Upcoming Events

**Exec Meetings**
- Wed 2/2, 7:00pm  
  East Campus
- Wed 2/9, 7:00pm  
  McCormick
- Wed 2/16, 7:00pm  
  Baker
- Wed 2/23, 7:00pm  
  Macgregor

**Senate Meetings**
- Mon 2/7, 7:30pm  
  W20-400
- Mon 2/14, 7:30pm  
  W20-400
- Mon 2/28, 7:30pm  
  W20-400

**UA Study Break**
- Wed 2/16, 11:59pm  
  Coffeehouse

Read this newsletter online at ua.mit.edu/news.

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**UA Discusses Orientation Changes at Senate Meeting**

A special meeting of Senate was held on January 25 to discuss the proposed changes to Orientation. Dean Julie Norman and Elizabeth Young from the UAAP attended the meeting to explain the changes, answer questions, and solicit feedback. Over 60 students were also in attendance.

The chancellor has charged the UAAP with reducing the length of Orientation. Norman cited faculty concerns that students are worn out by the time the academic semester starts as the reason for the change. In the current proposal, rush will not change, but FPOPs will be uniformly changed to 4 or 5 day programs. In addition, ASE's will be held in the morning on the 5th day, and the logistics of the Math Diagnostic are still under discussion. CityDays will be removed, and in the current version of the proposal, the closing of the readjustment lottery that marks the end of REX remains on Tuesday.

Students at the meeting were particularly concerned about REX and expressed their discontent at these changes. Students felt that the new plan may effectively reduce the length of REX to one or two days.

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**The Next Stage of Printing at MIT**

The UA and IS&T are pleased to announce the beginning of a trial run of the new hold-and-release printing system. One can find hold-and-release printers in buildings 12, 56, W20, and East Campus. These printers do not carry a cost to use and are compatible with systems like Quick Print and lpr. Information is located near these printers to explain how to interface with the card swipe system.

Daniel Hastings, the Dean for Undergraduate Education, expressed his delight in these changes: "I am very pleased that we can come up with reasonable ways to reduce obvious waste, reduce cost, and do it together as a joint faculty/staff and student team. The student representatives were very valuable in helping to arrive at a solution."

Students are encouraged to try one of these new printers and send feedback to ua-printing@mit.edu. More details and updates can be found at ua.mit.edu/issues/printing. The UA is planning focus groups and outreach activities to ensure student ideas are incorporated into the new printing system before its launch this summer.

Allan Miramonti  
Chair of Athena Printing
Chancellor Search Update

On January 20, a group of undergraduate and graduate students presented their recommendations for the next Chancellor to Susan Hockfield, MIT President.

In early November, Kirk D. Kolenbrander, the Vice President for Institute Affairs, invited the leadership of UA, GSC, DormCon, IFC, and Panhel to form a group of students. The group would identify qualities and priorities that students wanted to see in the next Chancellor.

The group decided that a Chancellor should prioritize student concerns, take ownership of the office, appreciate student culture, and be respected by the faculty. Students also wanted to see a Chancellor whose priorities would include a holistic educational experience, student engagement, student services, and financial resource management.

A list of potential candidates was generated based on these criteria. One graduate and one undergraduate student then researched each candidate. Each pair reported back to the group, and then the group selected the top candidates.

Sammi Wyman, the UA Vice President, was the primary point of contact on the undergraduate side. She met with stakeholders and created a webform to solicit input from undergraduates. Wyman said that the recommendations appeared to be well-received by President Hockfield.

IAP Student-Faculty Dinners

This IAP, the UA Student Committee on Education Policy (SCEP) continued to fund Student-Faculty Dinners. Over 20 dinners were registered for over 100 MIT undergraduates. The UA plans to run the program again in the spring and encourages students to continue to participate.

Alumni Relations Update

The UA Committee on Alumni Relations has been working hard to develop new initiatives. They will be helping the MIT Alumni Association by cosponsoring an event. In addition, there will be a class on February 9th from 6:30-8:30, with dinner provided, to help living groups foster a relationship with their alumni. Finally, they expect to launch Student-Alumni Dinners this semester and encourage students to participate. They hope to continue to make new programs and to support living groups in their own Alumni events next semester.

UA to Survey Undergrads

This past semester, student representatives on institute committees have played a central role in many changes to institute policies and programs. For example, students contributed to the new major that encompasses Course 6 and Course 7.

Ongoing discussions on these committees include topics such as the enrollment increase, advising, financial aid, online education, double major policies, transfer students and the 3-2 program, and summer class offerings.

In February, the UA will run a survey to collect data on these topics. The results will be valuable to the student representatives — the survey will be a chance for them to ask for students’ opinions and bring them back to the committee during the school year. The student reps will also be invited to attend Senate meetings to discuss these topics.

“A Chancellor should prioritize student concerns, take ownership of the office, appreciate student culture, and be respected by the faculty.”

