

## General Body Meeting 2 Minutes

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- **Welcoming**
  - Food: Pizza!! And some more comedy!
- **Teach for America (TFA) Presentation**
  - Melissa Gregson, a representative from Teach for America, spoke about the essence of being a teacher for TFA (She was also an MIT course 6 alumni)
    - She specifically worked with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders during her two years in TFA
    - She is the Recruitment Director of the Boston Regional Team
  - The Basics of the Program:
    - The program is open to all academic backgrounds
    - You can currently teach in 35 different regions (work close to home or explore a new city or state)
    - The program will provide every worker with extensive training and support (you won't just be thrown into a classroom and be expected to teach well)
      - Specifically, you are given 6 weeks of training in a classroom where a mentor gives you ideas on how to teach a subject and then observes you during class and gives you feedback to allow for continual improvement
    - Full salary
    - TFA can be done while being a part-time student
    - TFA offers graduate school and employer partnerships
    - The program has an 18% acceptance rate
  - Questions:
    - *How were you received by your co-workers and students?*
      - Warmly received surprisingly.
    - *How are you placed in a school?*

- You rank where you want to go and the program tries to assign everyone one of their top 5 choices
- Additionally, in the application, there is a section where you can write a short paragraph explaining why you want to teach in a certain region (TFA takes that section really seriously when assigning workers to a region)
- *What grade level does one teach in TFA?*
  - K-12 (Most people from MIT teach middle or high school math and science course...because no one else is as qualified!!)
- *Do the students know that you are part of Teach for America?*
  - No, they meet you just as they meet any other teacher. Most kids don't even know what TFA is.
- *When did it start?*
  - Started 20 years ago as a result of a thesis project by a Princeton senior!!
- *Are you still in the program?*
  - Yes, but now she is only recruiting
  - Overall, for the program, you work for 2 years only, but TFA will support you if you want to become a teacher
- *Do you have to try to change the teaching structure of the institution where you are placed in addition to teaching?*
  - That is on the individual workers, but that is why there is an 18% acceptance rate (to make sure that they hire people that are motivated and passionate)

### • **Voting on the Faculty Advisor**

- We had a vote between the following three faculty (number alongside their name is the number of votes they received)
  - Marta González, Course 1 (19) WINNER!!!
  - Paulo Lozano, Course 16 (8)
  - Cristine Ortiz, Course 3 (0)
- Marta Gonzalez will be our new Faculty Advisor

- She is an Assistant Professor in Course 1 (new to faculty this year)
- Born in Lagunillas, Venezuela
- Worked at Intevep (Research Laboratory of the National Oil Industry in Venezuela) right out of grad school for two years for the Reservoir Engineering & Simulation Department
- Education:
  - Licentiate in physics, Universidad Simon Bolivar, 1999
  - Magister Sc. in physics, Central University of Venezuela, 2001
  - Ph.D. in physics, Stuttgart Universität, 2006
- Selected Publications:
  - “Understanding the spreading patterns of mobile phones viruses,” (2009)
  - “Understanding individual human mobility patterns,” (2008)
  - "Community structure and ethnic preferences in school friendship networks," (2007)
- Research Interest
  - Professor Gonzalez integrates methods of complex systems with statistical physics approaches, computational sciences, geographic information systems and network theory to characterize and model human dynamics.
  - Her current research explores human mobility patterns using mobile phone communication, propagation of mobile phone viruses and urban transportation models.
  - Her work also addresses the analysis of networks' organization in relation to their attributes in social systems and spreading dynamics.

- **Paying Dues for the Semester**

- If you didn't pay dues at this past meeting, make sure you bring money to the next meeting if you want to become a chapter member.
- Remember, \$5 for a semester and \$10 if you want to pay for the full year