

Mariam & Francesca

UA Presidential & Vice Presidential Platform | 2025–2026

Student government turns student voices into action. As Vice President, I learned how to navigate this system and make tangible change, and I am ready to keep building and improving.

We increased club funding, supported community- and diversity-centered organizations, free laundry, travel grants, and participatory budgeting, all driven by student input.

But student government is more than funding initiatives: it's about making MIT a place where every student feels at home.

When SOLE considered pausing new group recognition, we stopped them. When students raised concerns about food insecurity, we reactivated the Food Security Committee, expanded dining support, and grocery giveaways. When students felt unsafe in December, we pushed for stronger security. When students feared their education was at risk after the Compact, we brought concerns directly to President Kornbluth.

When students ask, we show up and deliver.

Next year, we will continue increasing transparency through town halls and further publicize Council votes. We understand the concerns about the budget transparency and we will make sure to use several avenues to let you all know when the budget is being discussed. We will also have the budget available online in real time so you are always aware of what is being spent and discussed. Finally, as we committed to in the debate, we will have a Solicitor General to continuously assess the budget.

We will work with dining, focusing on more accessible food options in places like Stata and expanding where IAP flex dollars can be used. We will continue getting clubs more funding. We will prioritize working with admin to keep community members safe, including international and marginalized students.

The UA has never been perfect, but we believe deeply in the good it can do, and we have the experience to carry out the changes you want to see. In a world where misinformation and empty promises too often can rise to the top, our community deserves something different.

General Vision

Before any of this, our guiding principle is to do what students want. We have ideas about what has worked well and what needs to improve, and we understand how to navigate admin to get things done. If students want a change, we will listen, work with you, and do everything in our power to make it happen. **This is your student government.** Our job is to execute your ideas to the best of our ability.

The first things we would do in office would not be to implement our own plans, but to host town halls and send out surveys to better understand where students want us to start. The job of UA President and Vice President is not just budgeting. It is advocating for you, working alongside you, and navigating an institution where no single office owns most of the decisions that affect your life. Not everything goes right the first time, and we know that. Iteration, feedback, and dedication are how things actually change.

More than anything, we want students to feel like they have real influence over their student government, and we believe that is possible even within the current system (although there is definitely room for improvement). The path there is community. When students feel genuinely connected to each other and to the people representing them, engagement stops feeling like a burden and starts feeling natural. More connection leads to more trust, more trust leads to more engagement, and more engagement means students are increasingly shaping the decisions that affect their lives. We want to make that as easy as possible, whether that means showing up to a town hall, filling out a survey, or just knowing who to email.

Why This Work Matters to Us

Serving as Vice President this year has been one of the greatest honors of my time at MIT. The highlight has been being able to deliver for students: seeing students light up at a grocery giveaway, watching someone win a prize at one of our events, or hearing that a student felt seen and supported because of something the UA did. Those moments are the same ones we are running to keep creating. We believe MIT can and should be a place where every student feels they belong.

Francesca also brings something essential to this ticket: a closer connection to underclassmen. She will help us stay genuinely connected to the students who are just finding their footing at MIT. That perspective matters, and it will make us better advocates for the full undergraduate community.

What We Built This Year

This past year, we created spaces for community and connection across campus, from the Halloween Costume Contest and Super Bowl Party to the Night Market and grocery giveaways. We partnered with food trucks and collaborated with clubs on fun events to make sure students had reasons to step outside their routines and find each other.

At the beginning of budget allocations we were able to advocate for increased SGFC club funding with admin, allocated more to community- and diversity-centered organizations with particular

attention to new and under-resourced groups, funded free laundry for on-campus dorms next year, provided travel grants so students could attend conferences and opportunities they otherwise could not afford, and ran Participatory Budgeting for students to submit and vote on their own ideas. That initiative saw the highest number of submitted ideas in the program's history, and we are currently implementing everything voted on, including walking pads in the Stud, fresh produce on campus, and free menstrual products.

None of this happened automatically. It required sustained follow-through across months of meetings, unclear ownership, and slow institutional processes. That is the real work of student government, and it is the work we are prepared to keep doing.

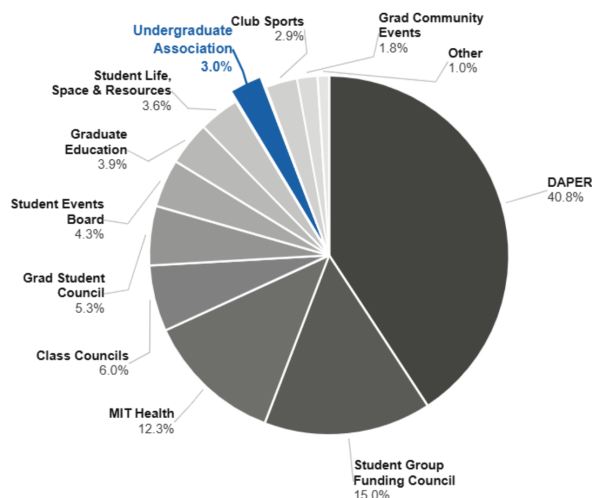
How This System Actually Works

As alluded to, a large portion of UA work involves long chains of meetings, coordination across multiple departments and offices, and navigating unclear ownership over decisions. Moving even small changes forward requires repeated follow-ups and sustained engagement over time. This is not a complaint. It is what the job is. And it is why experience is crucial. Knowing which administrator owns which decision, which process to use, and how to keep a conversation alive when it stalls is the difference between a good idea and an actual outcome. We have spent a year building that knowledge.

