



Undergraduate Association Monthly Report to Undergraduates

March 2017

President

Sophia Liu

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Past Month:

This past month we held interviews for the ASA/UA Administrative Assistant and selected a candidate who has started the first week of April and will be making reimbursements quicker for students, amongst many other tasks.

We also met to discuss beginning a community service committee to partner with the PSC and coordinate volunteer opportunities for undergraduates.

We began drafting an advocacy platform for consideration by UA Council, after a discussion with the Graduate Student Council on their advocacy platform.

As a member of the ASA, we have also collaborated on allocating space for the Activities Midway and held elections for the new board. The board will be full this upcoming year.

Further, we are working to fix the funding mishaps from our partnerships last year, and have begun receiving additional payments from Kaplan to dedicate towards student groups.

Current Projects:

We are currently working on collecting information on the student life fee and meeting with various stakeholders to advocate for reducing the student life fee to student-relevant fees, increasing transparency and developing a framework for fee-setting for future years to come.

We are also finding candidates for the Off-Campus Rep to fill UA Council.

We are working to provide recommendations for the reserves such that they continue to build until they are at one-third of the operating budget.

Future Projects:

I will be transitioning in the new officers in the next month and also building the faculty/administrative/alumni advisory board for the UA

Vice President

Daysi Gomez

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Past Month:

This month I continued to work with Dean of Student Life Suzy Nelson and the Parking & Transportation Office to make changes to the shuttle system to benefit students. I continued to receive feedback from undergraduates regarding the on-demand shuttle system and will bring their concerns to our meeting in mid-April to possibly add more shuttles to the current routes, ensure that there are enough on-demand vans to have reasonable waiting times, and extend shuttle hours to the early morning.

I also worked with UA Council members and the UA Public Affairs committee on a first draft of the UA Policy Platform which will dictate which MIT and national issues the UA will release public statements on. Additionally, I have been working with UA Public Affairs to create a new UA committee that will focus on providing community service opportunities to undergraduates.

Current Projects:

I am working with the UA Public Affairs chair and vice chair to create by laws for a new community service-oriented committee to provide more opportunities to student who want to give back to the local community. We are also working on editing the UA Policy Platform to reflect comments from UA Council members and UA committee chairs.

Future Plans:

I will be working with other student leaders to find a new dining hall provider in the upcoming months. I will also continue to work with Suzy Nelson to fine tune the on-demand shuttle system to better meet student needs and collect more feedback from undergraduates through surveys and talking to people in person.

Chief of Staff

Kyle Archer

Email: ua-chief@mit.edu

Past Month:

During the past month, my primary work has been staffing new committee which have been formed in reaction to the changing political climate in Washington DC, which address both undergraduate concerns and larger, institute-wide issues. Additionally, I recruited and trained a new Election Commissioner to oversee the spring 2017 elections.

Current Projects:

Currently I am working on updating the UA website to better reflect the current undergraduate representation on Institute and Faculty Committees, and also to present the opportunities available for students looking to become involved. Additionally, I have begun preparations for the yearly restaffing of these committees after the UA Elections.

Future Plans:

Future efforts will be centered around preparing for the restaffing of committees, as well as training the incoming Chief of Staff.

Secretary

Alexa Martin

Email: ua-secretary@mit.edu

Past Month:

This past month the UA has created a new position for a UA Communications Director. I worked with Sophia to develop the main goals we are hoping to achieve through this position, and how to best work towards them. We chose Andrew Bartow as our communications director. Through this position we hope to increase the knowledge of the average student on the UA, make the organization more transparent, and in the future work to better communication channels between student leaders and administrators.

Current Projects:

Currently I am continuing to work with Andrew to develop new communication methods for the UA. Together we are working to redesign the Byte and ensure that the weekly newsletter contains relevant information about what is happening in the UA. We also are working on a ua-informed email list where students can add themselves and receive more detailed updates on what is happening in the UA. I am also working Sophia and the new admin assistant to transition her into the UA and decide what responsibilities from the secretary role should be tasked to her.

Future Plans:

In the future I will continue to develop new ideas on how to fix communications with students, student leaders, and admins. I will also work to update the UA website and work to ensure all bylaws are up to date with amendments made by Council. Further, I will work on cleaning out the UA storage space and create transitioning documents for the upcoming secretary.

Assistant Officer on Diversity**Alberto Hernandez****Email:** a_h@mit.eduPast Month:

I collaborated with Institute Events on the ONEWORLD@MIT event.

Current Projects:

I am working on finalizing the upcoming ONEWORLD@MIT. I am also investigating MIT's impact on the Cambridge housing market through communications with "Cambridge Coordinating Committee" out of the President's Office.

Future Plans:

I will work on the on boarding process and documentation process for future Diversity Officers.

