



Undergraduate Association Monthly Report

March 2018

President

Sarah Melvin

Email: ua-president@mit.edu

Past Month:

This past month we have been collecting feedback on the new on-demand SafeRide system. As part of this process, we are planning to extend Boston East and Cambridge West/Brookline SafeRide routes past 11pm for the weekend of CPW. This will ensure prefrosh can easily attend FSILG events and safely return to FSILG hosts. On-demand shuttles will also run normally during CPW. We will be looking for feedback on this combination service, as we investigate new options for improving the SafeRide.

I have also been partnering with DSL, CASE, and other students on various projects around food access and affordability. The Food Insecurity Solutions Working Group report was released this week, and we are now working to implement the proposals presented by this group. In addition to continuing SwipeShare, we are working to bring a low-cost, student run grocery store to campus. We are also partnering with the Graduate Student Council (GSC) and DSL to launch a new Market Basket/Target shuttle route and to re-optimize the existing Trader Joe's/Whole Foods shuttle. We are also investigating campus partnerships with grocery delivery services.

We have also been working to improve the new Rebecca's Cafe space in Walker. We are forming a student programming board to plan study breaks, concerts and other events in the space and are also looking at shifting the Cafe's hours.

I have also been following the Committee on the Undergraduate Program's discussions on implementing a [Computational Thinking GIR](#). This was discussed at the faculty meeting on Wednesday and at an undergraduate forum on Tuesday. If you have feedback on the report or CUPs proposals, you should email cup-undergrads@mit.edu. This will be discussed at future faculty meetings, which are open to all MIT students!

Current Projects:

In addition to continuing all of the projects outlined above, I will be working on improvements to the Student Center, including the 5th floor Athena cluster, the 4th floor lounge, and the 2nd floor Stratton student lounge. I'm also continuing to work on the unified wellness center proposal and implementing the UA advising recommendations.

Over the next month, I will also be preparing to transition new UA leadership! This includes documenting all we've done this year and the next steps for our long term projects.

Vice President

Alexa Martin

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Past Month:

During the past month I continued to work on ways to improve the SafeRide system by collecting feedback from Undergraduates via a Google form and presenting that feedback to administrators. You can continue to provide feedback at saferide@mit.edu.

I have also continued to work on SLAing for the Designing the First Year Experience course and helped implement a system for students to be able to give feedback to the course.

This past month I helped DSL reach their goal of 200 donors during the 24 hour Challenge in order to unlock a gift of 1,000 extra meal swipes for students. In total before the 1,000 extra swipes, ~950 meal swipes have been donated, and ~420 have been used.

Sarah and I met with Dean Randall to discuss leave policies and ways to help students have a smoother transition once returning to campus, and the possibility of ensuring students can get back into the living community they left.

Current Projects:

I am continuing to work on organizing MIT I Messed Up (MIMU), an event for students to share stories about a time they failed with other students with the Community & Diversity Committee and all four Class Councils. It will be happening on May 1st at 6:00 pm on Kresge lawn.

I am continuing to work with other students and administrators on the selection of the new dining vendor that will be coming to campus. I am also working with VPSL Suzy Nelson on implementing recommendations for the food insecurity report including a low cost grocer on campus.

Internally in the UA I am working to ensure committees accomplish all of their goals for the year, and create effective transition documents for the next year. I am also looking at ways to better

retain committee members and make the UA into a tighter community. I am also working with Leah Gallant from SAO to develop ways to better transition student organizations in general.

Chief of Staff

Mo Eltahir

Email: ua-chief@mit.edu

Past Month:

Passed updated confidentiality policy by UA council. Held DACA phone bank, which was attended by a little more than 40 undergraduates who each placed calls to three different representatives each! Met with Title XI Office.

Current Projects:

Passing confidentiality policy through faculty governance system.

Treasurer

Jonathan Coden

Email: ua-treasurer@mit.edu

Past Month:

Last month, I met with an outside review board who is focused on helping SAO improve. I've also worked on improving funding options for student groups, that we hope to roll out by the end of this year.

Current Projects:

We're planning to roll-out the Travel Grant this week, with the deadline being a week or two after Spring Break. We're also working to restructure the Fresh Fund in the future so that it can be used by undergraduate groups through Finboard.

