Minutes

Present: Barbara Baker, Liz Denys, Alex Evans, Shee Shee Jin, Steve Lerman, Muriel Medard, Norvin Richards, Alex Slocum

Guests: Julie Soriero (Department Head of Athletics), Steven Hall (Chair of CUP, Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and Simmons Housemaster)

Approval of Minutes:
- Minutes approved from the November 13th meeting.

Agenda I: Athletics with Julie Soriero
Overview from Julie Soriero on the state of athletics:
- It has been a tough year and making the decision to discontinue eight varsity programs was not easy for anybody; many discussions were held in the decision making process. For the most part, the students reacted to this decision in a very pro-active manner by making the transition to club status. However, the alumni were more outraged and harder to deal with than the students. This proves how much athletics meant to students while they were at MIT, and what the experience still means to them.

- All eight of the varsity teams that were discontinued are now functioning as club sports. Or, like in the case of wrestling, several wrestlers are now competing solo instead of moving to club sports. DAPER has worked with gymnastics and ice hockey to provide gymnasium and rink time as well as equipment storage. Club sports are not the same as being a part of a varsity sport, but it does provide an opportunity for students to continue in a sport with their teammates. Due to the switch of many varsity sports to club sports, Athletics is taking a closer look at the role of the club sports’ policies at MIT to see if they need to be revamped or just to reconfirm what MIT wants for its club sports. There is also the idea of hiring someone as director of recreational programs so that there will be a professional who can really address the issue of club policies, physical education class credit for club sports participants, etc.

- Athletics is thriving, has had a wonderful fall season and several teams did exceptionally well. Now it is the winter sport season which has started off well and is moving forward with several rallies, etc. Club sports are also thriving and have done exceptionally well; Women’s Club Rugby won the National Championship and Tae Kwon Do finished second in a large tournament.

- The club sports have done a wonderful job educating the new club teams on funding, etc (in clubs sports the students, not administration, take leadership) and it has been good to see the leadership and connections emerge amongst students and also emerge between students and alumni.

- The differences between varsity and club sports: varsity sports have salaried coaches paid by DAPER, transportation is paid for and organized by DAPER, clothing and uniforms are paid by DAPER, and there are certain eligibility criteria that teams must meet. Club sports are self-supported or supported by alumni, students run the organization (they arrange
transportation, purchase their own uniforms and equipment), they may or may not have a coach, club sports don’t exist at the NCAA level, and club participants aren’t required to participate in every game.

- Varsity sports have priority scheduling for the use of facilities (between 5-7pm), then club sports have priority (but they must set up their own schedule), and then intramurals have the last priority.

**Discussion:**

- Several athletes have complained to Housemasters because they miss out on dining due to the timing of their practices and that they need more to eat. Has DAPER heard anything about this?
  - Julie has heard complaints from athletes that the meals aren’t nutritionally sound or that there isn’t enough to eat, but dining is an easy target to complain about.

- Do club sports have trainers?
  - Julie: There are not enough trainers and there is not a training room facility large enough to house the number of club participants nor is there enough of a budget for all of the additional medical supplies. If club sports want to pay for a trainer from their own budget for contests or practices they can do so. DAPER has contractual trainers who function in high capacity during the fall, but during the winter they aren’t contracted because there are fewer sports and club sports could hire these same trainers during the winter. The issue of trainers came up several years ago, but because club sport officers turn over every year or couple of years, this is an issue which will often disappear and reappear with the leadership changes. However, there is a Monday morning clinic open to the entire campus where trainers will give you a quick diagnosis and then tell you the next steps that you should take to heal or get further treatment for your injury.

- To what extent do coaches play the role of both PE instructors and coaches?
  - Julie: It is not unusual for Division 3 athletics to have coaches with other duties, but almost all coaches teach in some capacities (which is considered a part of coaching because coaching deals with educating students). DAPER is also trying to do a benchmarking to see what extra hours are standard for coaches to spend coaching, etc.

- How would lifting P.E. requirements affect staffing in DAPER and varsity sports?
  - Julie: This would have a huge impact and would put people out of jobs. These people are just teaching P.E. classes but are also staffing and doing alumni outreach. We must also ask what we want to teach students and if we want to teach them a healthy lifestyle beyond academics? Philosophically we would do students a disservice by eliminating the physical education requirement.

- Instead of having coaches who do coaching and teaching and other people who do athletic administration, could we have coaches who do athletic administration?
  - Julie: This wouldn’t necessarily take care of the problem and do we want people doing a job that isn’t their expertise?

- In a lot of Division 3 schools there aren’t required P.E. classes. How do they deal with it?
  - Julie: The model for most Division 3 schools is to have coaches do coaching and another duty. DAPER is currently looking at other schools’ coaching-teaching models. The goal of DAPER’s benchmarking is to see what a fair distribution of
coaching and teaching duties is and see what expectations other schools have for these duties.