Alumni Affairs Committee**Giulio Capolino****Email:** ua-alumniaffairs-chair@mit.eduPast Month:

I updated the database of alumni to reach out to for speaker series. I also began to brainstorm new ideas, including a couch-surfing idea for student-alumni interaction.

Current Projects:

My committee is organizing the speaker series and, possibly, building this Airbnb platform with the Alumni Association.

Future Plans:

I will be meeting with the Off-Campus Activities Director to see if they're willing to share platform. If not, we'll try to find a developer to do that for us. We also plan to continue the alumni speaker series.

Campus Planning Committee**Arturo Chavez****Email:** ua-cpc@mit.eduPast Month:

The plans for remodeled Coffeehouse Lounge and Walker 2nd Floor study area are completed.

Current Projects:

We are working on the plans for a renovated 2nd floor student center lounge area, which would include a display to celebrate student life on campus.

Committee on Community**Bruke Kifle****Email:** ua-community-chairs@mit.eduPast Month:

During the past month, the focus has been on the planning, coordination, and organization of OneWorld@MIT. This consisted primarily of meetings with the committee and institute events, and constant communication with cultural groups on campus to perform in the show.

Current Projects:

Continued planning of OneWorld (screening, auditions, logistics, etc). Continuing conversations around cultural spaces on campus for student groups & intercultural center.

Future Plans:

Continue OneWorld planning (through the end of this month), possible pursuit of other projects (diversity series), and discussions with Chancellor regarding cultural center on campus.

Committee on Education**Lisa Ho, Mary Jane Porzenheim****Email:** ua-education-members@mit.eduPast Month:

Student-faculty dinners are now back up and running for the spring semester. We took them offline for a couple of weeks to change the way that students register dinners. This week, we started transitioning the UA's new administrative assistant to handle student-faculty dinner reimbursements.

Current Projects:

We continue to handle violations of class regulations. We'll be sending a reminder this week to students about checking their class syllabi to see if they break term regulations. Over the past month, we've also been working to add a few questions to end-of-term evaluations. We hope to add questions that address grade transparency and advising.

Over the past couple of months, members of our committee have been meeting with different departments to learn more about how each department advises its undergraduates. Once these meetings are complete, our committee will write up a report on advising best practices based on what we've learned.

Future Plans:

We are planning a discussion for next week about undergrads' ideal advising system. The discussion will take place at 4pm in W20-400 on Monday, April 10, and will be open to all undergrads.

Events Committee

Laura Yenchesky, Victoria Petrova

Email: ua-events-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

The UA Events Committee dedicated March to planning our SpringFEST Artist Reveal (Tuesday, April 4, 7:30-9 in Lobby 13) and SpringFEST Week (April 24-28) events. We have a great lineup of events which feature student performers, delicious food, SpringFEST swag, comedians, and the concert ready for the undergraduate community. Additionally, we have coordinated the SpringFEST concert setup with Institute Events as they plan OneWorld@MIT.

Current Projects:

This month will include the final planning and execution of all SpringFEST events. After we reveal the artist to the MIT community, we will sell concert tickets and publicize the SpringFEST week activities. Concert tickets will be sold on tickets.mit.edu. All other SpringFEST programming will be free of charge for students. Our goal is to engage all undergraduates through our programming in order to build community and offer enjoyable study breaks to students.

Future Plans:

After SpringFEST events conclude we will work to document our events so that we can improve in the future. In order to secure more sustainable resources for our committee, such as funding for Tech Twinkles, we plan to advocate for resources through proposals we write and present. Additionally, we will plan for the 2017-2018 school year through committee elections and selecting the FallFEST 2017 comedian.

Financial Board

Melissa McGee & Jon Coden

Email: finboard@mit.edu

Past Month:

In the past month we received 120 applications for funding from student groups and allocated roughly \$91,000 to those student groups for funding for the Spring Cycle.

Current Projects:

We are currently creating a system of debt forgiveness where clubs that have inherited bad financial circumstances, whether it be through past officer misconduct or unfortunate unexpected expenses. This will allow clubs to rebound from these issues and gain a fresh financial start.

Future Plans:

Focusing on looking at the Finboard Pilot Program and its long term viability as well as helping transition in new Finboard leadership.

Innovation Committee

Katherine Nazemi

Email: ua-innovation-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

The Innovation Committee has been working with The Engine to develop a plan for facilities access and space sharing, and ensuring undergrad access to opportunities created by The Engine.

Future Plans:

Collaborating with other student committees working with The Engine to write a joint report on the role undergraduates should play with The Engine.

Involvement Committee

Nikhil Bhatia

Email: ua-involvement-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

Planned the UA social calendar for the rest of the year. Organized and planned UA April study break.

Current Projects:

Planning an April study break, potentially helping plan and fund UA Education study break.

