

UA Meeting Minutes
September 24
7:00 pm
UA Office

1. Meeting Commencement

a. Mike: To give a quick update of what Noah and I are up to: we're anticipating a busy senate when that begins. Offices are now clean and three are open and fully functional. We're hoping to have the mailboxes outside ready in two weeks. Lots of things moved to SAO upstairs. This should ease any student tensions on mail. Want to get it done by the end of September. Class Councils and Senate members elected—we have a full Senate. What has everyone else been working on this weekend?

b. Liz: we've been working on posters for publicity for UA members that are to be posted on campus. T-shirt designs are 90 percent complete. Also ordering polos for committee chairs and vice chairs.

c. Mike: UA shirts to be passed out at the beginning of the year.

2. Committee Updates

a. Housing: Met yesterday with dormconn on W1 planning. One lounge the size of two doubles is supposed to serve one whole floor of 90 people. Can we talk to Dormconn to address these concerns. Current status: tonight is the W1 meeting, and tomorrow they're meeting with the architect to present their thoughts and concerns. If something needs to be done, it has to happen quickly.

b. Mike: talked to Larry Bruney (sp?) about bike racks on campus. There's a committee to meet to update the racks in a few places such as the cement racks around Kresge.

Keyone: Why does it take a committee several months to improve bike racks?

Noah: workers work hourly and do only what is asked of them.

c. Amanda: Elections completed. Class Councils all finalized. Our committee thought it a good idea to have a UA table in front of Kresge to publicize UA events and such. UA Exec members can attend to help promote this initiative.

d. Noah: MTV is sending us 1000 backpacks and biodegradable cups with the MTVU logo on them in October.

e. Nominations: have they gotten anything interesting feedback from or for members? No, once we get members, we'll determine who needs to be contacting whom.

f. Dining: Rich and Ann Wilson have given us a lot of information about things they were working on over the summer. One food truck serving pizza just stopped serving pizza. Yoni's Pizza truck is the one. One MIT graduate also graduating from Harvard business school came up with an idea to run a food truck—all vegetarian. This may happen as soon as October 1st to replace the other truck.

- First UA dining meeting in half an hour.

- Results from last year's dining polls just now fully compiled and will be forwarded to chefs.

g. IT: elections happened. Continuing to work on website. I intend on having a new website up this time next week. Lacking in shiny and dynamic content, but a new, (more basic version of what I intend to do in the long-run) site none-the-less.

- Mike and Noah: Can you get rid of the old site completely?
- Yes, I will make them private, and only accessible to you and select people.

h. Yi: Panhel: got our sixth sorority this semester! They're working on recruiting now. October 4th: alumni association get-together. Send me an email if you're interested in volunteering. Noah: Do you know how well the sixth sorority is working? Its Pi Peta Phi. There have been several information sessions around campus sponsored by a variety of outside sources to present information regarding the sorority.

- Mike: How many members are they looking to get? 80, thats the campus quota. They don't have a house, but are working to get one. Theta's have Green Hall.

i. Paul: Enrollment: I'm trying to build the committee and contacts with other students with interest. Looking to figure out plan of action in dealing with administrators. Do we know anything about CJAC student reps?

j. Noah: Blue Ribbon and CJAC conflict.

k. Paul: last year there were 2 girls, but currently no undergrads on CJAC website.

- Comment: there are a few.
- Educational Policy: we havent really done much because were waiting for applications to be completed and submitted. Looking to get good people to join. Women from DUE wanted to know about how students hear about education related news. I need to get informed on how students hear about stuff.

l. Senate: first meeting on Monday. We need more binders—we'll be getting new binders. Jason and I will meet on monday to figure out the goals for Senate.

- Noah: UA Senate list owned by UA Speaker list, who is Irena, who is MIA. You need to get a hold of those.

m. Housing committee: we may scrap it. I don't see a real need for it. Like orientation which existed to resolve conflicts between dorms, may be similar to our Housing situation.

- Dave: the Housing committee can be dormant until we have a need for them, such as when W1 started a large controversy.

n. Noah: we need to narrow our scope of committees so that the members have more responsibilities and utilize their time efficiently. Either that or have members join multiple committees in different organizations to build that link.

o. Committee on Student life: about to kick off our third year of the Undergraduate Mentorship Program. Will start this as soon as Noah sends out emails to upperclassmen. If you know any freshmen interested in having a mentor, shoot ua-csl or me an email. Mentors have been flaking out in the past, so we want to host big events (Six Flags outing) to build bonds between mentors and freshmen and support this program's success.

