one idea was to explore what would happen if we moved add date up, which did not happen because of the students on the committee. That's an example of where something big happened. Other committees meet much less frequently. Your concern is correct because their descriptions may not say what their influence is exactly.

Katy: It might be nice to address because as a senator, I would like to be able to talk to my constituents so if people ask me, "should I apply for this?" I can tell them something more useful other than that I don't know.

David: I will send you an email and we can circulate this for discussion later.

Regina: Is there a list of student reps on institute committees? I want to know how much influence students actually have, as they're in minority.

Will: We don't necessarily have to talk about this now; we should get back to budget.

Rachel: http://ua.mit.edu/people/institute_committee_members/

David: I'll also stick around after meeting and talk to you all as well if you have more questions.

7.6 Communications

Will: Let's move on to communications.

Janet: Alan's not here.

Will: Allan, do you want to speak for Alan?

Allan: We produce a monthly newsletter; take a handful back to your dorm tonight and stack a bunch at your front desk or something. This lets people know what the UA's been doing and increases students' face time with the UA. The UA Booth happens semi-regularly; we have a spinning wheel with issues and candy. We basically try to lure students to talk to us about student life issues. It's pretty effective. Midnight Study Breaks are fantastically useful: every so often, we have a midnight study break in Coffeehouse in the Student Center. These have very high attendance rates, and we get big pile of feedback at every one. This serves to improve our look with undergrads as well as get the feedback we need to function. Janet, do you want to talk about Free Dinners with the UA?

Janet: Free Dinners with the UA happen semseterly. Last year, we had a Thanksgiving Dinner and a UA Grillout. It's just another way to get students to interact with the UA and come talk to us.

Allan: There's also some budget for the bulletin board in the Infinite. Shiny pictures of you will probably go up there. Any questions?

Karan: Is there a date for the first study break yet?

Allan: Probably ask Alan about it.

Hollie: Are there three study breaks per semester?

Will: Yes. All of these budgets are for the fall. Although they extend to IAP too. Let's move to CSL.

7.7 Committee on Student Life (CSL)

Janet: That's the Committee on Student Life.

Tatiana: CSL works on student projects and policies. This semester's budget is similar to past budgets. Generally, we take care of students.

Will: CSL hosts events to improve student life like Wellness Day, Capture the Beaver, other fun events, etc.

Tatiana: Any questions?

7.8 Dining

Will: Let's move to dining.

Betsy: I have budgeted money for meetings with dining chairs. Any questions?

7.9 Elections Commission (ElectComm)

Will: Elections? Oh, let's take this time to thank Daniel Hawkins for holding elections and getting you guys all elected. A lot of these things happened already so we should probably be nice and approve them.

Daniel: The IS&T server co-location is needed to make sure no one tampers with elections data; it is a separate server hosted by IS&T, not under the UA at all. There's also a budget for elections meeting food, where we count ballots, respond to emails, etc. The candidates meeting and publicity already happened. Allan, do you want to talk about other UA recruitment events?

Allan: The budget for recruiting events was funded out of the summer budget, and a bill that was passed by Senate at the end of last semester. We also allocated money for recruitment events through Exec since Senate didn't exist yet.

As a side note, we snap instead of clap for some things. It's a quirky thing that the UA does.

Will: We do this so that everybody doesn't have to say, "I agree" or "I like Daniel Hawkins."
Exec now.

7.10 Exec and Operating

Allan: Exec meetings are open to all undergrads. I would encourage you guys to show up if you're interested in other parts of the UA. We talk about what we're working on, and things going on with the UA. We need food for these meetings. We have a discretionary budget just like Senate does, for things that haven't necessarily been budgeted yet, and to be able to fund them, like student/alumni dinners.

Will: Money through Exec Discretionary must be passed by six voting members of Exec: the President, Vice President, Will, Karan, the Chief of Staff, and Betsy, the Senate Rep, although we may have to reelect someone.

Betsy: What?

