

ASA Minutes 10-23-06

Attendance: Lauren Oldja, Jen, James, Obrad, Alex, Tim Lau, Mike Shaw, Aaron

We welcome Dean Benedict.

Any questions about Dean Benedict's role?

Alright, let's start with questions.

Scheduling- why are only half the rooms on the online forms?

Dean Benedict suggests scheduling a meeting with the Registrar to find out what the issues what might be. Then, contact Dean Benedict if there are additional issues, and we can also involve Dean Hastings. He would like us to do some more homework. Mary Callahan is the registrar. Let's the work on the spacing.

The Student Life Fee is being increased. It has not been raised for 4 years. Groups have grown. Z center requires more money with salary increases. What for and how much? How much of an increase for large groups, venture capital or seed money, general raises for the GSC, etc. Student life fee is kept separate, so that the Institute does not loose out on financial aid. Dean Benedict gets about \$400,000, gives about \$375,000 to the Finboards and holds the rest. What would happen if we (the students) demanded that all the student life fee was sent to finboards? No, it would not be supported. Okay, we the students might want to lock in the status quo quantity for student groups with provisions for increases in certain categories. They have been freezing and trying to cut costs, but the Z center has gotten more expensive. Dean Benedict would like to have us think about this and give feedback.

Why is there no student on CRSP? Dean Benedict will follow up. Probably only 4 people on the committee.

CRSP does not look at individual rooms and things like that. The deans make suggestions to CRSP. The deans then pick one and lobby for their cause.

Walker Basement Rooms- look for Phil Walsh. We can get in touch Phil and begin to work on a process to get this addressed.

There is also a new space planning office.

Very generally, what is your general agenda?

NW35- new graduate hall

W1- converting Ashdown to undergraduate dorm

Student leadership initiatives and opportunities. We would like to be able to offer more opportunities for leadership or life learning. Right now, they're taking a look and doing the analysis. This is also attractive to companies and will hopefully create fundraising opportunities. This is a multi-year initiative.

Why does the GSC have more staff support than the UA? Dean Benedict will look into it.

Dean Benedict departs.

GBM-email sent out and reminder will be sent this weekend.

Alex to revise provisional group list.

Constitutions

When should they have them revised? End of February. No objections. So, it is. Passes 7-1-0.

Welcome Hans- UA Finboard Chair. Jehanzeb is the GSC Funding Chair.

Funding Policy- GSC

Generally flexible. Case by case basis. We discourage off-campus events. Snowriders and Outdoor Club are exceptions. We have been discouraging capital. How does capital assist people outside your group. They have made some exceptions. We look at spending history and activities. Good groups can plan ahead well. Things to watch out for are them not showing up to events. If they ask for inappropriate amounts, red flag.

UA Finboard Policies

Fund by category. Operations, capital, events, and P&P. Largest expenditure is events followed by capital. They don't fund things that aren't open. They don't fund food for operations. They tend to see lot of under usage of P&P. They just started looking at history. Don't fund end-of-term banquets. We like to see quality budget proposals. They received around \$200,000 for 100 groups. They stay away from off-campus activities and also similarly-natured groups.

The only difference between GSC and UA is graduate and undergraduates. Why is there such a discrepancy between the funding policies? GSC feels they are meeting needs of graduate students. The idea for GSC is to get students out of the lab and socialize. UA is more focused on interest groups instead of socializing aspects. The GSC spells these policies out online: gsc.mit.edu. The UA is trying to get their policies up, but you can see informal policies under Finboard treasurer training. The UA Finboard wants to get a list of groups that we think would deserve startup funding. Should there be an application process? Well, we'd like to help out provisional groups and groups without access to traditional Finboard funding. They're looking at December. We're going to email list of provisional groups and UA Finboard to make application.

AMSA- their sponsorship money goes to ambulances. However, they seek money to carry out general activities. Motion to change their status from sponsored to full with UA Finboard funding. 4-1-1 Passes. They can have their money. amsa-exec@mit.edu. Aaron to send them an email. No longer sponsored.

Aaron to send emails out to groups for office hours.

Alex to email out suggested changes to bulletin board operation guidelines.

GBM to be in 34-101