



Undergraduate Association Monthly Report

February 2018

President

Sarah Melvin

Email: ua-president@mit.edu

Past Month:

This past month, I have been working to address food accessibility in the wake of the Star Market closure. We are exploring re-optimization routes for the Trader Joe's shuttle, brining on a new shuttle to Market Basket, and partnering with a grocery delivery service provider. We have also been working with the Vice Chancellor's office to launch a new Careers Committee to investigate ways to improve professional development at MIT, including the Fall Career Fair.

I have also spent the past month completing projects for the Corporation Joint Advisory Committee, a committee of the corporation that consists of undergrads, grad students, faculty and corporation members. In addition, we have been onboarding new UA Council members, and I have been meeting with them individually to better understand the needs of the communities they represent.

Current Projects:

I will be continuing our advising project this semester by meeting with Department Heads to share our recommendations and by working with other students to develop a student-advisor matching platform. I will also be working to address concerns over the increased price of housing for students returning to New House next year.

I am also continuing to develop plans for a unified Wellness Center on main campus and will be meeting with the Dean of Student Support and Wellbeing next week. We will also be discussing how to better guarantee students who take leave receive a full eight semesters of on-campus housing and are able to return to their previous dorm if they wish.

Vice President

Alexa Martin

Email: ua-vp@mit.edu

Past Month:

During this past month I helped launch the pilot of the on-demand Saferide system. The system will run until June 8th. You can provide feedback at saferide@mit.edu.

I have also been working on SLAing for the Designing the First Year Experience course, where students are looking at the MIT first year experience from a systems design perspective. I have been additionally talking with the Vice Chancellor on ways we can prepare to implement changes recommended by the class in the future.

This past month we held a UA transition dinner for the new Council members, where UA committee chairs also came to share what they have been working on and what they hope to do this semester. Sarah and I met with the new chair of the careers committee to share our thoughts on MIT's current career fair and system for professional development as a whole. We further met with Chancellor Grimson to discuss potential changes to commencement, and advocated on the undergraduates behalf, and have continued to work on improvements to undergraduate advising.

Current Projects:

Currently I am working on getting feedback on the new saferide system. I am working to create a form for students to be able to easily access and provide feedback. I am also starting to work with other student leaders and the SAO to discuss and develop student organization transition training.

Additionally, I am working with other student leaders and admins on the review of dining proposals from various vendors, and will work on the selection of one. I will also be working with VP for Student Life Nelson and DSL to create a low cost market for students, a recommendation heavily recommended by Dean Randall's working group on food insecurity.

Chief of Staff

Mo Eltahir

Email: ua-chief@mit.edu

Past Month:

I ran a survey to chairs of faculty committee chairs and staff to check in on the performance of the Undergraduate Representatives. The results show that most are performing fairly well in their roles. As expected, returning members have been generally more settled than new members, but they have also been performing well.

Current Projects:

I am working on setting up a phone bank to advocate for students on DACA in the next couple of weeks. I am continuing to work on passing the Confidentiality Policy through the Faculty Governance infrastructure. I am also taking meetings to examine reforms in sexual assault prevention training in orientation and reform to Committee on Discipline policy.

Treasurer

Jonathan Coden

Email: ua-treasurer@mit.edu

Past Month:

In the past month I've been working with various committee chairs to expand upon new initiatives within the UA as well as planning a rollout of our new Travel Grant Program to help students visit conferences around the world.

Current Projects:

I'm now focusing on helping build a comprehensive network of UA Alumni to keep those who have graduated involved with all the work that we are doing. This would also give current UA members the ability to interact with alumni to discuss how important their experience in the UA was on their MIT career and after graduation.

Secretary

Kathryn Jiang

Email: ua-secretary@mit.edu

Past Month:

At the end of last semester I went to the ICEO Community Dialogue hosted by Ed Bertschinger and the BSU to discuss the progress made on the BSU [recommendations](#) at MIT. In addition, I met with the PKG center and Roger Levy, the organizers of the 2017 Day of Action, to provide feedback on how to increase undergraduate student participation in the workshops and how to sustain student engagement past this one day.

This semester I have been an SLA for the Designing the First Year class, working with students, faculty, and administrators to ensure the students have the resources and access they need to talk to the relevant people as they try to gather input and understand the needs of different groups across MIT.

I've been working with the UA Admin Assistant to help with food orders and keeping the website up-to-date.

Current Projects:

Next week, I'm looking forward to the first meeting for Ian Waitz's new Student Careers Exploration and Services Committee, bringing together representatives from the UA, GSC, and Career Fair to look at how students are currently choosing careers, what services are available, and how to ensure students have access to a diverse range of internships, full-time jobs, and professional opportunities. I will also continue working with the 2018 Career Fair Directors to understand the new funding and organization structure for the fair.

The Committee on the Undergraduate Program will continue to gather student input and discuss the implementation of the computational thinking [report](#) released last year. I'm also meeting with the Committee on Student Life next week to discuss student spaces and dining.

Within the UA, I am currently planning for CPW, including at the Activities Midway and other events.

