52 UA Council 18 Agenda
February 11th, 2021, 9:00-10:00 PM ET, Zoom

1. Roll Call 9:00 - 9:05
2. Welcome and Onboarding 9:05 - 9:20
4. Election Code Amendment 9:30 - 9:50
5. Chair of MIT Corporation Visit 9:50 - 10:00
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Living Group</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Present?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>Laura Rosado</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burton-Conner</td>
<td>Sarah Aaronson</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Campus</td>
<td>Brendan Vaughan</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>MacGregor</td>
<td>Shruti Ravikumar</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<td>Maseeh</td>
<td>Octavio Vega</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>McCormick</td>
<td>Adina Golden</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>New House</td>
<td>Duha Syar</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<td>New Vassar</td>
<td>Amelia Seabold</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<td>Next House</td>
<td>Meghana Vemulapalli</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<td>Random Hall</td>
<td>Margaret (Ret) Wang</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<td>Simmons</td>
<td>Shaida Nishat</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<td>Interfraternity Council</td>
<td>Jaya Kambhampaty</td>
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<td>Interfraternity Council</td>
<td>Orrie Page</td>
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<td>Interfraternity Council</td>
<td>Nick Mannhardt</td>
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<td>Interfraternity Council</td>
<td>Max von Franque</td>
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<td>Living Group Council</td>
<td>Jason Ye</td>
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<tr>
<td>Off Campus</td>
<td>Sam D’Alonzo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panhellenic Association</td>
<td>Ashleigh Teygong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panhellenic Association</td>
<td>Catherine Washburn</td>
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<td>Panhellenic Association</td>
<td>Maria Ascanio</td>
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9:05 Meeting begins

9:05 Welcome and Onboarding

- Welcome new councilors!
  - The UA is MIT’s undergraduate student government, tasked with representing & advocating for students’ interests
  - Three branches: Officers (executive), Judboard (judicial), and Council (legislative)
  - Purpose of each branch is outlined in the UA Constitution and each branch’s bylaws

- Role of Council
  - Serve as a representative body for undergraduate voices to guide the UA in formulating policy stances and ensuring that the UA is working to address students’ concerns

- Changes
  - In the past
    - Council meetings were like a discussion space
  - Now
    - Want Councilors to take a more active role in writing policy stances and engaging with constituents to shape those stances & their votes and also have more meaningful and engaged discussions
  - Emphasis on policy making
    - Consensus decision
      - document that represents the views of the undergrad student body -- requires near-consensus vote of Council
    - Example timeline of what this could look like:
      - 6 weeks prior to Council meeting: A Councilor decides to collaborate with a committee; they work together for a few weeks to gather evidence & write the consensus decision
      - 3 weeks prior: The Councilor and committee send out the Consensus decision to Council; each Councilor does engagement through surveys, office hours with living group over the next few weeks, and any other research necessary to vote
      - Council meeting: Publicly-held deliberation; potentially a vote
    - Prior example:
      - Black Lives Matter consensus decision from the summer
    - Potential examples for the future:
      - UA policy platform, MBTA pass project by UAPA, educational biases, divestment, student life issues, and much more!
      - To learn more: UAPA will hold a legislation-writing & advocacy session -- will send out a w2m!
      - Future work & further reforms in discussion still

- Integration into the UA
  - Writing legislation will need to be a collaborative process between Councilors and other UA members!
  - Please be responsive on email and Slack!

- Engagement with constituents
  - Examples of engagement methods
    - Introductory communication -- email or other method to introduce yourself as living group leader and Council / Dormcon rep, and inviting people to come to Council meetings
    - Weekly or bi-weekly pulse checks with your dorm -- use these to shape what sort of policies you want to pursue
    - Office hours, town halls, or forums for discussion
Surveys or questionnaires to understand the distribution of opinions (eg multiple choice questions) as well as other quick feedback (eg open-ended feedback)

- We want to compile all the engagement opportunities -- please outline a general plan + keep an eye out for a google form!

- Email Fiona, UAPA, or any officers with questions
- Councilors can also pass on the responsibility of being council representatives to another person in their organization if they do not have the bandwidth themselves
  - Some councilors worried about reaching their constituents and getting active engagement
  - Getting student buy-in is also important
    - Increasing student exposure to council
    - Increasing efficacy of council’s action/actually having a positive impact on student’s lives

**9:25 State of the UA**

- Shared a draft of mid year report with councilors, will be shared with student body in the coming weeks
- Goal: transform the UA into a student government that students believe in
  - Policy focused
  - Embedded in institutional structures
  - Integrated into student communities
  - Visible and relevant to the student body
  - Student-driven
- Acting with our values in mind, especially this year
  - Unity
    - Black Lives Matter (BLM)
      - Consensus Decision, Vigil, Fundraiser
    - UA Governance and Community
      - General Body Meetings, Weekly Cabinet
      - UA Connect
      - UA First Year Program
    - MIT Community
      - Q-week Challenge and UA Music Match and MIT Got Talent
    - Joining Boston Intercollegiate Government (BIG)
      - Student governments from over 11 different schools, over 60,000 constituencies within the greater Boston area
  - Equity
    - UA Diversity Council
    - Adoption of Indigenous Peoples Day
    - Free menstrual products in Dorms
    - 2020 Election
      - GOTV Fest, Election Holiday Advocacy and Consensus Decision
    - Legal, Ethical, and Equity Committee
    - Disability advocacy
    - Ad hoc Committee on COVID-19
    - Free menstrual products
  - Authenticity
    - Governing Document Review
    - JudBoard Bylaws, Off-campus Rep, LGC Rep
    - Visibility and Communication
    - UA Byte, Instagram, Facebook Events
Looking forward
- Q week challenge, part two
- Climate action plan
- DEI strategic action plan
- Diversity Audit
- Grade transparency
- UA alumni database

**9:45 Election Code Amendment**
- Inflexible election code (current one on the UA website), particularly during a pandemic
  - Needing to collect signatures, having a budget, etc. doesn’t make sense during a pandemic
- Amending the code with an emergency clause that allows for changes in the code during the semester
- Will need a population vote for this amendment
- Laying this on the table so that we can vote on it next week

**9:50 Chair of MIT Corporation Visit**
- Diane Greene & Vrajash Modi joining us for council next week
- Greene will talk for 15 minutes at the beginning but lots of time for questions
- A form for questions will be sent out ahead of the meeting
- Tell your constituents to come, this is a great opportunity to learn about the corporation!

**10:00 PM Motion to Adjourn.**
Jaya motions, Meghana seconds.