

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 12th, 2014

1. Present Brittney, Sarah, Anna, Emily, Jackie, Pegga

2. Gave an update on Back-up Child Care Program for students

- i. Reviewed enrollment Anna had put together, numbers are up and people are using the program. The program has been picked up by MIT and will continue next year.
- ii. Future Limitations: We've decided to limit the usage of the program to 10 days per household, rather than 10 per student to maximize the amount of families that can use it.

Action Items: Follow up with Amanda Cayo (GSC Publicity Manager) to make sure we are on track with sent out email blast twice a year when MIT gets an influx of new students.

3. Update on Excess funding for HCA Projects

- a. MIT Backed Short Term Insurance Option for Families. We received funding for this, it has been handed off to another member of the GSC.
- b. Couples Counseling Workshop – Brittney and Sarah are actively working with Jennifer Recklet to get this put together and available to students, further update below with item #4
- c. Kid Friendly Space at the Z-Center
Continued interest in this project, but we are currently lacking the man power to have someone investigate what would be required to make it work. Currently tabled.
- d. Other Family Activities
Anna suggested talking with Naomi Carton (naomic@mit.edu) at DSL, who has expressed interest in sponsoring family friendly actives in the past and may be willing to create or sponsor more activies.

Action Item: Set up meeting with Naomi to see what her interested and idea are.

4. Couples Counseling Workshop Breakdown and Ideas

- a. Introduce Jennifer Recklet, Anne Copland, and Andy Miser
 - i. Anne Copland:
<http://www.interchangeinstitute.org/html/about.htm>
 - ii. Andy Miser: <http://www.elysianenterprises.net/>
- b. Discuss Proposed Topics and Propose Topics of Interest

- i. The challenges of being an accompanying spouse
- ii. Culture shock: What to expect
- iii. How to discuss difficult topics
- iv. How to have a positive, productive, un-hurtful argument

Discussion: Talked about our initial proposal with Jennifer Recklet about recording info from Anne and making it permanently available, this was met with luke warm to negative feedback. General consensus was that no one was interested in watching video, and no one would search them out, nor did anyone look for any thing of that nature before coming to MIT.

Anna & Emily mentioned the “Family 101” course that was available last year and was going to be taped and that they had almost no participation and/or interest from the student population.

Really positive feedback and interest in a “Couples Coaching Workshop” Suggested they would rather have a handful of workshop days so they can dig into bigger issues than a single workshop/overview day.

Action Items:

Need to change the name of this program to be less threatening:
Couples coaching workshop or something similar

Need to make it clear during advertizing that this is a place to learn strategies for working through difficulties in an otherwise positive relationship, not a place to publicly discuss personal issues.

Need to meet with Jennifer and discuss changing the nature of the project back to an in person workshop. Video should not be a focus.

5. Next Meeting: Westgate, Thursday March 13th from 5:30-6:30 PM

6. Open floor

Emily has talked to residents and gotten feedback that the posters could be more impactful if they were more simple. Suggested just having the date, brief info and note about food and babysitters. She offered to review future posters and offer suggestions.

Action Items: Simplify Posters