Arthur - MacG
Sara - New
Evan - Simmons
Rodrigo - Senior
Gaurav - Random
Bella - Baker
Victoria - Burton Conner
Tegan - Next
Chloe- McCormick

Panhel
Yasmin
Colleen
Chloe

IFC
Sam
Ryan
Hal
Obasi

Ben Kraft, ASA
Isaac

Exec
Jin - TSG
Trevor - Education
Jennie - Education

Officers
Billy
Sophia
Shruti
Doug

Minutes

Shruti: "...We are working together to make sure that students feel that there is an enhanced community… we want to continue doing that. With that being said, we want to tell you about what the UA Exec board is doing and Billy will do that right now."

Billy: "I think everyone has a packet… So I initially thought of going through all of the goals but maybe it's not the best use of our time… I wanted to make this more of a discussion… if you have any questions."

Isaac: "...I thoguht of recently...if we have students that are part of a joint Masters program. Or say if we have a student that is underregistered… looking at the **Constitution that may not be clear. Maybe over the course of the year we can look at that, as well.**"

Ryan: "...Isn't there an issue with Masters students are graduate level…?"

Isaac: "I just wasn't sure…"

Billy: "Okay, well I don't know and will look into that… one committee I wanted to bring up was SAC… coming up with certain criteria to judge certain admin collaboration… what constitutes a good collaboration between admins and students?... One thing that would be useful would be to create an org chart to discuss that…Some of the committee members will come and give updates. Also, I wanted to talk about the Innovation committee, which Douglas can talk about."

Shruti: "Do you all feel that you have a good grasp of what's happening in the exec board?... What's the general feedback here?... If you are all aware of the initiatives that we are doing together and could spread the news that would be great… do we feel… any feedback on that? Especially for council going forward, we do expect chairs to be giving what they're doing so far. So that being said, I think we'll do one of our first presentations of the Innovation Committee. As you know, there's a huge push from the Institute with the innovation initiative. THe administraiton is looking for ways to have students get ownership over their ideas for projects… What can we do together to have students be innovative… I think the projects coming out of the Innovation Committee are great…"

Douglas: "I do wish Will Jack were here, but I've been interfacing with him over this summer… so the Innovation Committee was formed in the ate spring and dedicated to support… student innovators… Will Jack is starting an MIT session of 'How to Start a Start-Up,' a class taught at Stanford… we're telecasting it over here to give students the opportunity to be a part of what's happening on the West Coast. Will's third point here, says that he's plannign several ovther events that encourage studnets to bring their other ideas to reality… sort of outside the scope… the Innovation Initiative has been working hard to put together a very comprehensive plan to… enable support to start companies [to students]. One of hte first things… was a maker space… sort of like an athena cluster but for entrepreneurship… including things like laser cutters, 3d printers, arduinos… all sorts of tools.. so students can think of real life applications… We would love to have all sorts of proposals coming up from the grassroots."

Ryan: "... Is it supposed to be a combination of the hobby shop or the trust center?"

Douglas: "The idea is to enable a smaller and more central resource… the idea being that people can spend an hour or something… much more accessible than the hobby shop because requires a lot less training… much more accessible across campus. More of a genral space."

Victoria: "If one of the pros was that it would be closer to campus… where would they be?"

Shruti: "The athena clusters? The new nano building.. it would be there. THere's a lot of construction going on. It's definitely an area where the setting is going to be developed… Do you think right now that studnets have access to enough maker spaces? General feedback?"

Obasi: "I think that there are a lot of maker spaces on campus… there are also a lot of maker spaces that you're not supposed to use for personal projects. Having done this before, an attest… having an increaed amount of maker spaces… would definitely be an asset."

Douglas: "A step back, a general question… what do you think is the largest barrier to students… doing projects outside of class and being creative?"

Gaurav: "I mean, so, the biggest obstacle is not having time. Random hall has both an EE lab and a hobby shop… and time… I don't think the issue is not having enough maker spaces."

Shruti: "At a higher level, if it's academics, what do you think coudl be said?"

Gaurav: " I don't think necessarily that it's a godo thing to reduce academics so people have more time but there's a tension that exists."

Tegan: "I don't know if this already exists but in course 7, you can get credit for a UROP… more like that would be potentially give students more time."

