Committee on Student Life (CSL)
Friday, April 10, 2009

REDACTED DRAFT MINUTES

Introduction
- Redacted Minutes are now being posted online and can be seen through the Division of Student Life website.

Item I: The Kollaborator project for UROPs –
- The Kolloaborator project (www.kollaborator.com) allows faculty and students to interact through a web interface: students can search job/research opportunities and faculty can look to fill research positions. The three goals of the project are:
  1) Match professors with students.
  2) Match students with job opportunities.
  3) Manage research projects.
- Creative projects section of website allows professors to add information that students can search by interest. Professors can link networks (courses, etc) and colleagues (added from their contact list which is useful for networking) to project profile and can list skill requirements for the job, required courses taken and specific knowledge. Calendar events can be added to profile pages and an automatic notification will be sent when an event is changed. *Email addresses are posted as images for extra security purposes.
- On the Student Pages students can create profiles listing their information (courses taken, skills, etc) and then professors can search profiles for eligible students.
- Professors can then invite students to a research/job opportunity or students can request to be involved with research. There is then the option for the receiving party to reply with a message or to accept/deny the request.
- When searching projects it is possible to search by type of research. An advanced search option is currently being implemented where students can search by courses taken, skills, etc. This is due to the fact that many students surveyed didn’t know what type of work they would want to do but they would like to be able to search different research opportunities available to them.
- Soon information will be added to the website regarding how much time will be required for individual research opportunities, the time frame of the research (which semesters), and if the job is for pay, volunteer, or class credit. In the long run Kollaborator is looking to have intercollegiate interaction (with Harvard, Wellesley, etc.).
- The job office and they are willing to put a link on the UROP website. The Kollaborator website itself would also be more effective if it were MIT affiliated, i.e. kollaborator.mit.edu.

Discussion:
- Interact faculty profile pages could include research opportunities available and have link to UROP or Kollaborator.
- Students currently have to go looking for research opportunities; Kollaborator would make the process much easier, more efficient, and reciprocal between faculty and students.
Item II: The Interact rollout

- The goal is still to launch Interact next week at Campus Preview Weekend so that prospective students will be able to see that Interact is a portal for accessing all different types of information.
- How to resolve issue of faculty who don’t want to be on Interact because they are private and don’t want to populate their pages?
  - Faculty and their research are inherently public matters and so at the very least the same information on the MIT website can be published on Interact and no other information needs to be published.
  - The faculty of the Physics and History Departments has been reached out to for encouragement to populate Interact profile pages.
- Important question to be asked a few weeks or later down the road: Who will be responsible for the ownership and care of the Interact website?
- The machine/database for Interact to a larger computer center.

Item III: Discussion of DAPER sports cuts

Summary

- DAPER has to cut budget by 1.45 over the next three years, (Today’s (4/10/09) Tech issue has an article on the front page regarding the DAPER cuts). How or should MIT keep all 41 sponsored sports? It is unique for a university to have that many sports, should we find a way to keep all the teams? DAPER’s budget is already running low and it would be extremely hard to continue running all of these programs at a high level with a lower budget.
- It has been heard that many students agree or are okay with the budget cuts but they aren’t speaking up about it because students don’t want to be in the position of supporting something which might be detrimental to friends or peers who are on a team getting cut.
- The Visiting Committee (which consists of MIT alumni) always asks if 41 sports is the right number for MIT and if it is really possible to support that many.
- The cuts won’t be as straightforward as eliminating the most costly sport but will rather take into consideration many different aspects, e.g., the roster size (one team coach or one bus costs the same for 30 people as it does for 10) and location of sport (certain teams need a facility that they can’t provide on their own).
- There are lots of rumors flying around about which sports are being cut and or how many sports will be cut and ten seems to be the magic number of the moment. There is no magic or set number and the teams being cut will be directly spoken with before anything is announced publicly.

Discussion:

- DAPER cuts probably won’t be done by CPW, but they will be done in time for incoming students to include the information when making their acceptance decision.
- Nothing different will be done during CPW in regards to DAPER.
- Some students do come to MIT for a specific sport and it is a determining factor in their school choice, others come to MIT and then later decide to join a sport.
- The right message to send to parents and prospective students is to tell them to wait to make their decision and they will be informed in time in order to weigh available sports into their acceptance decision.
• When DAPER makes its decision it will be based upon the health and vitality of MIT. In needs to be kept in mind that other parts of DAPER are affected by this as well and the choices made will be done to keep MIT sports at a high level.
• DAPER has done an excellent job of being transparent and asking for input during the process, but the bottom line is that they will have to make the decision for what is best for MIT.
• Keep in mind that MIT will move from having the most sports for a Division 3 school to still having one of the largest number of sports teams. 41 is an arbitrary number. In order to not have to do everything marginally a smaller number of well-supported teams might do better.
• There will be individual students who are affected by the cuts and this will be very hard for them. However, everyone thinks their sport is the most important and DAPER can’t make everyone happy. Hopefully, some sports may be able to make the transition to club sports.

END OF MEETING. Next CSL meeting will be held either April 24th or May 1st and will be the last meeting of the year.