Secretary

Kathryn Jiang

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Past Month:

Earlier this month Sarah and I met with the Committee on Student Life to discuss student spaces. We brainstormed different ways to increase traffic to Rebecca's Cafe in Walker, as well as improvements to the student center and different lounges on campus. We had a visit from MITIMCO, which manages the vendors in the basement and first floor of the student center, and gave feedback on how those spaces can better serve students. I also went to the MacVicar Day panel, which was focused on inclusive pedagogies this year, to honor the the MacVicar Fellows.

The student members on the Committee on the Undergraduate Program organized a student forum where we presented options for the implementation for the Computational Thinking GIR.

We then discussed the student feedback in the committee and presented at the March faculty meeting.

The Career Exploration and Services Committee had our first two meetings, where we brainstormed different organizations and departments within MIT, peer institutions, and sources of data to look at. We also had a presentation by the Career Fair to get a background of the fair and some of the problems with it. Our next meeting will be during Spring Break.

I presented to the MIT Corporation, Science Council, and Undergraduate Officers to understand their needs as part of the Designing the First Year class. I synthesized those needs and created reports that will serve as a reference for students in the class.

Current Projects:

I will continue to take into account student and faculty feedback to the computational thinking GIR with the goal of having a concrete recommendation for implementation to bring to a vote of the faculty by the end of the semester.

Working with Ian Waitz and other members of the Core Team, we will continue to support to class, give feedback from the students to the teaching staff, and brainstorm ways to implement the recommendations that will come out of the class.

Assistant Officer on Diversity

Citlali Trigos-Raczkowski

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Past Month:

This month has been completely focused on working with the LCC and admissions to flesh out the details for Sin Limite, the pilot Latinx fly-in program. We currently have 9 departments and offices funding it and 24 prefrish signed up. The program is coming up quickly on the first weekend of April.

Current Projects:

Once the program concludes, I'll hold a discussion to identify ways for it to be better next year — reading the feedback from staff, faculty, and our scholars.

I aim to bring my work back to meeting with groups and student leaders once Sin Limite has passed, specifically with CASE, LUCHA, and the BSU.

Student Support and Wellness Committee

Sophia McGowan & Tchelet Segev

Email: ua-wellness-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

- Met with David Randall to discuss FSILG wellness related support and programming
- Worked with MIT Facilities to install no pay sanitary hygiene product dispensers in pilot locations
- Began preparing for April's sexual assault awareness month red flag campaign and possible accompanying programming
- Met with MH&C to discuss how appointments are scheduled after a student submits the online MH&C appointment request form. We discussed potential ideas for how to improve the model
- Met with Institutional Resources to get feedback on our tutoring survey

Current Projects:

- Continue setting up the free sanitary hygiene product pilot and work with the relevant stakeholders in MIT Facilities and Community Wellness
- Investigate how GRTs can better support students, and ensure they provide a more uniform standard of support
- Continue preparing for the red flag campaign and looking into next steps for the FSILG wellness/support programming
- Finalize and send out the tutoring survey

Committee on Community and Diversity

Annie Abay & Bruke Kifle

Email: ua-cdc-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

Over the past month, our committee has been planning and laying the framework for a series of cultural dinner events to be held later this semester. We have been collaborating with members of the UA and Class councils to organize MIT I Messed Up, in addition to working closely with MIT Institute Events and Faculty in organizing OneWorld@MIT. We have also been conducting surveys and gathering data to best identify ways to improve Freshman Orientation to allow for more community, inclusion and diversity oriented experiences.

Current Projects:

Collaborating with Class Councils to organize MIT I Messed Up (MIMU) - event for students to share stories about a time they failed with other students. Happening May 1 at 6pm on Kresge Lawn. Sitting on the planning committee for OneWorld@MIT to be held on May 12, 2018. Synthesizing gathered data to propose list of recommendations for how to best improve MIT Freshman Orientation.

Committee on Community Service

Kelly Barton & Joaquin Giraldo

Email: ua-csc-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

Over the past month, we have worked closely with the PKG Center to define our goals this semester, mostly focused on the Together in Service Initiative. We defined what we think the UA's involvement in this initiative should be and how best to help students make an impact both during the month of April and in the rest of their time at MIT and beyond. Additionally, we restructured our committee to better work on projects in parallel. And finally, we reached out to four local organizations to send volunteers to for the remainder of the the semester.