Future Plans:

Planning more opportunities for UA internal events.

Marketing Committee

Nicholas Curtis

Email: ua-marketing-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

The past month was very productive! We nearly wrapped up new branding materials for the TerraByte, which is a global news newsletter. And most exciting of all we worked with UA Events to pub SpringFEST. The graphics team designed logo mockups and posters, and the video team created an artist reveal video. Overall, it was a very productive month.

Current Projects:

SpringFEST has not arrived just quite yet, so there is still some more work to be done to pub for it. The graphics team is working on posters that explain what events will be happening the week of SpringFEST, and the video team will be crafting a hype video comprised of concert footage to drive up ticket sales.

Future Plans:

We are still hard at work with Special Projects to make the Tea with Teachers series go live. We have filmed 4 professors already, and we are looking to film 1 more before we start uploading episodes. That way, we will always be 4 weeks ahead. We applied for Mind Hand Heart funding to get in house video equipment and a better quality studio setup. I pray that we get funded! Other than that, we *still* need to finish editing together the Trashion Show footage. I would like for that to be done in the next two weeks.

Public Affairs Committee

Elena Alberti

Email: ua-publicaffairs-chair@mit.edu

Past Month:

The past month has been dedicated to writing policy for the UA to abide by and reformatting the Terrabyte.

Current Projects:

We are currently revising and editing the UA's policies to reflect input from UA Council Members' and Cabinet Members' opinions. We are working with the UA Marketing committee to recreate the Terrabyte in the form of logos, Facebook Banners, and promotional materials. Further, we are working to launch a new community service committee.

Future Plans:

We will be relaunching the Terrabyte and adding a FB page that will summarize stories from the week. We have plans to potentially collaborate with The Forum on the Terrabyte. We will be aiding in writing the bylaws for the Community Service Committee. Further, we are planning to invite a speaker for next fall and will be figuring out logistics within the next couple of months.

Resource Development Committee

Brian Huang

Email: ua-rd-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

We've began working with a company called RECESS that facilitates large company sponsorships.

Current Projects:

We are waiting for RECESS to send any contracts to look over. We are also reaching out to local companies for small donations, gift cards, etc.

Future Plans:

We're going to continue reaching out to companies up until SpringFest.

Special Projects Committee

Tchelet Segev

Email: ua-projects-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

- Tea with Teachers: we have interviewed three professors with four more lined up, completed our promotional video, and applied to the MHH Innovation Fund
- Sanitary hygiene products: we researched existing systems in other schools where free sanitary hygiene products are provided, created a plan for a pilot we would like to execute, and applied to the MHH Innovation Fund
- Voteup/votedown system: we narrowed the scope to utilize existing platforms
- Tackling food insecurity: we are working with CASE to analyze and disseminate the data from their survey regarding socioeconomic differences at MIT and food insecurity

Current Projects: see our webpage - <http://ua.mit.edu/special-projects/>

Future Plans:

- Tea with Teachers: continue interviews, look into transitioning for next year
- Sanitary hygiene products: contingent on funding, purchasing the equipment to prepare for the pilot next semester, or meeting with administration to secure funding and support
- Voteup/votedown system: meet with existing platforms to discuss potential collaboration and launch a pilot on Piazza or Reddit
- Tackling food insecurity: release reports and articles to The Tech to help the project gain momentum

Sustainability Committee

Kathy Camenzind, Yanisa Techagumthorn

Email: ua-sustainability-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

The Dorm Electricity Competition occurred throughout the whole month of March. Random Hall won the dorm electricity usage part of the competition, and East Campus 4E Slugfest won the spirit part (with Fenway House in second place)! We also collaborated with different offices around MIT to put on the MIT Reuse and Repair fair, which had clothing repairs, free drinks, trivia, and electronics repair.

Current Projects:

We're working with the Environmental Solutions Initiative to plan an Earth Day event. Also, the Trash on My Back challenge will be mid-April, so be sure to look out for details about that!

Future Plans:

Trash2Treasure planning is in full swing, and will occur in every undergraduate dorm this year. We will be collecting items during move-out, and will sell them for very low prices at the beginning of next school year!

Student Support and Wellness Committee

Tamar Weseley

Email: ua-wellness-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

Worked on the chart and MH&C hallway projects. The chart project has stalled a little, as Dean Randall believes that the chart is too broad and they are also developing a similar online tool, that would work better. We are working with head of MH&C to develop a form for students to apply to make the mural for the MH&C hallway.

Current Projects:

Continuing work on the MH&C hallway mural project and pivoting the chart project. We are also evaluating what other projects/events we may want to do, and plan to have a concrete goal for the end of the semester by next week.

Future Plans:

Next week we will hold elections and formulate our end of year goals. Need to work to transition new chairs into position for them to be successful, by introducing them to relevant deans/other points of contact