



Undergraduate Association Monthly Report to Students

Month of April

President

Matthew Davis

Email: ua-president@mit.edu

Past Month:

This past month has been dominated by meetings to transition into my new position. I met with former UA Presidents, the incoming Graduate Student Council (GSC) President, our advisor Leah Flynn Gallant in the Student Activities Office (SAO), the presidents of the Panhellenic Association (PanHel) and the Interfraternity Council (IFC), and arranged a weekly meeting between the leaders of PanHel, the IFC, Dormitory Council (DormCon) and the Living Group Council (LGC). I also met with the Presidents of the Class Councils, to discuss our evolving relationship.

I received a letter from Palestine@MIT about their concerns regarding an event, the Israeli Independence Day Carnival, being on the SpringFest calendar. I met with our UA Events Committee Chairs, staff in the Student Activities Office, MIT Hillel, Friends of Israel and Palestine@MIT to discuss the situation. We ultimately decided to keep the event on the calendar, and also work with Palestine@MIT to allow them to have an event on the calendar as well. The reasoning for this decision, and the decision itself, was sent out to all undergraduates via email. Feedback was given via a google form, and has been reviewed. The feedback will be discussed at the next UA Exec Meeting.

I received my first materials for the Presidential Advisory Cabinet (PAC), which the UA President sits on as an ex-officio member. I distributed a blank report about the undergraduate vision of the “Institute of the Future” amongst the UA Executive Board (UA

Exec), to envision the ideal future of their areas of interest, and reached out to IFC, PanHel and DormCon to receive their contributions around FSILG's, dormitories and student life.

I met with Dean Colombo, and went over the relationship between the UA and his office. We also discussed our meeting schedule for the rest of the academic year. We also discussed the upcoming renewal of the dining contract, and how students would be represented in this process.

I met with Dean Robinson, and went over the work of the DSL Policy Review Committee. The committee has been newly charged to complete its work by the end of the school year. Due to these new circumstances, we went over a plan to ensure communication and input from students. Committee meetings will be every Wednesday, and the agendas with materials will be released the previous Friday.

We have transitioned to having UA Exec meetings every week. We also maintained a booth in the Student Center for CPW, had a CPW event, and a booth during the CPW Activities Midway. During all three of these events, we took down the emails of interested prefrish, and look forward to reaching out to them soon. Throughout the last week of April, we maintained a booth in Lobby 10 to publicize for the UA and held an Open House to recruit interested undergraduates.

I have been interviewing candidates for the UA Judicial Review Board, and will have a slate of candidates ready by the next Council Meeting on March 13, 2015.

Current Projects:

Presently, I am accepting applications for UA Committee Chairs and Officers. The interviews for these positions will begin next week. I am also forming two UA Council-Exec Committees: first, a committee on bylaws and procedures, that will review our governing documents and recommend various revisions; second, a Special Budget Committee, as outlined in the UA Constitution, that will work over the summer to prepare the UA's Fall Budget.

I am working on writing the bylaws for our new Cabinet committees, Public Affairs and Community.

We are working on re-establishing the UA Advisory Board. This is a group of faculty and staff from MIT that can advise us in our efforts to better represent the student body. It will also be very helpful for the aforementioned committee on bylaws and procedures.

We are also working on a leadership development program for incoming freshmen and continuing students who are in the UA, and will be reaching out to various professors, administrators and staff to help us build it.

We are also drafting up our summer plans, and what needs to be accomplished by the end of the semester.

Future Plans:

I will be scheduling meetings with Chancellor Barnhardt, President Reif, Provost Schmidt, the Chair of the MIT Corporation, and other members of the Senior Administration and Governance Board.

I will be placing 'Vision Boards' in various residences, where students can write their vision for what they want MIT to be. We will incorporate the feedback from these boards into our plans for the upcoming year.

We will be working on a Retreat for UA members in the next semester.

Soon, leaders in the various majors can expect an email from me inviting them to participate in a new Undergraduate Academic Advisory Council (UAAC). This group will consist of a representative from every major at MIT, and will help inform the UA's efforts to improve education, research and student-faculty relations at MIT.

I will also be attending a conference of student body presidents in Washington, D.C. at the end of the month.

