



MIT UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION

55 UA Council #5 Agenda

Monday, December 11th, 2023 8:00PM | 3-370

Order	Item	Time
1	Roll Call	8:05–8:10
2	Admin Meeting Updates	8:10-8:20
3	2024 Proposed Election Timeline	8:20-8:30
4	UA Committee Updates	8:30-8:45
5	Council Rep Updates	8:45-8:55

Notes (starting from 8:24):

- Farin: we shouldn't issue a statement
- EC: won't feel comfortable casting a population vote unless they're able to hold a town hall and really see what students want; worried about Councillors getting attacked for their decision; agrees statement from UA would have significant impact – might even sway things happening at other universities
- WHO?? Worth considering that UA hasn't taken any stance so far, so it's a body all students can bring concerns to. If we make a statement, anti-Sally students might feel cut off. BUT statement would have major impacts
- BC: Agree that we don't need to say anything, but if every other corporation says something and we don't, that silence could be saying something
- UA History Committee leader: MIT usually deals with things in-house and sending unified statement that we support Sally (might not necessarily single stance on wider issue), positive consequence is that it signals to outside world that we aren't going to succumb to any outside pressure
- WHO?? Could be dangerous to have undesired outcome or to show that people at MIT are divided through a vote
- EC: shouldn't have a vote on the statement itself (that should be up to Councillors), but we should have a town hall where Council can take in what is said. Shouldn't publish a statement against Sally, but if the general vibe is that students don't support Sally, then just don't submit a statement.
 - Getting a new President right now would be really bad (bad for knowledge transfer, bad because of current campus tensions, bad for current student initiatives)
- Farin: Could make a more nuanced statement
- Favour: would be a consensus decision with two councillors objecting to reject the entire thing
- WHO?? Important to have a town hall and make sure constituents in general have some sort of voice. Given how vague info is, important to hear what people are saying and then make a consensus decision.
- WHO?? We only have one week, so this would have to be in the next couple of days
- Enoch: We have a longer timeline – hoping to do something before February and it would help to have student input about this issue. And we shouldn't respond to media inquiries right now.
- EC: Is it possible to send a statement to the corporation that isn't made public.
- Enoch: as Council or individual students, we could reach out to the Corporation and give our input and that would be helpful. But as an organization (the UA), we don't need to do anything right now.
- Leela (Panhel): Statement probably wouldn't change whether Sally stays or not. Would it help our relationship with admin?
- Andre: But it would help our working relationship w/ admin + corporation.

- Enoch: GSC statement would be very short (three sentences) – “We support Sally. Antisemitism is a problem, but she is capable of fixing it”. In terms of UA doing anything, we could just sign off with them
- Rishika: Well, we should have input into statement.
- Michael: We could do joint drafting with GSC and Council
- New Vassar: Corporation wanting student input is an opportunity we should take. Having a new president removed at this moment is really bad for student initiatives. Strong case to tell the corporation this.
- Enoch: GSC might be putting something out not on behalf of GSC, but just putting a statement out that people can sign onto if they want to. Something they suggest we consider as well.
- Grace (IFC): Is it possible to actually poll the students and put out a tech article about this is what would happen if we remove Sally, this is why we should keep Sally (two opinion pieces). That’s what’s at stake so we should get real opinions. General opinion is that removing Sally is too much of an overreaction.
- Farin: We think the consequences of the statement mean Sally might keep or lose her job, but is that really true? We should take this opportunity seriously and make sure we’re representing students, so town hall is a good idea. If we tell students “vote on whether Sally should be removed”, that’s very alarming.
- Michael: That could also create student talk that Sally will be replaced soon – rumors could spread outside
- EC: The only ppl with power to remove Sally are MIT Corporation (who have said they support Sally). Giving student feedback is important, but we have time (Corporation and faculty have more power, they don’t care as much about what students think). Corporation also agrees that getting a new president would be bad.
- Enoch: Head of Corporation at Penn also resigned.
- BC: Agree that we should poll entire undergrad body, but reframe it to be a pro-Sally statement or silence
- Favour: I think people would be upset if there’s no anti-Sally option.
- EC: Support handling this between now and end of IAP for transition reasons.
- Farin: I don’t see an anti-Sally statement being feasible bc we need to maintain our relationship with admin.
- Panhel: Almost everyone has said they have a sense of what their communities think. Why are we doing a poll if the poll is gonna attract the most vocal minority, when Councillors have an idea of what their community thinks
- WHO – person diagonal from me?? Argument to be made to poll in whatever way Councilors see fit
- Leela: Makes sense to check-in with own communities, but a student-body wide poll would probably not work in getting a representative vote (student-body might not take this in a productive way)
- Andre: If you need to poll/engage your community in this, feel free to do so. In the event that we need to make a decision, we’ll hold a separate meeting for that.

- Enoch: unfortunate to have a mass panic that “oh no we’re about to get rid of Sally”

Collab with SPXCE:

- Will have a multicultural weekend, please come, good food

Election Commission Amendments:

- Require population vote
- Michael can send out proposed changes to election code (what is suggested by Helen with rationale) and then it can be voted upon one week after this meeting.
- Helen has some changes that aren’t in the document yet, will be added ASAP
- Offline vote passes.

Committee Updates:

- Community Service: Revamped their monthly newsletter, compiled student groups and nonprofits to collaborate with, and brainstormed events. Focus next semester will be on pubbing events through social media and increasing event frequency.
- Education: Continued facilitating faculty dinners, encouraging students to report academic violations, and working on establishing a Student Holiday policy.
- Sustain: Hosted another successful thrift pop up, are working on establishing a permanent thrift shop on campus, and set up a hydroponic system in the UA Chambers.
- Wellbeing: Collaborated on events with several student groups, are finalizing a Mental Health flier featuring resources to be put up throughout campus, and are fostering a closer partnership with MIT Medical. Also working towards gender equity in sports and getting more student spaces on campus.
- Innovation: Piloting med stations in dorms, maintaining Banana Lounge, had another successful craft market, and are collaborating with other committees (Education, Food Security) to work on initiatives.
- Food Security: Hosted a food truck pop up event, are establishing connections with MIT groups, and determining what role the committee will have alongside current food security initiatives.
- Engagement: Main focus is pubbing the new UA Instagram and sharing information about officers, clubs, and events.
- Public Affairs: Pushing for election day holiday, establishing unpaid internships initiative, working towards Election Day holiday, and fostering closer relationships with outside governances.
- Finboard: Main focus is on allocating funding. Also brainstorming ways of streamlining the grant request process and establishing guidelines for uniform decision making.
- Send UA officers an email as transitioning so we have a record for the new rep from your organization.