“The results will be valuable to the student representatives—the survey will be a chance for them to ask for students’ opinions and bring them back to the committee.”
Bad Ideas a Great Success

Last semester, Senate provided funding to Bad Ideas to make it more accessible for the entire campus. The UA was excited to hear that Bad Ideas was a great success.

Robin Deits, East Campus president, submitted a report describing the events that were held. For example, in the nth Annual Python Bee, contestants were given a task to spell out as a python program. 10,000 cookies were baked in less than 12 hours. Other events included the Green Building Challenge, 7-11 challenge, eating contests (with hot wings, tacos, and frosting), and White Castle Lunch. Creations included the TurBacon Epic (a dish with layers of poultry, pig, bacon, butter, and much more), a homemade sledding hill, and a 9000 Watt halogen array.

Deits wrote, “Thanks to the UA, our event advertising was dramatically better than in previous years, and the excellent attendance at all events reflected this.” This year, not only did students attend from East and West campus but also from graduate dorms, BU, Northeastern, and Columbia University.

Shuttle Update

The first UA Driver of the Month is Precious, who normally drives Boston Daytime. She had universally positive comments like “She is a great driver who puts students first.” Thank you for your input, and please continue commenting.

In other news, Boston Daytime will be running on weekends this semester, from 9:30am to 5:25pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

Richard Dahan, Chair of Student Life

Orientation Changes

(Continued from page 1)

Dean Norman noted that i3 videos and CPW could be viewed as additional opportunities to help promote dormitories. She also asked students to start thinking about the quality of REX events as opposed to the quantity. For the rest of the Question and Answer session, students continued to provide testimonials on time constraints and dorm culture.

Dean Norman hopes to reach out for opinions from various governments, including the UA and DormCon. SLOPE, led by Julie Rothhaar, will also be meeting on this soon.

UA Welcomes New Members

Recently, many new members have been selected to join the UA!

Michael Walsh, a current Senator and member of the DAPER advisory committee, has been appointed to become the new Chair of the Committee on Athletics. He “would like to create a better communication line with DAPER and students, as well as improve the attendance and excitement of our athletics games.” He is currently Course 6 and 8, lives in Bexley, and is a brother of Sigma Nu.

In addition, there are some new senators. Karan Takhar, a new senator for Next House, wishes to “represent the voices of the constituents and work with other members of Senate and the UA to improve the student experience at MIT.” Academically, he’s Course 14 and 18.

Two new senators are now representing fraternities. First, there is Charles Bernstein, from Sigma Chi. He is currently (Continued on page 4)
Letter from the Senate Speaker: A Conversation on Student Life

Dear Undergraduates:

This semester, Senate hopes to engage the undergraduate community in a conversation on student life at MIT. In light of so many profound changes slated for next year, I want to identify—among many—two very important questions for students. First, what do we value as a student body? And from there, how can we preserve that which we value?

The latter question speaks to the role of Senate—to protect student rights and interests while also improving the state of student life at the Institute. However, as issues such as the undergraduate enrollment increase, the new dining plan, and a reduced orientation schedule move forward to implementation, we need to know what’s important to you. As a representative body—and a group of inherently-inventive MIT students—we can then do what we do best: discuss, debate, and draft recommendations that advise administrators on how to manage the issues we care about.

I’ve now asked you for feedback—how do you get in touch and make a difference? First, get informed by reading the Tech, attending a Senator outreach event, showing up at a UA Exec meeting in your dorm, or by going to our website. Then, voice your opinion by sending us an email, speaking with your Senator, or sending a letter to an administrator. Just imagine if everyone took one hour this semester to join the conversation—it would be around 4,300 hours of Inventional Wisdom applied to making the Institute a better place for students.

Jonté Craighead
Speaker of the Senate

New Members to the UA

(Continued from page 3)

Course 15 (Marketing Science) with a minor in Course 21H. He wishes to “represent the best interests of MIT’s Greek system and its members. There’s also Chris Kelly, currently living in MacGregor House but affiliated with Nu Delta. He aspires to be Course 2 and 8, and he would like to “establish a closer relationship between the dorms and fraternities.” On a fun note, he hopes to “aid in the design of future particle accelerators throughout the world” and is good at Zelda in Super Smash Bros Brawl!

Finally, there is also Anika Gupta, who’s been asked to be the next UA Treasurer. She currently lives in Bexley and is working towards Course 10 with a minor in 15. She hopes to “continue keeping the UA accountable in its spending and ensure that transactions are processed as quickly as possible.” Fun fact: she’s of Canadian birth, Indian heritage, and American upbringing.

The UA looks forward to working with them to improve life at MIT.

Jonté Craighead, Speaker of the Senate

UA Officers
President: Vrajesh Modi
Vice President: Sammi Wyman
Chief of Staff: Alexandra Jordan
Treasurer: Anika Gupta
Secretary-General: Alec Lai
Senate Speaker: Jonté Craighead
Senate Vice Speaker: Vacant

Contact
To learn more about the UA, feel free to visit our website at: ua.mit.edu. You may also email ua@mit.edu.

Credits
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