Budget Transparency & Governance

The UA receives \$145,000 from the student life fee each year, about \$32 per undergraduate.

Student Life Fee Allocation
Total: \$4,868,220



[Student life fee per year 2025-2026 \\$420](#)

- \$1,985,500 to DAPER

- \$732,077 to Student Group Funding Council
- \$600,000 to MIT Health
- \$289,998 to Class Councils
- \$260,000 to Graduate Student Council
- \$210,000 to Student Events Board
- \$192,000 to Graduate Education
- \$175,643 to Student Life Space, and Resources
- **\$145,000 to Undergraduate Association, less than \$32 per undergraduate per year**
- \$139,000 to Club Sports
- \$89,000 to Graduate Community Events
- \$50,002 to Other

The President and Vice President do not have unilateral control over these funds. Our role is to help draft it, advocate for priorities, and bring it to UA Council, where representatives vote to approve it. We want to make the most of this structure by opening the drafting process itself to student input, not just the final vote.

Next year, we will do even more to invite students into the room before the budget is finalized. Town halls and open Zoom sessions during drafting will give any student the chance to shape priorities from the start, not just react to decisions already made. We will also heavily publicize UA Council votes across platforms so no one who cares misses them. Separately, we want to make Council Representatives themselves more visible and accessible: hosting meet-and-greets at dorms and living groups and posting their contact info on social media and our website, so every student knows who speaks for them and how to get in touch. We want to make interacting with student government as convenient for you as possible. We know you won't always have the time to be directly involved in every daily decision, but it's imperative that you know how to engage when you feel it's most important.

We will advocate for real time access to the budget online, and we will also include new officer positions and subcommittees to help dilute the financial responsibility of the Treasurer, and will also advocate for an Solicitor General to regularly check the budget.

Food Access & Dining

We want to expand the reach of initiatives like grab-and-go pilots significantly, grow our collaborations with MIT Farm and student-run markets, and build toward a more sustainable and community-rooted food culture on campus. Our priorities:

- Expand grab-and-go lunches to more dorms and East Campus locations.
- Bring more accessible food options to Stata and the east side of campus, where students spend hours with limited access to food.
- Expand where IAP flex dollars can be used.
- Increase the frequency of farmers' markets and grocery giveaways through partnerships with MIT Farm and student-run markets.

Club Funding & Community

Clubs are the backbone of every kind of MIT community. We will always ensure that under-resourced and newer groups have real access to support. New initiatives:

- Pursue a school-wide formal that brings the full MIT community together that includes fun club collaborators.
- More cross-club collaborations and shared programming.
- Sustained investment in community- and diversity-centered organizations.

Travel Grants

This year's travel grant pilot demonstrated strong demand and impact, and we want to build on that momentum together by turning it into a sustainable, clearly structured program. Grants should be easy to apply for, fairly distributed, and long-lasting. To do that responsibly, we will institute clearer guidelines, including funding caps that differ for presenters and attendees. Presenters representing MIT at a conference carry a different need than attendees, and the funding structure should reflect that. Our goal is a program that rewards academic ambition, supports students who otherwise could not go, and is built to last year over year.

Campus Life: Making MIT Feel Like Home

MIT will inevitably be the setting for some tough moments. I think it is on us to make sure it is also the setting for some of your best times. That balance does not happen on its own. It has to be built deliberately, and it is something Francesca and I feel strongly about.

We started this year by bringing more energy to events like sports games, adding catered food, competitions, and activities to make showing up feel worth it. We want to expand that spirit across every kind of campus event:

- Cultural performances and regional fairs that celebrate the full range of where students come from, giving everyone a chance to share their culture and feel genuinely at home.
- Musical performances and comedy shows give students a real reason to step away from their work and enjoy something together.
- Sports games and campus competitions with the energy they deserve: food, activities, and real reasons to show up.
- Community-wide events that create unexpected moments of connection across dorms, departments, and backgrounds.

Campus should be a place where you feel like you can have fun, and bringing that balance is part of our job.

Implementing Rex/Orientation Planning & Student Resources

Too many students have gone through MIT without ever knowing what the UA could do for them. Some have never heard about travel grants. Some did not know they could present a proposal at UA Council. Some did not know where to turn when something went wrong. That gap is on us to fix, and while we have publicized via email, social media, and poster, we think Rex/Orientation is another great place to start.

We will create a comprehensive, plain-language guide to UA resources and processes and get it in front of students from day one. Here is what that looks like:

- Distribute a UA how-to guide during Rex/Orientation covering what we fund, how to apply for travel grants, how to bring a proposal to Council, how to start or support a club, and who to contact for what.
- Make the guide permanently accessible on the UA website and available to any student who asks throughout the year.
- Use Rex/Orientation programming as an active introduction to student government, not just a pamphlet, so incoming students understand what the UA is and how to use it before they even start classes.
- Keep the guide updated each year as part of the transition process so it never goes stale.

No student should leave MIT wishing they had known sooner what the UA could do for them. We want every student to feel like the UA is something they can actually use, not just something that exists in the background.

Safety, Advocacy & Student Rights

The UA is at its most important when students feel vulnerable. We will keep showing up in the rooms where decisions get made, advocating directly for international and marginalized students, coordinating with the Provost, the Chancellor, and other senior administrators when student well-being demands it, and responding quickly when concerns are raised. It has been an honor to be in those rooms this year. We want to continue this work.

When students ask, we show up. That is not a slogan. It is what we have done, and it is what we will keep doing.

Vote for Mariam and Francesca: Proof Over Promises.