Committee on Student Life (CSL)
Friday, September 9, 2011
Room 12-196 12pm – 2pm
Minutes taken by Lisa Stagnone

Present: Alex Slocum, David Singer, Oz Agar, Hamed Alemohammad, Karen Anne Sittig, Phuree Smittinet, Graham Ramsay, Video Blogging

Guests: Lydia Snover, Director of Institutional Research

TOPICS: Welcome New Committee Members!
Institutional Research

Welcome to the Committee for Student Life Meeting. Here we discuss issue that effect student life on campus. Our efforts over the last couple of years were put towards numerous issues that were of concern to the students. One was the repurposing of Walker and making sure that we're all communicating about it. Another issue was the dining plan. DAPER was also a subject where we stepped in. We received feedback regarding daily operations and working with Julie Soriero, her team devised more programs to meet the needs requested in the summary. They got nice feedback from the survey they did. Generally students felt that they weren't surveyed enough and we'll follow-up on that for future improvements. Going forward we'll need to follow-up with the new Chancellor Eric Grimson.

Lydia Snover is our guest speaker today. Lydia works under the Provosts Office as the Director of Institutional Research.

Faculty and students are the clients for Institution. Trends, people, money and space are the basis for surveys.

Twenty-five years ago no one did surveys at MIT because they didn't want the results to reveal that the students here were different because that would make them feel bad. Now we survey everything. The first survey at MIT was requested for the Engineering team. It was a success.

The Undergrads are surveyed around the time of enrollment to gage climate and engagement. It's a fifteen minute survey which some considered long.

Instructional and research staff will be surveyed next. All data is confidential. It pulls information not yet in database. Physical activity participation is a self-reported stat. There is no difference between students who exercise and students who don't in effect with their academics. Although 55%reported that they participated in sports (62% men, 48% women).

Senior survey will be scheduled for Spring 2012 (which happens every two years). Data is compared to other schools. If you'd like to see something on the survey, please suggest it.

It was noted that 42% of alums participated in sports. 65% participated in intramurals (76% men, 48% women).

There is no coloration between participating in sports versus salary. More students who were athletic were found to support fundraising as alum.

Alumni were more likely prepared for healthier life style if they participated in sports.

DAPER has the information of who is on what team as well as varsity members. DAPER knows who is using the facilities. However that information is protected by Committee on Institutional Surveys. We'd like to see it to manipulate it. The more you know about who uses the facilities, the more you know about who does NOT use it.

Healthy students and employees = better workers. Leadership = captains of teams. If we can know this we know more about leadership. DAPER board will be interested in this information.

All types of results can be formulated because of surveys. Information is already here. If you want to see a study on something just request it. It can be sorted out via living groups. It can be sorted by Dining options (happiness with food). Is there a correlation between GPA and dining vs. non-dining?

Student group participation: If they had the data it would be helpful to gage leadership. Whether they are being the leader or analyzing data while sitting in the back of the room, it would be helpful. What is MIT producing? Some folks like to sit in the room and analyze rather than lead. Are we doing our part?

Next week Prof. Slocum is not able to attend the meeting but has extended an offer to our student members to invite other students to the meeting and come up with questions that they'd like to see on the Senior Survey.

A draft of the schedule for 2011-2012 is also included with these minutes.