Vice President

Sophia Liu

Email: ua-vp@mit.edu

Past Week:

Over the last month, I have been working with Matthew on, generally, transitioning into our roles in the UA. More specifically, we have met with the GSC, former UA leaders, Leah Flynn Gallant in the SAO, IFC, Panel, DormCon, and the LGC, and are also working on organizing a meet and greet for the exec teams. We've reached out to determine how the student life fee is

allocated, begun organizing events to better prepare Council for meeting procedures, started brainstorming how we want to structure the website, and reached out to schedule weekly meetings with admins. We have also shared our meeting calendars with students and begun working with the ASA on a weekly bulletin to students highlighting the events that are happening each week.

With Githui, I have worked on delivering recommendations to various Institute and Faculty committees and interviewed a number of candidates.

With the UA, we have begun heavily recruiting for committee positions as well as officer positions.

Current Projects:

Currently, we are working on narrowing down the pool of applicants to have a slate to select to pass on to council. I am also working on transitioning with Billy and attending the committees' meetings to check-in on their progress.

I'm going to be continuing the work on the student life fee and also adding on to the template website that several people have been working on over the past few months.

We're also trying to formulate summer plans, in terms of establishing committee bylaws.

Future Plans:

Building the UA-Exec joint committees and increasing transparency through sending out the weekly newsletters! See previously mentioned projects for more details.

Chief of Staff

Githui Maina

Email: ua-chief@mit.edu

Past Week:

Over the past month the nomination board has been put together with the help of exec and is chaired by the Chief of Staff, vice-chaired by the Vice President and additionally composed of four members at large.

We spent a few days advertising in Lobby 10 at a booth where we encouraged undergraduates to apply and answered questions about which committee they might be best suited for. The marketing campaign was successful and we were able to yield over 100 unique applicants.

We have also been in contact with the President's Office to get a better sense of the most urgent committee staffing requirements and whether their sizes will be changing in the fall.

Current Projects:

We are currently working on completing our interviews and reviewing applications to select our nominations. We will be getting in touch with candidates on the status of their application by next Friday.

We are also creating an up-to-date document which will encompass all current institute committees and include the total number of undergraduate slots for each committee. When nominees are confirmed they will be input into the document so membership is visible to all and we will request attendance information at each meeting. This will help us to ensure that committee members are held accountable if they are not attending meetings.

Future Plans:

We hope to craft a more streamlined process for running institute committee applications. Though we are encouraged by our strong application turn out, we are aware that many students are not on the main undergraduate email lists but may still be interested in learning more about opportunities to work within our committees. These are the students we would like to reach out to in the future.

Treasurer

Ryan McDermott

Email: ua-treasurer@mit.edu

Past Week:

Processing reimbursements

Placing orders for committees such as Student Support and Wellness.

Complete Financial Board Allocations

Transferring funds for student groups

Transitioning the new administration

Current Projects:

Transitioning the new administration and making recommendations for next year. Also maintaining the UA finances with transfer of funds and reimbursements

Future Plans:

Create recommendations for the next year

Create an April Report of finances for the UA

Complete all reimbursements for the semester as well as contact those that still need documentation for their reimbursements

Complete transition guide for future UA treasurer

2015 Class Council

Joanne Zhou

Email: 2015-president@mit.edu

Past Week:

Study breaks, class events, class dinners gathering student opinions, The Dandelion Project

Current Projects:

2015 Video, Avenger's movie showing, Senior Week/Ball stuff

Future Plans:

Plan for graduation!

2030 Committee

Laila Shehata

Email: ua-mit2030-chairs@mit.edu

Past Week:

MIT 2030 has been working on plans to salvage artifacts from Bexley prior and during demolition, both for former residents and for MIT to preserve and incorporate into future site use.

Current Projects:

We are working in collaboration with the Office of Campus Planning and Ensamble Studio on the feasibility study of converting the Metropolitan Warehouse into a new dormitory. I would encourage everyone to read more about that here:

<http://capitalprojects.mit.edu/projects/metropolitan-warehouse> and email me with any questions/comments/general input at ua-mit2030-chairs@mit.edu.

Future Plans:

N/A

Committee on Athletics

Nathan Varady

Email: ua-athletics@mit.edu

Past Month:

N/A

Current Projects:

POTS Walk Organization...Link will be sent out to all undergraduates for a bus to Medford on Monday...we have up to three busses... affected organizations (Maseeh, APhi, Swim/Dive/Water Polo Team) received the link this week.