- Noah: which office will fund these activities? Noah: you guys can talk to Columbo or Immerman and propose these ideas.
- Comment: what is matching based on? Based on application (major, activities, interests, etc.) and matched most compatible people. Additionally, we had a mixer/dance/kickoff where this could be finalized and everyone could be happy.

p. Keyone: ASA: our main goals this year:

- Look over the things that we do as an organization: policies and procedures and revise them. Lots of them are old and we want to update them to our needs.
- Some of our groups, including sustainability and uniqueness need to be put into action and geared toward what we're doing. We have about 400 student (lots inactive) groups at MIT.
- We need to clean out group list to make it reasonable. We are looking to get a new 'midway' database to keep things organized.
- The ASA database contains minimal info about groups (pres treasurer, contact info and account numbers, etc). That job was given to a graduate student with a lot of work, so its been slow. You have to make it accessible to administrators but not the public, so it gets tough and we need to resolve this.

q. Mike: mailboxes to be filled every Friday with student group information.

r. Riley: Is there a way to make UA committees allowed to apply for ASA ELF Arcade without recognition?

- Keyone: it's possible, we will talk off-line.
- Mike: What happens when a new student group joins write after student group allocations?
- Keyone: we can get additional storage space (offices are tougher until next cycle rolls around).

s. Vrajesh: Sustainability: Harvard got Al Gore to speak there. We are looking to get famous people here to speak on sustainability. Obama, Gore, etc. Dorm electricity competition getting a firm foundation. EC are not happy about last year's results. New person doing it is more accepting of ideas. We should talk about ideas, such as how awards work, and how money goes to retrofits. Donators are MIT housing; not facilities.

- Mike and others: lets have better incentives. Not just money, but something material, like a printer or something.
- Vrajesh: next week theres a dinner for sustainability guys around campus.

t. Mike: A few updates. First, do I have everyones budgets?

- When we build a budget, the President gives the last year or two. Some of these budgets might get cut down, and then we'll run the committee out of operating. Historically committees have gotten 500 to 1000, maybe 2000 for important ones. We want to ramp up committees in terms of importance. I don't wanna raise flags too early. We want to run a lot more things out of operating. If we cut your budget, we're using the excess for more important purposes.
- UA reserve valued at 75,000 dollars. I don't want to spend much of the reserve. I want to cut 20 to 30 thousand out so that it doesn't hamper our endeavors with other organizations. We're sitting on enough money to where it doesn't make sense to go after financial help yet. (Noah) Mike: we can't justify getting more money until we spend.

- Let us know if we have any legitimate expenses or needs.

u. Noah: the eventual goal is that we have more room around and utilize the third office for useful purposes.

v. Mike: thinking about Senate presentations. I want everyone to prepare a 5-10 minute presentation about what the committee is all about:

- How big your committee
- Your goals
- How you interact with the administration
- What kind of things you are looking to do
- These presentations are to be given two weeks from now.

w. Riley: I'm going to try and present general budget to all committees to minimize confusion and needless argument. I'm working with SAO to put something accurate together for the UA site: to explain how tax exemptions, and different kinds of spending work.

x. Athletics: This weekend is athletics weekend. Beaver Nation t-shirts. It's Saturday: 4 home sports games. Tennis at 8, Volleyball at 10, Football at 1300, Field Hockey at 1430. We will have prizes and want lots of people to come out to it. Basketball shootout all day. Our central hub outside of the Z-center. Please volunteer to talk to somebody and hand out stuff!! We need more volunteers. Some of our committee members can't be there, including myself and football player.

y. Mike: briefly, we'll do some type of committee retreat, sometime, somewhere. This will be at higher level. Some afternoon where we sit down for a couple hours, where we see the UA going this year, and what our big issues are. (No mornings.) I'll send mail about this, and we'll see what weekend works for everyone. I'll have some one-on-one meetings for some people with committees I need to hear from especially.

- How to do reimbursements?

z. Riley: SAO office—green slip for reimbursements located right when you come in. Include receipts and let me know what you need reimbursed. Just at least give me your email address, and I can take care of the rest. Any bigger items you can't pay up front, let me know. I'll have the specific info. Regarding this up next week.

aa. Mike: thing of dorm storm questions: this event involves UA reps visiting the dorms and informing them on UA matters. There's free food, and it's usually a worthwhile time. Applications for committees to be out by this Friday.

ab. Liz: we want to take professional photos for pictures to be posted in the Infinite.

3. Meeting Adjourned