Assistant Officer on Diversity

Citlali Trigos-Raczkowski

Email: ua-diversity@mit.edu

Past Month:

This past month I helped develop, fundraise, and publicize Sin LiMiTe, the Latinx fly-in program happening on the first weekend of April. With the committee, we've raised \$4,000 of the \$6,000 we budgeted for, and with Jen Madieto's help met with Dean Crayton and Admissions multiple times to develop the programming. I also met with LCC and G@MIT presidents to talk about goals for the semester to see how the UA can help with them.

Current Projects:

Most of my focus for the next 2-3 weeks will be on Sin LiMiTe, to make sure that the program is a success in its first year. I will also continue to meet with student exec boards, specifically for groups focusing on culture and identity, to see how the UA can best support students, and be helping Mo organize a call bank for students over DACA.

Student Support and Wellness Committee

Sophia McGowan & Tchelet Segev

Email: ua-wellness-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

During the start of the Spring Semester our committee has been coordinating with our mural team and with MIT Medical to start the creation of the mural for the hallway of MIT Mental Health & Counseling. In addition to this, we have met with representatives from MIT facilities to make progress on a Free Sanitary Hygiene Product Pilot program. We have also been drafting and revising a survey on campus attitudes towards tutoring.

Current Projects:

Our committee currently has several projects that we are working on. As mentioned before, we continue to work on the MIT Mental Health & Counseling mural, the Free Sanitary Hygiene Product Pilot program, and a campus-wide tutoring survey. We are also developing a proposal on a program to facilitate relationships between FSILGs and different support resources on campus and are developing a training program for students on active listening and how to support peers.

Committee on Community and Diversity

Annie Abay & Bruke Kifle

Email: ua-cdc-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

Since the start of the semester, our committee has been focused on laying the groundwork for the events we're hosting this semester, and collecting data about freshman orientation to write and deliver a report of recommendations for bettering orientation to Vice Chancellor Waitz by the end of the semester.

Current Projects:

We're currently working on a few different projects. In conjunction with the class councils, we are bringing back "MIT, I Messed Up" -- an event intended to celebrate our failures, mistakes, and misfortunes at MIT, and how we grow from them. We're also in the process of planning OneWeek, a week-long series of events revolving around cultural education and appreciation that lead up to our 2nd annual OneWorld celebration. Lastly, we're teaming up with UA Technology to create the first TEDxMIT for Fall 2018, focused on how we can use technology to better and support our communities.

Committee on Community Service

Kelly Barton & Joaquin Giraldo

Email: ua-csc-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

In the last month, we had all members complete trainings for various parts of completing community service, including logistics, reflection, and outreach. We additionally brainstormed ideas for the upcoming semester and finalized our list of on campus partners in each dorm and living group.

Current Projects:

Currently, UA CSC has three projects in progress. Our main project is taking over the Together in Service Day that the PKG used to host the day after Marathon Monday. This year, instead, we hope to have a week that calls awareness to various issues in our community and beyond, and provide students with more information on how they can be involved.

Another project is that we are organizing a book drive within the next month to collect old books and take them to local schools in the area. And finally, we are hoping to build a website that can connect MIT students to various opportunities on and off campus, getting them involved in various projects ranging from two hours at a community home to spending their spring break taking social action.

Public Affairs Committee

Ashti Shah & Grace Chuan

Email: ua-publicaffairs-chair@mit.edu

Past Month:

TerraByte has been published weekly. We began putting together a breakfast over CPW so that we can attract possible new members. We also attended our first Cambridge City Council meeting (topics discussed: Giving the Mobil gas station on Mem Drive a liquor license, housing crisis regarding Alewife reconstruction, stricter gun control)

Current Projects:

Continuing to publish TerraByte and attend and monthly Cambridge City Council meetings.

Events Committee

Christine You & Ann Quan

Email: ua-events-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

Continued SpringFEST planning
Planning and organizing the semester's timeline and budgets.

Current Projects:

We have been busy planning the SpringFEST Reveal event, SpringFEST Week, concert logistics, swag and much more.
Also we are working with UA Marketing on SpringFEST media.

Marketing Committee

Clare Liu & Charleen Wang

Email: ua-marketing-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

We spent this past month finalizing a ~*~fresh coat~*~ for the Undergraduate Association, in collaboration with UA Innovation. We also brought new members and old members up to speed with our goals and direction for this semester and are working towards training all members in the Adobe Creative Cloud suite.

Current Projects:

UA Marketing is looking to formally launch this new "coat of paint" for the UA and UA committees in early March. Other projects include aiding UA Events in preparing for SpringFEST, updating the current UA website in terms of content and appearance, and updating UA's social media platforms (FB and twitter).

Technology Systems Group Committee

Michael Amoako

Email: ua-technology-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

We collaborated with UA Innovation to organize MIT's first ever Innovation Week and BetterMIT student-life Makeathon. The winning team -Giancarlo Delfin '20, Joaquin Giraldo '20, and Jackie Lin '20 - worked on a map application to help other students find their way around campus and look up nearby events. Both Innovation Week and the community makeathon will be annual events with the goal being for MIT students to come together and solve the problems that they face everyday.

