

**Committee on Student Life (CSL)**  
**Friday, February 25, 2011**  
**PDR 4 - 12pm – 2pm**  
**Minutes by Lisa Stagnone**

## **Minutes**

**Present:** Norvin Richards, Barbara Baker, Lizhong Zheng, David Singer, Tali Figueroa, Robin Deits, Yangbo Du

**Guests:** Dean Julie Norman, Director, UAAP & Senior Associate Dean, DUE

Orientation 2011 will be similar to 2010 with the exception of having the International Orientation one week later than in years past. The only issue with this would be an overlap with the Advanced Standing exams (ASE). International student will be accommodated if a conflict occurs.

Orientation is managed by Academic Office as well as being faculty driven. We would like to have our orientation be in line with other universities orientations. We'd like to have a balanced audience throughout, avoid conflicts and also plan to have common subjects addressed at a time that makes sense in the program. We take into consideration REX, Convocation, Housemaster & Freshman Kick Off, Stakeholders, and groups for pre-orientation (within Student Life).

Focus is on first year orientation for students and to manage parents. Space is always an issue when planning these activities (as well as bad weather backup space) and as always, you must feed them because food gets attendance.

We must be responsive to campus needs. Examples of responsiveness are

- We did not have alcohol programs until students began lived on campus
- In 2002, sexual assault programs were added
- In 2003, we added diversity programs added

It's difficult to achieve all that needs to be achieved, as well as advice and register students by the cut off time of Thursday by 5pm.

We looked at placement vs. advance standing exams which is two days long. Can this be addressed? Can we do it online or in advance somehow?

We have reached out to the Review Committee, Faculty members (Paul Lagace, Kim Vandiver, and Alex Slocum) who will re-visit the mission statement, goals and objectives and re-affirm the findings from 2002. They will decide

- what is critical and essential
- what should be in the program
- what should not be in the program
- what can be done at another time

In January, we met with UA Senate and addressed issues such as shrinking the schedule and possibly moving some things around. Feedback was negative. Panic set in. A couple of weeks ago, presidents from all dormitories signed an open letter in support of REX. There is no definite schedule as of yet. Communication is that it has not changed with exception to ISO. The only concern there is, is that ISO needs 5 to 6 hours for the federally mandated portion to be covered. International Students can do the testing on Monday if they need to instead of the Tuesday and Wednesday.

FPOP's, Freshman Pre-Orientation Programs, is to start on Tuesday prior to orientation. It removes overlap and helps programming around campus safety. Safety program are essential to campus life. If there will be an assault or alcohol related incident on campus, it most likely will happen within the first 60 days therefore program awareness is critical.

We need to look at the way we do orientation based on resources issues (time, money and space) as well as the fact that no one else does one like MIT. Is it too much? With that in mind, this spring, Dean Daniel Hastings, Dean for Undergraduate Education, and Dean Chris Colombo, Dean for Student Life, will be forming a new committee to review all Orientation Programs. Participating with them will be:

Dean Barbara Baker, Senior Associate Dean for Students  
Henry Humphreys, Senior Associate Dean, Residential Life and Dining  
Julie Norman, Director, Senior Associate Dean  
Elizabeth Young, Associate Dean, New Student

Merritt Roe Smith – Chair

4 to 5 Faculty Members - TBD

6 Students – (student representatives to this committee will be nominated through the UA nominations process

Finally, our job is as always to look at what the students and parents want from orientation. Listen and answer their questions. The more answers, the less anxieties. Engagement and the timing of the information is an important factor for a successful orientation program.



## Dean's Corner - Daniel E. Hastings, Dean for Undergraduate Education

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### Dean's Corner

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## Status of Orientation Changes

February 17, 2011

Dear Undergraduate Students:

Over the past several weeks, many members of the community have expressed concern over the proposed changes to MIT's Orientation program. The student response at the special meeting of the UA Senate, which was intended to communicate potential changes and provide a structure for giving feedback, was largely negative. Two weeks ago, presidents from all of the dormitories signed an open letter in support of Residence Exploration (REX).

We understand that students care very deeply about Orientation and REX and that students regard these programs as vital parts of the MIT experience. Therefore, we are writing to clarify what has been decided for this year and what the process will be to review Orientation for future years.