Shruti: "Do you think the academic pressure at MIT is so great that it is hard to put out time for anything else?"

Douglas: "Time seems to be a big issue… what do you think students spend the most time on? Overwhelmingly, it is academics…"

Gaurav: "From what I"ve seen it's academics, studnet groups, and sleeping… and not enough time sleeping… If people had more time they would spend more but you can't just make time."

Trevor: "I think ti's valuable to note that this sort of maker ideas has been shown to work for people who don't have enough time and such iterations like HackMIT or hackathons… and they go for it… Although academics is the overwhelming majority of yoru time… there is a point where someone can decide to take fewer classes if they want to work on a project this year."

Shruti: "So, I mean, when we're having more maker spaces… trying to get students to do more projects… so they have ownership of their ideas… something that I've seen, maybe those sorts of projects help students' confidence. It could be rough to someone's self-esteem… we're trying to look at how to change students' self esteem… from your perspective, do you think studnets entering MIT have more confidence than students leaving MIT? The UA does want to release some kind of survey from this… If you could have a question about this...from your perspectives."

Victoria: "I think that, um, we all kind of agree that htere's a lot of, available… perhaps the time and money is better spent is… professor and studnet interaction. Perhaps a departmental showcase of student projects…. Professors can critique them… students can feel… validated… perhaps the resources could be used for something like that."

Arthur: " So I guess maker space would be in that new $300 million dollar building… isn't there some sort of MIT administratoin that is already…"

Douglas: "We're not paying for it…"

Shruti: "We;re not paying for it, we just helped write the proposal, but yeah that owuld be a greatquestion…"

Rodrigo: "Have you talked to Chancellor barnhardt at all? She seems interested in making maker spaces around campus…I presume she thinks that because… there are lots of smart people on campus and why not give them more access to make more things that they want to."

Sara: "I know one of the biggest barriers for me personally is obtaining the supplies to make something. **IF there could be a way to make it easier and cheaper to obtain supplies… that might be something worth looking into."**

Shruti: "I think there's… academic [for self confidence], because exams are difficult… do you guys agree with that? What do you think could be done towards that?"

Tegan: "I'll agree in saying that I think there is maybe a greater spread in confidence when people leave than when they come… because when they come they're riding off the high. I when people, when they graduate, some people are super confident and some aren't.

Trevor: "I think there's a certain point to which… you're exactly right… a lot of it has to do with our peers being…I know people come in with the idea that they might be smarter than everyone else… and when you get here you're met with peers. It gets difficult. You have similar expectations of yourself… you expect to get all A's and you expect to do well in these particular classes. I think the important thing is to realize that it's more about the learning and less about the grades…at the same time that is debateably true about with grad school and med school and whatever else you want to do with your life… a lot of it has to do with expectations of yourself."

Gaurav: "I think… this discussion would be better support for the student support and wellness committee and that we should focus on policy."

Shruti: "Well we want your feedback on this. Do you think it would be a positive thing to send a survey out about this?"

Gaurav: "I just think that the student support and wellness committee is better suited."

Yasmin: "I don't think there's no value in doing this survey… and MIT's culture has been something discussed over and over again… that has been raised in discussion with MIT administration. But I think we spend so much time discussion that there fails to be the next step to action… I don't think there's that much of a need to affirm them…"

Shruti: "Does anything come into mind that are solutions that we could take?...I mean what are we…"

Isaac: "I think it boils down to quality of life… if I had to guess that the main stressor for MIT studnets are academics. If they're a senior, it's probably what the heck they're gonna do when they graduate… it's a problem. Students in general… I have yet to hear a student say that 'he got to do this new thing that has never been done before.' I think that there have been a couple of positive changes and I think that the UA has to good job of protecting what students value… and not beingn able to have residents just walk in dorms anymore… and if you live on 5th east and you have to walk all the way down to the first floor to let someone in, I'm not going to invite 15 friends over to pset anymore… some students want to let loose on weekends. I think that we

can't do that anymore will affect quality of life… I was in a class where I said that, we had never been to a class this small before. I think 3.091 was a great model of that… I don't think the UA has done a great job of protecting the things that students value."

