54 UA Council 5/2/23

May 2nd, 2023 8:00 PM
32-155
Roll Call + Approval of Minutes
Andre & Michael
Main Points of Focus for Upcoming Year

❖ Food Insecurity
  ➢ Figuring out ways in which students can access affordable meals and expand upon the current options available

❖ Equal Representation
  ➢ Whether it be addressing the lack of information accessible to off-campus/FSILG students or clear communication and increased support for minority groups and underrepresented students

❖ School Spirit/Pride
  ➢ Working with IFC, DormCon, UA Events Committee, etc to increase community engaging events and allow students to celebrate the diversity of the student body
Committee Ideas

❖ Introducing a Food Committee
❖ Bringing back Events Committee
❖ Shifting committees focus to fitting our overall mission statement & goals
❖ Encouraging increased cross-collaboration between committees
❖ Bring in guests for leadership development/UA collabs
❖ Make work more student-body facing

Officer Team

❖ Bringing back Assistant Officer on Diversity
❖ Bringing back Assistant Officer on Governance
➢ Should hopefully prove very helpful in fixing UA bylaws...
❖ Make our work more student-body facing
Transitioning

Currently, we are working with Shruti and the Officer Team to transition to the best of our ability.

- Sending out Officer Team Applications to all undergrads ASAP
- Shortly after, we will send out Institute Committee Rep Applications
- Working to meet with committees to establish their direction and see how they can fit into our vision for UA 55
UA WIDE SURVEY RESULTS OVERVIEW
conducted by UA Involvement
~658 full responses

28.09% Class of 2023  
22.94% Class of 2024  
22.45% Class of 2025  
26.62% Class of 2026

80.55% having never been in or applied to be a part of the UA governing body
Q: How familiar are you with the UA? (pooled from 658 responses)

MEAN: 2.89
Q: If you wanted to reach UA leadership or a UA committee, would you know how? (pooled from 641 responses)

- 33.39% Yes
- 38.85% Maybe
- 27.77% No
Q: How do you hear about most initiatives or events the UA works on? Check all that apply.

- Majority from DormSpam or other undergrad@ emails
Q: On a scale from 1 to 5, how satisfied are you with the work the UA does? (pooled from 611 responses)

MEAN: 3.35

1 - Unsatisfied
2 - Somewhat Unsatisfied
3 - Neutral
4 - Somewhat Satisfied
5 - Satisfied
On a scale from 1 to 10, how do you rate the UA on ________?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Mean Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Effectiveness of Accomplishing Goals</td>
<td>6.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>6.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transparency</td>
<td>6.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustworthiness</td>
<td>6.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagement with the Undergraduate Community</td>
<td>6.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence in the Student Body</td>
<td>6.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy on Key Student Body Issues</td>
<td>6.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value to the Undergraduate Community</td>
<td>6.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Written Feedback

Are there specific aspects you like about the UA? Anything you think we do particularly well?

“Many different avenues to try and make change”

“I like that there seems to be events going on all the time”

“Academic violation reporting”

“Interacting with admin. Established and constantly developing working relationships with them”

“Advocacy for mental health”

“Good at understanding general issues and concerns among the student body”

“Banana Lounge”

“Individual committee & projects, getting to interface w/ faculty”

“I like the thrift shops”
Written Feedback
Are there specific aspects you dislike about the UA? Anything you think we do inefficiently?

“UA seems but to have good goals but they are big and have little concrete action. Make more manageable goals and advertise the results to the student body”

“Wish there was more effort to communicate initiatives that the UA Committee is doing to the wider body. Also, more communication between committees”

“Communication of important work. UA work is so valuable and impactful, but many students don’t know about it”

“Not enough connecting to the students on a regular basis”

“Maybe transparency about the process/discussions that you guys have?”

“I think there could be more connection between students and the UA especially the executive board”

“Lack of legislative participation options for general student body.”

