MINUTES

Introduction
This is the last meeting of the year. The Committee will be looking both backwards in review and forwards to next year.

Item I: Update regarding CSL and influenza H1N1 preparations
- There was a meeting yesterday at which committee chairs were updated by MIT Medical regarding H1N1 preparations. Currently there are only 18 beds in the Infirmary but it would be possible to make room for about 12 more beds. MIT Medical is limited in this capacity. MIT Medical will also be posting placards on personal hygiene and cleanliness. They are more prepared for an influenza outbreak after the SARS and Avian Flu scares and so this meeting was somewhat reassuring. However, it is hard to tread the line between too much fear and reinsurance.
- If there are cases of influenza in the dormitories, the Institute won’t close. There isn’t any protocol to follow if the Institute fully closes down because it has only happened during three times in the history of MIT: the Blizzard of 1978, the Kent State Shooting of 1970, and the Influenza of 1988.
- One matter of concern is Commencement which will be bringing in thousands of people from all around the world into a condensed area which is not an ideal situation with the influenza risk. At Northeastern University’s Commencement people were told not to shake hands. Additionally, there are 64 Mexican students who are going to graduate from MIT which is a problem for their families as countries are very strict about whom they will issue visas to right now. Furthermore, there are several incoming student from Mexico this next year who are very concerned about their situation.
- What should faculty/administration do if an obviously sick student comes in to see them? What is the protocol in this situation?
  - See if the student is open to the suggestion of going to Medical.
- There hasn’t been much news about other schools having to close down because of the influenza. However, the Housemasters at MIT are all informed and will be having another meeting next week with health professionals. Additionally, mit.edu homepage should have updates regarding the flu and student, faculty, and administration should all sign up for the ‘beeper system’ which is generally known at MIT and sends text messages alerts for a wide variety of emergencies and other important things.

Item II: Interact roll-out
- The official ‘beta’ version of Interact is not available yet, it is currently waiting for approval from Administration.
- New photos from public domain have been generated for faculty profiles (this doesn’t override photos uploaded by people to their own profiles). Should Interact be linked to the new Faculty resources website?
• Hopefully Interact will be in use by this weekend and depending on how Interact proceeds throughout the summer it will be handed over to the Division of Student Life in the fall.

Item III: CSL items for next year & any other new business – open discussion

1. Hacking:
   • Hacking is an important issue to be talked about in the Committee of Student Life next year.
   • A group of individuals (who are real hackers and solicited the meeting themselves through the Undergraduate Association) met with Administration and MIT Police and had a very straightforward and honest conversation about police enforcement and about ‘real’ hacking vs. people who have no idea what they are doing. This group of individuals has requested another meeting, the only problem is that they want black and white answers to the hacking enforcement question, but this is a gray line. They were told that each case would be considered on an individual basis because there are some very difficult cases when someone gets injured which can’t be categorized.
   • How to get message out of distinctions between what will and won’t be tolerated? This is very difficult considering that MIT has a very strong hacking tradition. The Red Line train, for example, was a real hack and safety people were able to check it out immediately to make sure that it was secure and safe. However, if hackers are on the roof and they see the police they shouldn’t run because it is not safe. If what they are doing is identified as a hack it will go to Dave Kennedy’s office and the students will have a letter put on their file and they will be warned against continuing to hack. The problem is that this deters the “real” hackers who don’t want hacks to go on their record.
   • Should try to invite hackers to a Committee of Student Life meeting next year: get the word out to students and they will get the message around.

2. Recommendations from Committees
   • Recommendations from Committees will be out by the time of the next meeting and should be something to be discussed.

3. Budget Cuts
   • Need a time next year when students will be able to attend a meeting to discuss budget cuts (maybe have alternate student representatives so that there will be students at every CSL meeting?).
   • How is it possible to have an honest conversation with the campus when everyone is in fear for their job?
   • A large group of faculty members have been asked to send in ideas for budget cuts. These will be narrowed down to 15 and then four, etc by looking at the suggestions and choosing the best ones and eliminating complaints from the recommendations.
   • Decreasing the number of non-faculty teachers would damage both the community and education. Decreasing the number of secretaries and teaching assistants increases the workload on the professors and would also affect the quality of education.
   • Financial aid is a core value of the MIT system and many members of the faculty come from humble beginnings. Many schools are cutting financial aid while others are choosing not to “enhance” aid. What will happen to financial aid at MIT?
• Many faculty members have said they would prefer cutting salary by 10% instead of cutting staff. The taskforce probably won’t be able to ignore the idea of a salary reduction towards reducing the budget the next 5%.
  o Some people did get pay increases this year because it had to do with the threshold of their salary.
• The taskforces will refine budget cuts throughout the summer and there will be a report on October 1, 2009. This is not a conspiracy to make a decision while the students are gone, but rather just a process that needs immediate attention.

Discussion:
• It would be a good idea to start having Committee of Student Life meetings earlier on in the next school year. The nominations committee needs to be contacted to see who the new staff is for the Committee of Student Life next year.

End of meeting. Have a great summer.