Current Projects:

Currently, we have two big projects going on. The first is planning a Service Retreat for the UA members to Fresh Pond Reservation. We will be going on April 29th to help repath their trails and to work with a kid's program. Secondly, we are planning our "Together in Service Week" for either the week of Patriot's Day or the following week, in which we will be emphasizing MIT's involvement in 4-5 major world issues and informing students of how they individually can get involved. Look out for more information on this to come in the next few weeks!

Public Affairs Committee

Ashti Shah & Grace Chuan

Email: ua-publicaffairs-chair@mit.edu

Past Month:

Over the past month, we have attended Cambridge City Council meetings, planned a CPW breakfast, written TerraByte articles, and are beginning to reach out to potential public speakers for next year.

Current Projects:

We are continuing to work on the above projects from this month. In addition, we are developing a strategy to get an undergraduate-wide consensus on current topics of debate in Cambridge City Council.

Events Committee

Christine You & Ann Quan

Email: ua-events-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

Last month we spent a lot of time figuring out what needs to be done before spring break for our springFest artist reveal event and the actual week of springFest. We booked all the necessary locations, worked with marketing to get our reveal posters.

Current Projects:

We are going to focus on the reveal event which will take place on 4th of April when people get back from spring break. We are working with marketing to get an artist reveal video. The members of the committee are also concurrently working on the week of events during the actual springFest week. Booking food, location, AV and all other necessities.

Marketing Committee

Charleen Wang & Clare Liu

Email: ua-marketing-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

In the past month, Marketing worked on getting the members up to speed with Adobe programs for team coordination. Marketing continued to work on SpringFEST materials.

Current Projects:

Marketing will be rolling out new UA assets soon as well as SpringFEST materials. Marketing will also update the UA social media materials.

Technology Systems Group Committee

Michael Amoako

Email: ua-technology-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

We have been working on developing an “app store” for students. Our vision is to create an environment for students to discuss and share student life related innovation. Hope that by cataloguing resources for students, students will be able to adapt more easily to life at MIT. We are now getting into dev season and hope to release the app store before Fall 2018. Currently looking for more backend developers, but any and all interest is welcome!

Current Projects:

We are currently collecting feedback for the MIT Mobile app and on demand saferide, developing the app store, and planning a Tedx speaker series for next year. If you are at all interested email us at ua-technology-chairs@mit.edu.

Alumni Affairs Committee

Loewen Cavill

Email: ua-alumni-affairs-chair@mit.edu

Past Month:

We have been collaborating with the Alumni Association to recruit panelist and organize our Health of the Planet panelist lunch to take place April 21.

Current Projects:

We are organizing group dinners to take place with alumnus in the area. If you are interested in taking part in one let us know! Also working on a alumni info session informing undergraduates how to best utilize the tools available to connect with alumnus.

Innovation Committee**Malte Ahrens****Email:** ua-innovation-chairs@mit.eduPast Month:

We have been finishing up three reports: Social Spaces at MIT, a review of MIT Innovation Week, and a review of the Better MIT student-life makeathon, all due next month.

Involvement Committee**Nikhil Bhatia****Email:** ua-involvement-chairs@mit.eduPast Month:

Organized UA study break, started work on student input for Verdes.

Current Projects:

Planning to reach out to student body regarding Verdes, give students input into what kinds of things they can buy at Verdes as well as give Verdes a more concrete statement of student opinions.

Committee on Education**Jingwei Ma & Noah McDaniel****Email:** ua-education-members@mit.eduPast Month:

We worked with IR to finalize a subject evaluation survey. In the survey we want to collect student feedback on the questions currently on subject evaluations, the form time frame, reasons students evaluate their classes, etc. We received 800 results from the advising survey and did analysis of the results. Student Faculty Dinners/Coffees launched well and over 120 students have already registered a dinner.

Current Projects:

We scheduled a meeting with IR after spring break to talk about the survey and mid-semester evaluations. We will talk to Vice Chancellor Waitz about the survey results. There will be a meeting with course 8 after spring break and we will also bring up observations from the survey. We hope to extend connections with administrative offices, and will be reaching out to GECD to collaborate on projects. We are also developing a history of CoE projects for ongoing reference. This will inform future chairs on what projects have been attempted and completed in the past, as well as providing recommendations for improvement.

Financial Board**Zach Schmitz****Email:** ua-finboard-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

We conducted Spring Allocations; \$105,000 was allocated to about 130 student groups. We have continued to move forward and refine the UA Travel Grant Program, the Pilot Program, and Finboard Auditing. We recently added 2 new members to the Auditing subcommittee.