“Lack of visibility around campus”
Ongoing discussions related to recent officer changes, including but not limited to censure and recall
Ongoing Discussions

- Recall election campaigning period has started
  - Encouraging people to vote so that the vote is reflective of the student body
- People aren’t fully aware of the situation
  - Create a set of links to statements and articles from both sides
  - Other ideas?
- People don’t always understand what censure is
- Any other topics to discuss?
Judicial Board Cases
Judicial Board Cases

- Case regarding Spring 2023 elections is now published on [http://ua.mit.edu/judicial-board](http://ua.mit.edu/judicial-board)
- Judicial Board Hearing on Thursday
  - Which council members are interested in speaking/attending
  - Evidence needs to be submitted by 5pm tomorrow
  - Emergency meeting to prepare?
Bylaw Amendments
Bylaw Amendments

- Starting discussion about things to change in the bylaws
- Starting with Council Bylaws

Article VII: Suspension and Amendment of the Bylaws

Section A: Suspension of the Bylaws

1. The UA Council may suspend a specific portion of the Bylaws at the current meeting in accordance with the voting procedures outlined in this document. The Judicial Board shall be formerly consulted regarding disputes over this clause.

2. The Bylaws of the Council may not be suspended to amend any governing documents of the UA.

Section B: Amendments to the Bylaws

1. Upon petition by ten percent of this Association, the Council shall consider a proposal to amend these Bylaws. If the proposed amendment is not agreed to by the Council it shall become the subject of a referendum. This referendum shall be binding upon a majority vote of this Association if at least thirty percent of its members vote.

2. The Council may also propose amendments to the Bylaws. All considerations of amendments to the Bylaws will follow the process prescribed of the Council Bylaws.
Article III: Membership

Section A: Voting Members

1. The voting membership of the council shall consist of the following members:
   a. Four representatives chosen in accordance with the governing rules of the Interfraternity Council (IFC)
   b. Three representatives chosen in accordance with the governing rules of Panhellenic Association (Panhel)
   c. One representative from each of the undergraduate dormitories, each chosen in accordance with the governing rules of the dormitory that they represent
   d. One representative chosen in accordance with the governing rules of the Living Group Council (LGC)
   e. A representative of the Off-Campus community elected in December by Off-Campus constituents.

2. Unless otherwise specified, Council Representative terms shall be aligned with the calendar year.

3. Changes to the methods of choosing any Council Representative seat must be approved by a 2/3 person vote of the voting membership of the Council before these new methods become binding.
Article III. Membership

Section B: Ex-Officio Members

1. Additionally, the non-voting members of the council, unless otherwise mentioned, shall be the following persons:
   a. The UA President who is the Chair of the Council and may only cast a vote when it would alter the outcome of that vote.

Last updated: May 20, 2017

b. The UA Vice-President, Chief of Staff, Treasurer, and Secretary
c. The chairs of all UA Committees and all Assistant Officers
Article IV Membership Requirements

Section A: Attendance

1. Council Representatives shall not have more than three absences in a given academic term from any regularly scheduled Council meetings.

2. In the event of an absence, Council Representatives should request an excuse in writing from the President, and provide, in writing, the name of a proxy. This proxy may not be a current Council Representative.

3. Proxies shall have all rights and privileges as the Council Representative would have had, except the right to vote on impeachment.

4. The Council Representative shall make a good faith effort to inform the proxy of the issues and questions that may arise during the meeting so that the proxy may be an active participant.

Section B: Constituency Communication

1. Council Representatives shall be responsible for communicating the business of the UA including but not limited to upcoming events, policy proposals, ideas, topics of discussion, and involvement opportunities to the undergraduates they represent.

2. Furthermore, in order to accurately represent their constituents at Council meetings, Council Representatives shall remain in touch with the viewpoints of their constituency. This includes soliciting feedback when necessary.
Article V The Agenda

Section C: The Agenda

1. The agenda for Council meetings shall be organized by the UA President and submitted publicly at least two days prior to the scheduled meeting using whatever forms of media prove most expedient.

2. Any voting Council Representative or 20 members of the Association may submit an agenda item to the UA President prior to the release of the Agenda.
Article V Meeting Procedures

Section B: Rules of Operation

1. Any person given the floor by the Chair may speak for no more than two minutes. The chair may extend this to no more than 5 minutes. Additional speaking time may be granted by a majority vote of the voting membership of the Council in attendance.