Current Projects:

MIT Parking and Transportation office recently created and launched an OnDemand shuttle system. Our committee will be sending out surveys and talking to students, to improve both the on demand saferide system and the MIT Mobile App in the coming weeks. We will be working on either consolidating tools and academic resources for students, or a student advisor matching platform for rising sophomores this semester, and are looking for more members so we can pursue both of these exciting new initiatives this semester. We are also in the process of organizing a TEDx for next fall (more details to be released later).

Our primary focus is using technology to make a positive **impact** on the MIT community. If anyone has any ideas or shares this vision and wants to join the movement, email us at ua-technology-chairs@mit.edu

Alumni Affairs Committee

Loewen Cavill

Email: ua-alumniaffairs-chair@mit.edu

Past Month:

We have been collaborating with the Alumni Association to develop our MIT Better World Speaker Series to take place over the spring semester.

Current Projects:

Working on smaller events to connect with alumnus on a more intimate level. Creating information session on how to get to know your alumni network and also get to know so of the resources available. Working on a Boston alumni and student dinner to take place after spring break.

Innovation Committee

Malte Ahrens

Email: ua-innovation-chairs@mit.edu

We have four key updates:

1. With the successful close of the BetterMIT events, MIT Innovation Week and the student life makeathon run in collaboration with UA Technology, we are reviewing our learnings and preparing a report for cabinet. We aim to have this ready around spring break
2. We are continuing our social spaces project. In the past months we have visited the offices of Google, Facebook, X, Apple and Pixar; and looked at spaces at other universities. We are preparing pilots/experiments to run on campus of the next few weeks. We are preparing a report on our findings and will be presenting to CSL next week
3. Internally, we are seeking a Chief of Staff (CoS) to improve our efficacy as we grow. We have interviewed four candidates this last week
4. We interviewed seven applicants to the committee this round; accepting four. The committee is now at 23 students

Involvement Committee

Nikhil Bhatia

Email: ua-involvement-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

Released recruiting form to undergraduates, received 50+ applicants, working on filling all committees and getting applicants connected to respective chairs.

Current Projects:

Planning 4 events for the semester, creating a survey for undergrads to suggest improvements to Verdes stocking choices + request items from Verdes.

Committee on Education

Jingwei Ma & Noah McDaniel

Email: ua-education-members@mit.edu

Past Month:

We sent out an advising survey to undergrads to inform what assessment methods people would be comfortable using, among other information. We also set up a meeting with Institute Research to finalize a subject evaluation survey that would be sent out later this month. Student-faculty dinners are almost ready to be started for the semester and we sent out a violations remainder to undergrads. We drafted a freshmen and an upperclassmen mid-year advising checklist which the Vice Chancellor sent to freshmen advisors at the beginning of the semester.

Current Projects:

Tutoring: We are working with UA Student Support & Wellness on a tutoring survey to understand students' experience with tutoring resources on campus and needs. We have also been looking into how other schools do tutoring and the UAAP tutoring website.

Advising: The survey from above will be analyzed on our side and by IR. We are scheduling a meeting with course 8 to discuss best advising practices. We are also modifying the upperclassmen checklist mentioned above.

Subject evaluation: We will meet with IR to improve the survey draft and meet with the registrar office to finalize it and also discuss mid-semester evaluation.

Discussion forums: We are going to hold a few discussions this semester to get opinions and thoughts on education issues from undergrads.

Dinners: We will send out an email about dinners soon.

Faculty Engagement: We hope to provide further opportunities for undergrads to engage with faculty. Starting off, we'll look at programs at other school. A possible project is building a centralized platform for attending professor general office hours (maybe in collaboration with UA Technology).

Financial Board

Zach Schmitz

Email: ua-finboard-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

This past month Finboard has been spot checking/helping groups out with debt forgiveness and get these forgiveness payments to be processed with SAO. We've been struggling to obtain more information from SAO regarding student groups' spending habits in order to conduct more insightful and useful audits in the future.

Current Projects:

Spring Cycle Applications are rolling; we are inducting a few new members this semester into our audit subcommittee; Appeals will open in the next 2-3 weeks. We will process any pending UA Travel Grant applications in the near future. We hope to obtain the information we seek from SAO and get our audits for the semester rolling in the next week.

Sustainability Committee

Soma Mitra-Behura & Mingshi Yang

Email: ua-sustainability-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

We organized a documentary showing of Chasing Coral, an exploration of why the world's coral reefs are disappearing, as well as a round table discussion with the director Jeff Orlowski. We also held two educational workshops at Somerville High School as part of our outreach program, about soil quality and how they can be active in preserving soil in their local communities. We continued to work with Facilities in installing a green wall in E25.

Current Projects:

We are involved in the planning of this year's OneWorld event, which will have a sustainability theme. We are hosting our annual Spark class which is about upcycling. UA Sustain will also be organizing Earth Day and CPW events. We have a number of ongoing dorm sustainability projects, including composting, energy reduction pilot experiments, and implementing sustainable

policies in the new dorm. Finally, we are working with the administration to build a new green space on campus.