### Fall 2011 Orientation Program:

The schedule for Orientation 2011 will mirror that for 2010 with one small exception. To save MIT resources, International Orientation will be later, which may create an overlap with the Advanced Standing exams (ASE). If any international student wishes to take an ASE, an accommodation will be facilitated by the Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming (UAAP) with the International Students Office and the department.

To be clear, the schedule for REX will be identical to last year's schedule. REX will not be shortened, and overlap between REX and other programming will not be substantially increased from last year.

As in previous years, the UAAP will collaborate with the Division of Student Life (DSL) to work out the details of the Orientation program. As part of this process, DSL will convene the SLOPE committee, a longstanding group of students, housemasters, and staff that plans the student events and activities. This committee includes representatives from the UA, Dormcon, IFC, Panhel, LGC, ASA, and SaveTFP.

### Beyond Fall 2011:

For future direction on Orientation beyond fall 2011, the Deans for Undergraduate Education (DUE) and Student Life (DSL) will form a committee this spring to review all Orientation programs. The committee membership will include students, faculty, and staff. Student representatives to this committee will be nominated through the established UA nominations process, and the UA will ensure that all stakeholders are represented on the committee.

We all share an interest in open communication and a process in which all voices can be heard in a representative way. We understand that there are multiple stakeholders in Orientation, including students and faculty, and we will continue to work together to ensure a successful Orientation for the Class of 2015 and beyond.

Sincerely,  
Vrajesh Modi, UA President  
Christina Johnson, DormCon President  
Prof. Daniel Hastings, Dean for Undergraduate Education and Professor of Aeronautics and  
Astronautics  
Chris Colombo, Dean for Student Life

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### Archives

- 2010-2011
- 2009-2010
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## Orientation 2011 - DRAFT

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8/14	8/15	8/16	8/17	8/18	8/19 Athletic Teams arrive	8/20
8/21	8/22 <b>FPOP arrivals</b>	8/23 <b>Freshmen Pre-Orientation Programs begin (FPOP)</b>	8/24 <b>FPOP</b> Transfer Orientation	8/25 <b>FPOP</b> Transfer Orientation International Students arrive	8/26 <b>FPOP</b> Transfer Orientation International Students arrive	8/27 <b>FPOPs end</b> <b>REX Events</b>
8/28 <b>President's Convocation</b> Housemaster Brunch Dean's Brunch (Parents)  <b>MD Exam (2:30-4pm)</b>  <b>Student Welcome</b> OL Meetings  <b>REX Events</b>	8/29 <b>Advanced Standing Exams (8-11am) (18.01/8.02)</b>  <b>Learning Communities</b>  <b>Alcohol Event</b>  <b>ASE (2-5pm) (18.02/8.01)</b>  <b>REX Events</b>	8/30 <b>Chemistry Exam (8-11am)</b>  <b>International Orientation</b>  12:00 – 7pm Institute Events (Faculty Keynote, Sex Signals)  Lottery closes at 4:30pm  <b>SLOPE Event</b> <b>(Student Center Party)</b>	8/31 <b>Core Blitz Lunch with Advisors</b>  <b>Academic/Athletic Fair</b>  <b>International Orientation</b>  <b>4pm Lottery results</b>  In-House Lottery	9/1 <b>(Reg by 5pm)</b>  <b>Freshmen Explorations</b> Various open houses and academic events all day  Move-In Day  Housemaster meetings 5:30-6:30pm	9/2 CityDays  <b>Health and Wellness Fair</b> (Undergraduate/Graduates)  <b>Activities Midway</b>  <b>SLOPE Event</b>	9/3 Closing Ceremonies Class Photo  <b>Greek Griller Event</b>
9/4	9/5 - Labor Day	9/6 - <b>Reg Day/Biology Swim Test</b>				

February 18, 2011

\*Other programs not listed: LGBT, Women's, OME

International Arrivals	Thursday, August 25 – Friday, August 26
International Orientation	Tuesday, August 30 – Wednesday, August 31
Transfer Orientation	Wednesday, August 24 – Friday, August 26
FPOP Arrival	Monday, August 22
FPOPs	Tuesday, August 23 – Saturday, August 27
Parent Orientation	Saturday, August 27 – Monday, August 29