2. Meetings of the Council shall be open to the MIT Community. Undergraduates shall have speaking privileges and this privilege may be extended to non-members of the Association at the discretion of the Chair.
   a. The Chair or a majority of the voting membership of the Council in attendance shall have the power to exclude all non-members of the Council.

3. The voting Council Representatives may elect to have a temporary Chair for a specific agenda item or for the duration of the meeting if the Chair cannot attend the meeting. This vote follows the prescribed method in V.A.3.a.vii of the Council Bylaws.

4. When prudent, the Chair will maintain a queue to ensure a respectful and fair conversation.

5. As a default, meetings shall run in a discussion format following the guidelines above and as laid out by the Chair. A majority vote of the Council Representatives may apply additional rules of operation.

6. Voting:
   a. Unless otherwise specified or requested, votes shall be done by voice or raised hands at the discretion of the Chair.
   b. All population votes shall be done by roll call.
   c. At the decision of the Chair or the request of at least two Council Representatives, a roll call vote shall be required.
   d. At the decision of the Chair or the request of at least two Council Representatives, a ballot vote may be used for the approval or removal of Principal Officers, Committee Chairs, Assistant Officers, Institute Committee Representatives, and other decisions with regards to individual people.
Section D: Meetings

Last updated: May 20, 2017

1. The UA President shall set the dates and times of a semester’s Council meetings by the first meeting of the Council that semester. The first meeting of a semester must be no more than two weeks after the academic start of that semester. The chair may move the date and time of a meeting given reasonable notice to the Council.

2. By default, Council meetings shall be monthly during the semester. For each semester, the Council may choose to alter this frequency with a majority vote of the full voting membership of the Council.

3. Emergency meetings may be called by the UA President, a majority of the voting Council Representatives, or a signed petition of 5% of the Association. This meeting should be limited to consider only the agenda item stated by the caller of the emergency meeting. In the event of a petition, the meeting shall occur within 4 academic days. Removals of officers and amendments to governing documents are not allowed during emergency meetings.

4. If impeachment is being discussed at a Council meeting, the individual(s) in question shall have an opportunity to present their case before the Council and respond to the stated reasons for removal and questions from members of the Council. With a majority vote of the Council Representatives further discussion can be done in closed session of only members of the Council and with the individual(s) in question removed from the room.

5. The necessary quorum for a meeting is 1/2 of the full voting membership of the Council.
Budget Review
Semester Overview

- **Alumni Affairs ($575)**
  - Expenses: $350
  - Income: $0
  - Highlights: Finboard + History & Research reallocation
- **Community & Diversity ($1,875)**
  - Expenses: $1,150
  - Income: $0
  - Highlights: Finboard reallocation
- **Community Service ($1,150)**
  - Expenses: $1,163
  - Income: $0
  - Highlights: Finboard reallocation, Transportation to CS events
- **Education ($3,300)**
  - Expenses: $2,236
  - Income: $0
  - Highlights: Faculty Meal Program
Semester Overview

- Finboard ($225,000)
  - Expenses: $261,726
  - Income: $105,578
  - Highlights: Winter Mini-Cycle Funding ($125,000), Travel Grants ($32,000)

- Innovation ($6,825)
  - Expenses: $4,686
  - Income: $0
  - Highlights: Haymarket Produce runs, Finboard reallocation

- Involvement ($825)
  - Expenses: $825
  - Income: $0
  - Highlights: Finboard reallocation, UA Survey Prizes*

- Public Affairs ($975)
  - Expenses: $125
  - Income: $0
  - Highlights: Meetings
Semester Overview

- Wellcomm ($1,350)
  - Expenses: $1,784
  - Income: $0
  - Highlights: Menstrual health event, VPR partnership, Finboard reallocation

- Sustain ($12,010)
  - Expenses: $13,821
  - Income: $350
  - Highlights: Stud cleanout, Thrift popups, Community Garden, Finboard reallocations

- ASA ($5,500)
  - Expenses: **
  - Income: **
  - Highlights: rebudgeting, CPW midway, LEF/ARCADE

- Officers ($14,928)
  - Expenses: $12,331
  - Income: $0
  - Highlights: Ukraine fundraiser, Committee tours, Council food, Finboard reallocation
Thank you :)