Shruti: "When you said that the UA hasn't looked at student values… well, with our committees that's what our committees are trying to do."

Isaac: "… well the average student doesn't care about the UA… and that's how it is…MIT used to do that. And I wonder if the UA had a hand in organizing protests to allow them to actually hang on to some of these things."

Gaurav: "I just want to say that this is a discussion that we could have for 10 hours…"

Shruti: "I think we should move on."

Victoria: "I think what would be beneficial is having an overall quality of life committee and a committee on student mental health… I value both but I think putting htem in the same committee is trying to do too many things at once."

Sara: "If you send out a survey… it may be skewed…"

Shruti: "We will look into that. Also, Isaac, we have arranged for the UA to have a column in the tech so that students can be aware about what is happening… so it's about time that studnets know what is happening. Next, for the UA Nominations board, we'll have Doug take the reins over this…"

Douglas: "Well, first and foremost, a couple of issues were raised. I would like to be very upfront about this. I screwed up with respect to bringing a slate here. We did the nominations process and we submitted the names to Lindsay… andn all of this happened over the summer… and I had no idea we had to submit this to council… and a large number of assignments have been made… and that was my fault. I should have learned more about this process… With that said, I would like to hear from you guys and let me know what your thoughts and concerns are."

Hal: "I think my main concern was… and it's not a terrible thing, but I see… the Institute committees andn the- people on them as being representative of the MIT student body… and for that reason in order to be representative.. they need to have that authority granted ot htem by elected representatives… to give them that authority in representing us. I think that was the big thing, as long as they have that authority given them… I'm perfectly happy accepting them and reviewing them… because we have ended up dropping people. If we go through the list of 60-70 people… we might come up with one… but I think it's good to have the opportunity."

Yasmin: "I also think, on that note, that that protects you… Sometimes members of the administration will think they had student input based on one representative because…. There was no accountability to the leaders… I think it's something that we can do on the student end… so they know that they are actually representative…. The amounts of checks in tnhat… even if it might make the process longer… it's pretty important… I think it's worthwhile."

Douglas: "You may have seen the document that I already sent out… I realize I sent it very… 20 minutes ago… but I wanted to have your thoughts… in proposing something better… my thoughts were… it may seem… it seemed to me that this council approving 60-70 names was a bit of an inefficiency in the system. Before I say that, I think checks and balances are critical to

the success of any organization. But, what I would like to propose and hear your thoughts on… why don't we elect the members of the Nominations Board and then to allow that body to make those decisions rather than every couple of weeks… because more and more committees are coming up… rather than doing, checking 12-15 names every couple of weeks… in trying to be as efficient as we can… that process on being able to spend that time on 5-6 members, really understanding them, may be more valuable, rather than spending a… much less amount of time on the people that we are nominating over the course of the year."

Gaurav: "I think that the institute committees are one of the… the biggest things that we do… Policy in many areas become part of the policy of MIT. I think it's important for council to confirm these members…"

Douglas: "Do you think that we give enough time… if we were to give 20 minutes to each member… do we have enough members that will know enough about these students."

Gaurav: "I feel like emailing beforehand to each councilmember beforehand would be the correct approach."

Shruti: "So, if you prefer, in your emails, there's applications to several Institute Committees that kind of arise through the month… they're ad-hoc committees. Sometimes the timelines are a week."

Douglas: " They're sometimes a nightmare…"

Shruti: "We don't meet on a weekly basis… would you want to vote over email?"

Hal: "I think I would be okay with NomBoard having them temped until the next meeting and then having them approved… I like the opportunity to discuss in person… and they have that temp time period where they can be faster… and the end decision still rests on council."

SHruti: "… Nominations have started to change… we give them more names of slots… and there's almost like a two-way… faculty chair, the chair of the committee, also interviews students… and now you kind of have 2 checks.. and we do have, you know, PAC, for instance. In some instances it'll be… not fuzzier… but there will be some areas."

Obasi: "With the new system of suggesting 5 people for 3 spots… when precisely did this begin and what was the process of deciding that?"

