

Committee on Student Life (CSL)

Friday, March 18, 2011

Room 12-196 12pm – 2pm

Minutes taken by Lisa Stagnone

Present: Barbara Baker, Oz Agar, Vivek Sakhrani, Cody Coleman, Lihong Zheng, Chris Colombo, James Hong, Chaired by Norvin Richards

Guests: Ellan Spero – GSC, James Douberley- UG, Yangbo Du – UG, Graham Ramsay, Video Blogging

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TOPIC: REX, Walker Memorial Hall

WALKER MEMORIAL HALL

Ellan Spero updated the committee on Walker. The GSC and UA have made progress with the committee although the new committee has not met yet. The newly formed committee is made up of students, administration and faculty.

They are assigned to tackle value & decision making; public meeting for all students & update team regarding sharing information and using resources effectively.

Vivek Sakhrani, GSC, stated that the students and organizations within Walker are asking questions. They are concerned about how their interests are being discussed and he finds it hard to respond. They feel that the more they are included in the process and decision making, the better everyone involved will feel. The timeframe is short for the GSC and UA and they need information from the committee.

Dean Colombo stated that Marty Schmitt and his team have been doing a great job talking with everyone from Walker. Assessment of needs have to be collected and balanced by need:

- 1) Groups needs that are housed there
- 2) Muddy Charles Pub, Black Students Union, LGBT don't want to repeat elsewhere
- 3) Alum and Community space (Radio Society, Ballroom Dancing)
- 4) Community Space (beyond students, community as a whole)

Challenges are ahead of us. The information will be collected in order to understand the needs. Space is limited on campus.

Vivek has stated that the GSC has this as an agenda item for the Corporate Advisory Committee. The committee will make it helpful on how everyone should think about this. The Sloan Senate wrote to the Corporation. They let the GSC know that there is a strong interest with this.

Cambridge City Council is most likely concerned about Walker re purposing. City of Cambridge should be listed as an interested party and potentially stakeholder, especially given their involvement in the Kendall redevelopment process. (We got notice two hours before the meeting took place. No one from GSC could make it in time.) Maybe we can get the report on it. Morss Hall is common space. We have large volume dance events used throughout the community. It can handle a large amount of people and can cost up the \$850.00 to rent space.

MIT would like to be able to reunite the arts groups. Centrality is important. Interacting with student groups is important.

Lizhong Zheng asked if renovations are affected by the budget or alum gifts or do we have the resources already.

Dean Colombo stated that the thought the institute wouldn't put itself in debt. How much will be paid for this project? MIT would have to understand the costs before they start any work. It's my understanding there is great alum enthusiasm over the project. We could ask Marty Schmitt to attend another meeting to update us.

REX

Dean Colombo updated the committee on REX.

New committee has been formed although they haven't met yet. It's made up of committee, faculty and students nominated through the UA NomCom. They will address the following:

- FPOPS, Orientation, RUSH
- Evaluation of entire program

Nothing will change for 2011 with exception of International Student Office and they will be accommodated for.

Oz (Alexandra Agar) asked, for the UA Chief of Staff, Alexandra Jordan, to request survey questions.

Dean Colombo said that the GSC has done a great job with surveys. They should reference their past works and use it as a guide. It tests the assumptions and the questions can give you good answers.

Students are generally interested in getting more information on all topics and long term projects. Students would like to see where things are going in the future and see what clustering is being worked on. Future plans right now are focusing on Kendall Square project.

Requested to reference this article, Student life at MIT in 1956.

<http://alum.mit.edu/pages/sliceofmit/2011/03/11/rare-footage-of-the-social-beaver/>