Future Plans:

N/A

Association of Student Activities**Jenny Kim****Email: asa-president@mit.edu**Past Week:

New student group recognitions, CPW Activities Midway

Current Projects:

Drafting new space cycle applications. I am personally trying to organize our archives and getting a webmaster to re-design our website and again, organize everything so the website is more accessible and user-friendly to students.

Future Plans:

Starting new space allocations, starting a new LEF-ARCADE funding cycle, preparing for first year summer mailing.

Additional Comments:

We're hiring a webmaster! Look out for desired experiences and qualities; this will be a paid position.

Committee on Education**Trevor Mulchay and Jennie Zheng****Email: ua-education-chairs@mit.edu**Past Week:

We have been working to increase student-faculty interactions. An event called Let's Just Talk is planned for Monday May 5th. It is a student-faculty mixer which will bring together undergraduates and professors from across all departments.

Current Projects:

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Future Plans:

Working on addressing violations for the end of the semester.

Additional Comments:

Student-faculty dinners are still going on!

Committee on Events

Raichelle Aniceto and Divya Shanmugan

Email: ua-events@mit.edu

Past Week:

We've worked on putting together SpringFEST week for the MIT community! We focused on three events (in addition to collaboration with student group events throughout the week): Dessert Night at Finale, SpringFESTival on Kresge, and the concert itself!

Current Projects:

We're currently reflecting on how SpringFEST went and planning for improvements this upcoming year.

Future Plans:

We're planning on making SpringFEST week more of a campus wide occasion that the entire undergraduate community can (and hopefully will) participate in.

Additional Comments:

If you'd like to see a certain event or have any feedback regarding events our committee has put on, please reach out! We love to hear how we could be doing better.

Financial Board**Alekhya Reddy and Anirudh Sailesh****Email: finboard@mit.edu**Past Month:

Business as usual: Spring Appeals and MEF

Current Projects:

Putting the final touches on MEF, and we will be having meetings with a potential new member.

Future Plans:

Prepare for the summer cycle and transitions. We want to make sure that the new chair has everything needed for summer appeals.

Committee on Innovation**William Jack****Email: ua-innovation@mit.edu**Past Week:

Over the past month, we have consulted student startups in preparation for their fundraising rounds, and have begun discussing possibilities for undergraduate involvement in the MIT Sloan Tech Conference.

Current Projects:

We are currently working on:

- Consulting MIT undergraduate startups and innovators on the best resources to leverage in the MIT community.
- Discussing developing a new student project funding mechanism with the MIT Trust Center
- Forging pathways for undergraduates to utilize to be connected to the Deshpande Center of Technological Innovation's massive network of mentors.

Future Plans:

Trialling and eventually finalizing what we are working on now, and publicizing these opportunities to the MIT community.

Committee on MITx

Colin McDonnell

Email: ua-mitx-chairs@mit.edu

Past Week:

The MITx committee organized and helped run the first of an ongoing series of education-related talks called edTalks in conjunction with the Office of Digital Learning. The event brought Marsha Lovett and Norman Bier from Carnegie Mellon together to have a conversation with the MIT community about how psychology and technology will change education down the road.

Along a similar vein, the first Learner's Faire seminar is wrapping up after a semester of conversations, guest speakers, and projects. We plan to offer this seminar again so stay tuned.

Current Projects:

Activities for the year are winding down, but we have a lot of plans in store for next year.

Future Plans:

We are looking into continuing the Learner's Faire seminar, an open-ended 3-unit project-based seminar for people interested in improving education. This year we learned about educational philosophies like Montessori, explored how psychology research is driving improvements in teaching styles, and analyzed the ways in which technology can be used to augment learning.

Committee on Student-Admin Collaboration

Obasi Onuoha and Phoebe Whitwell

Email: ua-sac@mit.edu

Past Week:

An org chart project

Working with Taylor Rose from PanHel to communicate with Cindy regarding dispersal of information in the student deaths earlier this semester

Current Projects:

Org chart

Facilitating conversation between certain students who have contacted us and members of the administration

A "new admin guide"

Future Plans:

Finish current projects

Transition effectively to new chairs

With new chairs and UA officers, develop a strategy plan to support SAC effectiveness in future UA administrations

Committee on Special Projects

Robert Mahari

Email: ua-innovation@mit.edu

Past Week:

Over the past month, we have consulted student startups in preparation for their fundraising rounds, and have begun discussing possibilities for undergraduate involvement in the MIT Sloan Tech Conference.