Shruti: "Well, last year around this time, the faculty was pushing this… We understand that our candidates… are representative of MIT as a whole… for committees much of the time have to be submitted by July 1st, and a lot of studnets would have no idea of their schedules at that point… and then September they know what their schedule is and they email back and say they need more candidates. SO, the compromise that was reached was to give, sort of n+2 on these committees. And that was a big stride for NomBoard last semester, because it could've been +5 or +3, or should the UA be doing this period, and that was the compromise that was reached. And it's reasonable… that students can't come to these meetings due to scheduling conflicts."

Yasmin: "I get what you're saying… that there's all these checks… between UA, faculty, etc… I think the UA approving people to the slate is more who should NOT go to these committees… it's more of a narrow decision making on our part… I'm not trying to go through every one and

affirm them (given a list), I'll actually ask 'should they not be on it?'. Are there any red flags there that we missed…It makes more sense."

Hal: "Again, going back to last year's experience, I think there was one person that we felt that way about… and most people we were okay with and they were nominated so they're clearly qualified. I think there's a huge amount of checks that happens."

Shruti: "And so, with the ad hoc committees, what do you think would be reasonable?"

Arthur: "What if, say, we have two students, if they're both… struck… as long as continuity is preserved I think the temp thing is okay."

Hal explains temp idea again…

Shruti: "And so, if it's not, how does that look, because they've been accepted by the faculty side…"

Hal: "I think we would require someone new to step up, and leave it vacant until a new person shows up…"

Yasmin: "Maybe another option for the temp thing… maybe we could do it over email… because if it's just objections maybe we can just have them be fully instated… and if there are objections we just have them temped. Because if there aren't objections it really is a waste of time to have you guys wait."

Shruti: "With that being said, I think it's fair to take a vote on that suggestion. Poll on yes/no on the email to council."

Bella: "And approving an email is different… by what criteria are we screening the people?"

Shruti: "I think names… that's what we usually do with the slate."

Hal: "I think that's how it's been in the past… at council you can deliberate and discuss on what those reasons are…"

Gaurav: "Can I propose a slight modification? If there's a modification if council is meeting for their committee meets it should be presented at council first. If it's immediate, do it at the meeting, if you can't wait, email. If you need to submit a name before the next council meeting."

Yasmin: "What is most important for me to hear bout what the UA is doing… is what they're advocating on our behalf is twhat the UA is advocating on our behalf in terms of policy. Making that clear… I would like to see more instances of seeing the Institute Committee members coming to council meetings."

Hal: "Only if they have something to tell us. They shouldn't feel obligated to come just for the sake of coming."

Yasmin: "Yeah, I think a lot of times there's been a disconnect between Institute committee members, especially if they're younger or newer, they're advocating for their specific opinion. That's not always the case. I think there just needs to be better feedback…"

Hal: "Is it possible to sort of get a write-up of the policy?"

Douglas: "Should we vote on it?"

Hal: "Motion"

Obasi: "Second"

Shruti: "Okay, everyone for the policy..."

Gaurav: "Can you clarify?..."

Shruti: "First, we would have a nomination from NomBoard, then we would follow up with and send a name to council, send a name to council with 'fine/not fine' and then if it's not fine have a temp period, if it's fine just go ahead. In that temp period do you think we should have another nomination by that time? Do you think if we have nos should we get another nomination?"

Gaurav: "I thought what was being proposed was that everyone must come to a council meeting to be approved. They'll be temporarily if council cannot meet until to approve them… saying yes or no over email is not saying as much."

Obasi: "… I'm pretty sure you can get a yes or a no out in an email… there's no need for a meeting. We are all busy people, let's not waste our time"

Shruti: "Okay, let's vote on that as I presented initially."

16-0-1 this passes

Shruti: "Okay, now we're going to talk about the UA Education committee. So if everyone could give them you're attention, that would be great."

Jennie: "…there's a staple sheet with a summary of the changes that we made."

Isaac: "The policy that we voted on… is that for irregular cycle nominations."

Yasmin: "My understanding is that those are for ad-hoc week nominations."

Rodrigo: "I have a question. So when you say that the raffle portion would be exclueded from the raffle project… are those not on dining not included at all?"

Jennie: "No, it's not part of this project, but we have other projects for that. SO one of the UA's goals is to encourage student faculty interaction to encourage studnets to come to the dining halls… this is a way for students to take advantage of an informal advising opportunity… talking with faculties in their departments… this is a step in the direction of trying to integrate of faculty of students."