- Nobody on the taskforce thinks that changing physical education would be an easy decision to make, but the only way to reduce budgets is to reduce positions or programs. One of the main reasons Muriel Medard, Steven Hall, and Al Oppenheim met together was to see the real economics of the P.E. requirement and Steven doesn’t want to talk about it at CUP without real data.
  - Muriel had also asked to meet with Steven Hall and Al Oppenheim because of the fear of the financial impact this could have on students: there now aren’t as many varsity sports which pay for students, in clubs students might have to pay out of their own pocket, and P.E. is a free way for students to get athletic activity because it is required (students can also take classes beyond the requirement for free). If P.E. is removed from this equation, then students are going to have to finance more and more out of their own pockets to be involved in sports and physical activity.
  - Julie: The idea of charging for varsity sports has been suggested, but it will never happen (no other schools do this and there would be too many other issues), intramurals just charge entry fees, club sports must pay according to what they want included in their needs, and for physical education there are some fees being charged for expendable equipment. DAPER does want to keep fees free or at a bare minimum for undergraduate students.

- There are also costs for students who register for classes and then drop out. There could be a fee charged for students who drop classes.
  - Julie: Classes not being at capacity should be a factor considered. Part of the attrition rate is due to graduate students who drop out because they are not required to take the classes. It is a goal to get classes more fully booked because the average attrition rate is 20-25%.

- The UA was contacted last year because graduate students were frustrated that they could never get into yoga because undergraduates had first pick at the lottery. What would happen if the requirement was reduced to 4 or 6 units instead of 8 units?
  - Students could be charged $20-30 for non-required classes; this would still be less expensive than classes off-campus and so there would still be a demand and this seems to be happening at a lot of schools.
  - Julie: Registration for P.E. was changed last year so that undergraduates have priority. There was a reaction from graduate students but less than 15% of graduates didn’t get their first choice of class.
    - Often graduates just don’t sign up for classes because they see the class is already full or there is a wait list, so this 15% might not accurately represent what is actually happening during registration. Also, faculty have preference registering over graduate students.
    - Julie is not aware of faculty registering before graduates.
    - It is not entirely equitable if undergraduates who are signing up for classes beyond their required units still get priority over graduates.

- Do any student fees go towards funding P.E. classes?
  - A portion of the student life fee goes as a bundle towards the costs of P.E. classes.
• Reducing the menu of sports offered doesn’t necessarily affect students if the goal is a healthy lifestyle. Some of the sports don’t require much cardio activity (e.g. Pistol) and exercise and P.E. are not necessarily synonymous.

• Is there a way to tap into alumni giving to pay for the current program?
  o We don’t want to divert existing donations to other causes, but there might be people who could be motivated to give to P.E.
  o Julie could work with Resource Development to consider this option.

• There is a real cash flow problem at MIT and the $100 million a year budget cut can be seen as a $10,000 cut per student. It is hard to not affect students when the revenue per student is $25,000.
  o One way to help with this problem would be to charge students tuition according to the number of class credits they take (some students take so many credits a semester that they graduate in two years and then they only have to pay two years of tuition unlike the four years of tuition that most students have to pay).

• IT is hard to separate varsity sports and P.E. because you must think of the cost of coaches as inclusive of both of these activities. So, you could think of P.E. as being a free service but then you would have to consider varsity sports as costing more.

• How difficult is it to get rid of an institute requirement?
  o It is very difficult to add an institute requirement, which Steven Hall has experience being involved in, and so it is probably even harder to get rid of a requirement. The question is, would the faculty vote to eliminate P.E.? Very few people would say that they don’t believe in physical education.
  o Faculty would vote it there would be a significant amount of savings resulting from the cut.

• What is the status of Intramurals?
  o Julie: In regards to the number of participants per activity and cost, intramurals are the most cost efficient center because many students are involved. There don’t seem to be many problems with the way that IMs are being run now, but there are some administrative issues (e.g., teams can change the color of their team year by year and avoid having to pay fees until they return to the color they started with). DAPER is trying to change the system so that it is more fair. There is also the issue of access to facilities and the tremendous amount of alumni participation in IMs (is this good or bad?).
    • One idea for cost savings is to close the Z Center at 10pm instead of 11pm. However, it is intramurals that use the facilities the most during this time and most of those playing are alumni. Is it really our mission to support alumni using facilities this late?
  o We don’t want to eliminate alumni involvement but we could charge a small amount for their involvement in intramurals unless they are already contributing to the alumni fund.
  o Would it be helpful to involve the Resource Development office?
    • DAPER can contact Resource Development directly if needed.

• Do we want to fence in MIT properties so that we have full control over them (to avoid intruders on fields, etc)? What is the liability for MIT when unauthorized parties are using the fields?
Agenda II: Open Discussion

- There is student concern regarding the release of the final taskforce report because the understanding is that the budget must be completed by March.
  - When the report is released it will be up to the Chancellor and Vice-Presidents, etc. if they want to release it publicly with a memo.
  - Many of the more significant recommendations in the report will be for no earlier than the 2012 fiscal year.
  - There has been a concern voiced in the Tech that administration is purposely delaying the report but this is not the case.
    - Students are more concerned about the process continuing smoothly than thinking that something is happening behind their backs.
- At the previous CSL meeting it was discussed that it would be useful for CSL to make short position statements and summaries and the topics that have been discussed to share with students and faculty. Muriel would like to propose it is as a goal of the committee to produce something to distribute and for the topic of athletics this could even be done as a joint product with CUP and DAPER (CUP does produce position papers occasionally).
  - There is agreement that it would be beneficial for CSL to produce statements or action items.

End of Meeting.