Current Projects:

Appeals closed last Thursday at midnight; final allocations should be released by next Tuesday. Allocations should appear in groups' accounts by April 5th; however, groups may begin to spend against their Funding or Pilot Accounts as soon as they know their preliminary (or final) allocations.

Sustainability Committee

Soma Mitra-Behura & Mingshi Yang

Email: ua-sustainability-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

Over the past month, UA Sustain has been working on a number of large and small projects. We have had meetings with both administrators and faculty on the topic of a large community garden that we hope to bring to campus within the next few years. From the feedback we've received, we have formulated a more practical vision for this garden and have begun writing a proposal to outline the details of it. We have also attended two One Sustainable World Party meetings and have provided feedback in terms of what students would want to see and what is actually sustainable. Our subcommittees have continued to work on a number of projects including Trash2Treasure (which is now expanding to Tang), Earth day celebration plans, MIT Museum Girls' Day events, Somerville High School educational activities and a Splash Sustainability walk-in class amongst other projects.

Current Projects:

Over the next few months, we will play a larger role in organizing One Sustainable World, filling tents with student sustainability projects for event-goers to interact with. We will continue with our large community garden proposal and have a few more meetings planned that will hopefully give us more guidance into how to build a garden in a way that is sustainable on MIT's campus. Earth Day comes up in April and we will have a number of activities like terrarium making, a trivia wheel, and some energy experiments as part of ESI's event. We are also working more closely with dorm eco-reps to develop a sustainability program to possibly implement in dorms themselves. As part of a collaboration with MIT Medical, we are also beginning installation of a green wall in MIT Medical in the next few weeks.

Campus Planning

Charlotte Chazen

Email: ua-cpc-chairs@mit.edu

Past Month:

- Established main committee project teams for semester, compiled resources for teams to leverage, and developed structure for execution process
 - a. Met with Suzy Nelson and Jon Alvarez to discuss our committee's projects and garner feedback as to how we may most effectively accomplish our goals (key contacts, committees, etc.) and with Gustavo Burkett to discuss current projects underway with Student Center
- Projects
 - a. Dining (Lobdell, Walker Memorial, Forbes—dining contracts with Aramark and Bon Appetit ending this June)
 - i. Resources
 - 1. Mark Hayes, Committee for Student Life (team designing Rebecca's space, David Randall (food insecurity)
 - ii. CPC Members: Amanda, Niko, Jen, Alvin, Kevin
 - b. Green spaces (more effectively utilizing green spaces to foster community and bring students outside—tree swings, events, food trucks, outdoor wifi)
 - i. Resources
 - 1. Planning office (licensing of food trucks), Envision study, Jon Alvarez, Office of Campus Planning (purchasing furniture), Mind Hand Heart (colorful chairs outside of Hayden)
 - ii. CPC Members: Niko, Jen, Riker, Bea, Noa
 - c. STUD (4th and 5th floors)
 - i. Resources: Gustavo Burkett
 - ii. CPC Members: Amanda, Kevin, Alex, Patricia
 - d. Freshman experience (review process underway—Redesigning First-Year Experience course, etc.)
 - i. Resources: Re-Designing First-Year Experience course (SLAs, Ian Weitz), CUP
 - ii. CPC members: Kevin, Niko
 - e. Bikes (bike share program, bike donation program, adding Hubway stations, etc.)
 - i. Resources: Gotcha Bike (approached MIT about integrating on campus, Hubway, Office for Transportation)
 - ii. CPC members: Alvin, Jen, Riker,
 - f. Library and communal spaces (reviewing various campus areas and determining how to better utilize spaces to foster community and encourage students from different spheres of campus to interact more regularly)
 - i. Resources: Provost (oversees spaces)
 - ii. CPC members: Alvin, Kevin, Alex, Patricia
- Continued work with team led by Peter Cummings to select a new campus dining vendor
 - a. Reviewed vendor presentations and began to develop recommendations for committee
- Joined Committee for Student Life to redesign Rebecca's Cafe space in Walker
- Joined team to address food insecurity report by implementing a low cost campus market

- Met with Faculty Campus Planning committee and discussed classroom inventory and renovations overseen by the Registrar's office

Current Projects:

- Conducting dining proposal site visits
- Planning committee campus tour with Gus to brainstorm ways to better utilize space in main focus areas