Trevor: "on the note… I"ll talk about another thing that isn't on your sheets right now… and the fact that this particular project does not particularly benefit non-dining studnets… the idea of this is to promote student-faculty interaction… at like a lunch table in stata… a larger promotion of interaction, and as you also can see, we also lowered the amount we're asking for."

Jennie: "In terms of the specifics, we requested $6000 from the UA, we are now requesting $1800… so the total project would cost $1800 based on revised estimates… we took council's advice and reduced that number."

Ryan: "Is this like a flat fee based on how many professors attend?"

Jennie: "If we don't spend that, it's like a cap, the money will just sit there. If we hit that, it means the project was successful and we could expand the project to others."

Hal: "This only covers 42% of studnets…"

Trevor: "So this would cover the second project… which would be $3000, where we have a monthly coffee or tea at somewhere like Walker, ~$1000 per event, estimating about 450 people to show up from Bon-Appetit… there would not be, necessarily, uh… well anyone could participate."

Yasmin: "Why would you choose this instead of having these hosted at non-dining dorms so that they can have ease of access?"

Trevor: "That's a great idea, walker is just a place that we've been thinking of. It's just more of the idea of having these events. The placement of them is up in the air based on where we can reserve."

Arthur: "Well Walker is close to two dining dorms so it would be a great place to have it. And Sean pointed this out last time and so we're not excluding people on the meal plan… just asking them to pay a few dollars more… and since we've said that they UA can't sponsor."

Sara: "What did you base your estimate on 450 per tea on?"

Trevor: "Well… I estimated slightly less than 10% of people to show up…. Based on faculty and students… have you considered looking at similar events and seeing attendance there? Yes, it's an incredibly high number and the hope would be to promote… and if not… roll back how many we actually plan for."

Jennie: "So one possible solution is maybe an app for professors to check-in to track where professors are to have a dynamic sort of number… to see if there are three professors there and maybe I wantn to come in and visit."

Trevor: "I think we want to keep it casual… to avoid the phrase casual encounter… I think you can just end up having breakfast with a professor without acknowledging it… and of course it would be more difficult for someone who is not on dining to participate… but I'm not on a dining plan and just bridging the gap between studnets and faculty… I'm excited… I think this would be a good first step. If anything, if not successful, I think we can not try again."

Victoria: "Can we get a more reasonable quote for this event? Maybe this should be renamed if we are including off-campus people… I feel like the 450 was a slightly arbitrary number…"

Trevor: "Well, the 450 was a slightly arbitrary number… it's highly dependent on dates and what we're hoping for is that many and seeing how many people participate in student faculty dinners wouldn't tell us anything because they're used for interactions with a single professor…it's a

different… you're asking for a different thing. Also, that is planned around when people are available."

Isaac: "Well, question I have, it sounds like DSL is off-setting the cost of the professors."

Jennie: "The whole cost of the UA would be to be treating professors' breakfasts."

Isaac: "So, I guess if DSL is so gungho about this why can't it be in a place where everyone can come in for breakfast? Because Bon Appetit can go anywhere on campus. Why does it need to be on campus? Anyone can grab a green box and come."

Trevor: "I think that is not at all what we're going for. The idea here is not in order for people to be able to get breakfast free… our estimate is 10 professors a day… the idea is we're just trying to promote faculty and student interactions in such a place where we could guarantee studnets will be there because of the food and everything else…the idea is that you could have a similar interaction over that shared need. In order for us to do something like that we would have to pay a lot more money to have breakfast served who knows what day."

Isaac: "All I meant was to take the food for the professors off-site…"

Trevor: "We don't know how many professors will actually be there."

Shruti: "At this time we will vote on this proposal."

Gaurav: "What are we voting on?"

Trevor: "The idea would be to vote on two different proposals. Funding $1800 towards student-faculty breakfasts. The other one would be $3000 to, which will probably go underserved, for the coffee and tea. Those are two different things. The idea would be that one would help non-dining students."

Obasi: "Motion to vote on the $1800 done:"

14 – 1 – 0 passes

Rodrigo: "Motion to vote on the $3000 one."

17 – 0 – 0 passes

Meeting closes