Allan: I have also budgeted meetings with other heads of student government, such as Panhel, IFC, etc., in order to coordinate the student voice better. We also have food for that.

Karan: Are those meetings on a regular basis?

Allan: They will be every other week, I think Mondays at noon.

Ryan: Will those meetings be public?

Allan: I don't see why not. They're small, but if people want to show up, they can show up.

Will: You should also talk about operating expenses.

Allan: Right. There is a water cooler in the third office. Water costs money. We also have a miscellaneous office discretionary fund. We're an office and we have supplies and paper needs, writing stuff, etc. We pay for it.

Will: I guess it's pretty self-evident.

7.11 Senate

Will: Now let's talk about Senate, which is us. We have Senate; we meet; we provide you food. That needs to be reimbursed. We also budgeted for guests to come talk to the Senate. It is a great way for the administration to interact with student reps and get the opinions of students. On more personal basis, we try to have pre-Senate dinners with them as well. We lottery a bunch of random eEantors to meet with them beforehand and have more in-depth discussion. I budgeted for three of these dinners, which seems reasonable over eight meetings. There is also the fall retreat. Endicott is less expensive than what we've done in past years; they give us discount since they are associated with MIT. It's kind of hard to get to know each other in this meeting, and hard to develop friendly relations. Hopefully you'll all go and have fun.

Regina: How many people typically go?

Allan: I think usually 30 people go, and it's a mix of Senate, Exec, and Class Councils.

Will: You guys get first dibs though. If you can make it, you should show up. Otherwise we will offer up spots to committee chairs.

Constituency Events. One of your jobs is to communicate to the people who elected you. You can do this by sending emails regularly. I encourage and might require that. Not everyone will read emails, though, so there are other ways. If you have other ideas for how to communicate with people, I would love to hear them. Events are great – you should talk to me and Karan if you pass this constituency fund.

We will approve your request for up to \$150 for an event. I would love for everyone to do them. I will set a goal of 10 events for 30 senators. As I said, I think every senator should have them. If you all want to have events, we can approve more money for that later. Senate Discretionary: we need this if committee chairs come up with new projects, or if we need more money for constituency events – this is an estimate of how much we are allocating to people, which we vote on each time. Senate can also always take out more money from UA reserves, but that requires a 2/3 vote of Senate, whereas approving money through the Discretionary fund requires a simple majority. It sends a message to students about what is reasonable for UA to spend on this year. If we have \$5000 on worthy projects to spend, I think that'd be awesome.

7.12 Reserves

Caroline: Do we ever hold fundraisers to generate money? Or do we just use whatever is allocated for the UA?

Allan: We get a big cut of the student life fee and are already putting a lot of money into the UA reserves every semester, so we don't really need to.

Will: We're not short on cash. We try to allocate as much to student groups as possible so they can actually have activities and spend the money.

Daniel: How much is actually in the reserves?

Will: I believe we know how much goes in and out but are not sure how much is stockpiled altogether. We know we put money in but we don't have the numbers on actual accumulated reserve money from 20 years ago or so forth. What was the last estimate of the reserve?

Allan: There's also a Finboard reserve. We're working on knowing these numbers because we haven't known for a while and that's kind of weird.

Katy: From the budget it seems that we put in \$100,000 to reserves every semester?

Rachel: No, that's what's allocated to Finboard and student groups.

Regina: Is there no way of finding out what is in reserves?

Rachel: According to a website, although this number is somewhat out of date, maybe a year or so ago: reserves has \$72,000.

Jennifer: What happens when money is allocated to a student group and they don't use it?

Alex: It goes into reserves. We come up with overallocation percentage. We use that amount of money to give to groups through Finboard. Student groups apply to Finboard for running events, capital purchases, things like that. The way that our budget and the Finboard budget works it that after we approve it, I'll go into SAO, move around money, and make sure it's in all the right accounts. Eventually everything will go into the UA umbrella account, and I'll put that into reserves. I'm the Finboard Chair too, by the way.

Will: We can go into that more after we finish with the last two committees.