Current Projects:

Specifically to the student center renovations we are attempting to identify certain aspects of W20 which are in need of updating. These aspects fall under broad categories such as study spaces, sustainability, diversity etc. From this we will identify elements of the center that need to be changed and which can feasibly be changed over the course of a year.

Future Plans:

We are thinking of putting together a number of students to help bring these ideas to fruition - we are also planning a potential student competition to envision a future student center. Elements of the submission could be integrated into the student center renovation.

Committee on Student Support and Wellness
Chrysonthia Horne and Morgan Moroi
Email: ua-wellness@mit.edu

Past Month:

Launched the UA People Before Psets Campaign in collaboration with some of the student planners of the 2015 Multi Cultural Conference.

Established the On-Leave Student Mentorship Network with S³.

Launched and administered the Wellness Grant program in collaboration with the Chancellor's Office.

Worked on the development of a TIMagotchi virtual pet mobile application to promote positive changes in students' self-care behaviors.

Collaborated with other students to develop a website to facilitate discussion and activism on mental health and support topics.

Current Projects:

Continue to develop the On-Leave Student Mentorship Network with S³.

Develop a program to provide students anticipating going on leave with information and support about the process.

Continue to administer the Wellness Grant in its current form and write a new version of the Grant rules to clarify some aspects of the process.

Continue to work on the development of a TIMagotchi virtual pet mobile application to promote positive changes in students' self-care behaviors.

Continue to collaborate with other students to develop a website to facilitate discussion and activism on mental health and support topics.

Future Plans:

Launch the On-Leave Student Mentorship Network with S^3 next fall.

Establish and launch a program to provide students anticipating going on leave with information and support about the process.

Re-launch the updated Wellness Grant on the UA website.

Launch the TIMagotchi virtual pet mobile application to students.

Act as student moderators of a website to facilitate discussion and activism on mental health and support topics once it is developed.

Plan a You Are Not Alone Speaker Panel Event on Depression in the fall; continue the You Are Not Alone series moving forward in various other forms throughout the year.

Work on promoting the People Before Psets campaign next year.

Launch a blog to highlight students' experiences with the support network at MIT.

Committee on Sustainability

Jacqueline Kuo

Email: ua-sustainability-exec@mit.edu

It has been quite an event-filled month for UA Sustainability, with **Dorm Electricity Competition** and Earth Week! Dorm Electricity Competition (DEC) challenges dorms to see which can reduce its energy usage the most in one month and encourages greener habits through the awarding of spirit points. This year, DEC happened in April. You can learn more about DEC at our [Facebook page](#) and [website](#), and email talktoDEC@mit.edu with any questions.

For [Earth Week](#) (4/22-4/26), UA Sustainability organized a planting event in our new **Undergraduate Cooperative Garden** in the Westgate parking lot near Next House. You can find photos taken at our garden [here](#). We also held a 5-day **Trash-on-my-back challenge**, where students carried all of their non-recyclable or compostable waste in a plastic zip-lock. The challenge makes us more aware of how our trash adds up, developing sustainable habits, and highlights the areas where MIT's waste management can be improved. Some participants shared their experiences on our blog [here](#)!

In addition to the events we've planned, we recently launched a **compostable foodware program**, where students and student groups can buy compostables for their events. Please find our order form [here](#). Also, we have worked with facilities and GSC Sustainability to implement shiny new **green** compost bins on the 1st and 2nd floors of the Student Center!

Here's how to use them:

- All food goes in the compost bin (yes, even meat and dairy!)
- All paper products and compostable plastics may go in the compost bin (but if they are recyclable and clean, please recycle instead)
- No trash (especially styrofoam) in the compost bin



Look out for **Trash2Treasure**, our reuse program during finals week! To reduce the waste we put in landfills during spring move-out, we'll be collecting students' unwanted items, storing them over the summer, and selling them back to the community on registration day in the fall! All proceeds will be used to fund the program in the following year and to create an Undergraduate Sustainability Grant. If you'd like to volunteer, email ua-sustainability-t2t@mit.edu. More information to come :)