7.13 Sustainability

Will: Sustainability – Alix is not here. She was responsible for the Green Bean recycling machine. This semester, they'll need money for food for meetings, and posters to advertise recycling initiatives and events. Moving onto Technology.

7.14 Technology

Leonid: I am one of the EC Senators and the Chair of Technology. This is original, but I have budgeted for only food for meetings. I anticipate having at most five this semester; due to the nature of the committee, we don't have to meet that often. There are five members plus myself plus a guest. That's about it.

7.15 Resource Development

Will: Now to resource development.

Ben: I am the AVP of Resource Development. I am working on continuing the Trader Joe's and Whole Foods market shuttles. They go around every weekend for groceries. I'm also starting a trial for staplers in Athena clusters. I don't know if you guys have been there yet, but we're trying them out in one section, and will try to encourage the administration to take that up.

Janet: Do you want to budget for more projects besides these?

Ben: I actually did just realize that might be useful. I'm working on other projects, like maybe movie deals, stationery deals, etc. These are still in the playing stage, so I'm not exactly sure how much money they would be. But yeah, I may talk to Alex afterwards about adding in some more money for other potential projects.

Katy: What does AVP stand for?

Janet: Assistant Vice President.

Will: Committee chairs have members. You are actually required to join one. But AVPs work by themselves. I guess they get a better title because it reflects that they do more work.

By the way, I want to point out that we are running very much on schedule because I wanted this to end at 9.

8. Final Questions

Thiago: Withdrawal from reserves – why did this not happen in a previous year?

Allan: We recently decided to pump more money into student groups because we didn't want to leave the money sitting there.

Will: Money not spent by student groups or UA committees goes back into reserves. Student groups don't spend all their money, so we allocate more than we wind up giving.

Rachel: We pull out of reserves and overallocate for them. Do we have an overallocation percent set, because this doesn't seem to account for that.

Alex: Allan suggested one thing but some administrators said a different number. This could be a point of discussion. Last year was a much larger percentage. Allan was suggesting a happy medium of 25%. The admins I spoke to said we should do 40% again because the reserves are pretty big.

Will: Does anyone have any questions? Alex, do you want to talk a bit about Finboard?

Alex: Finboard is kind of its own committee. There are Senate reps on it that you guys choose to be on it, also a chair, vice-chair, ASA rep, ASA treasurer, UA Treasurer. We can have another person, as I am also the UA Treasurer. There should be 10-12 people on committee at all times. We solicit out applications from student groups. Now we have 4 funding periods for Finboard, when there were previously only 2. Talk to Rachel if you want to know more about why we changed it to 4. This application period ended last Friday. Our committee is meeting this week and weekend to discuss allocations and how much we can allocate. We can't approve Finboard allocations before the budget is approved, as we need to decide on the overallocation percentage and things like that. We may wait until next meeting or the next official

Senate meeting to talk about Finboard allocations. Senate has to approve Finboard allocations. Our committee makes decisions on what we think is an acceptable amount for the groups, etc.

Will: I want to motion to adjourn, but I would encourage you to stay afterwards to talk to various officers or committee chairs.

Katy: Nothing in this meeting is confidential, right?

Will: Nope, Senate meetings are actually open to all undergrads. Minutes are also a public record. We will approve them at the next meeting.

Regina: In the future, we could try releasing minutes earlier? It seems weird to email out to people about minutes from a meeting two weeks ago.

Will: Minutes have been a contentious issue in the past; we can talk about them in the future. It's also a lot of work to type them up, so I don't want to put such a big burden on Janet.

Betsy: You also don't have to wait for minutes to be approved to email out about Senate meetings. All of your constituents will appreciate getting to know the main points of meetings and probably wouldn't want to read pages of minutes anyway. I always took my own notes last semester and emailed out about Senate meetings to my constituents right afterwards.

Allan: Ideally, you guys should do the same, and email out to your dorms after every meeting.

Will: I think it's actually a rule. You can always send out minutes later if needed.

9. Closing Roll

No Senators left early.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Li

UA Secretary General