

>>Check-in to confirm make-up:

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General Body Meeting

April 15th, 2020 | 17:30

Agenda

1. Updates from SOLE
2. Updates from the board
 - a. President
 - b. Treasurer
 - c. Space
 - d. Groups
3. New officer elections
4. Open floor

Updates from SOLE

- SOLE/ASA/student group relationship statement
 - Defining the relationship between those three parties
 - Find a link to the doc and give feedback here:
<https://engage.mit.edu/submitter/form/start/401347>
- Online minors registration form
 - SOLE sent out an email 4/14/20 with information on new online minors registration form -- no need to use paper forms any more (unless you want to)
 - Form will be created and distributed to hosts after you register your event

Updates from SOLE

- Leah Flynn Gallant stepping down as Assoc. Dean for Student Leadership and Engagement, moving to another position within MIT
- Check/wire claim process
 - Ramon Downes in SOLE is working on a process for groups to claim checks being sent in -- will contain a database of all companies/entities sending checks to student groups ATM, and groups can look through and claim their specific transactions, more details TBA
- Contact SOLE with questions: <sole@mit.edu>

Updates from President

- COVID-19 ASA responses
 - Please send us any information on **COVID-related expenses** or expected revenue that you lost
 - **Virtual CPW Midway on Sunday the 19th** -- groups should have received lots of emails from TechX with information on accessing your page. You have to make your own link (we wanted to create them for you, but Zoom issues meant we couldn't)
- **Updated Guide for New Groups** has been written, pending approval by the ASA (basically what we [already have](#), but with updated links!) It's a great resource and has tons of information!

Updates from President

- **Re-recognition** starts last week of April
 - It will look very similar to last year
 - One form that an officer from each group has to fill out collecting logistical information (# of people in your group, exec contact email for next year, funding status, etc.)
 - Five members of each group will have to fill out a form confirming that they are a member of that group
 - That's it!!!
 - Due at the standard time, a couple days after classes end (date will be announced in ASA Official and on our website)

Updates from Treasurer

- **tl;dr: we're discussing splitting "sponsored group" status to delineate groups that are under a department/DLC and those that receive funding from outside corporations**
- Earlier this year, MIT reached a legal settlement with disabilities rights groups which required that MIT must caption public videos. This applies to groups that get money from federal dollars -- difficult to determine exactly which ASA groups that applied to with our current Funded/Unfunded/Sponsored designations
- We were concerned about releasing blanket rules without getting feedback from groups who might be affected in unintuitive and interesting ways

Updates from Treasurer

- We are discussing changing **how we store information about group funding sources in our internal database** without requiring ASA-imposed rules. We would use this designation to identify which groups to contact to let them know that because of their funding coming from federal dollars, they need to comply with the settlement.
- Through this conversation we realized we also don't track which groups are consistently supported by **external entities** like companies or national organizations, which is also useful information to have

Updates from Treasurer

- Right now, group funding statuses can be "funded", "unfunded", or "sponsored". Funded and unfunded determine whether the group can apply for GSC/UA funding (from student life fees)
- **The wild card is the "Sponsored" group status**, which is when a group "is directly supported by an MIT department, program, or office of MIT, as well as existing student groups" -- this conflates departments, labs, and centers (i.e. federal dollars) with other structures
- Some technically "sponsored" department groups are in our system as GSC or UA funded, likely because of how groups were grandfathered into the "sponsored" status

Updates from Treasurer

- We realized we could simplify this problem without requiring blanket rules simply by **recategorizing group funding statuses in our database** to better reflect the messy reality of group funding situations and identify groups who need to comply with the new captioning law.
- **We are going to ask three separate questions during re-recognition:**
 1. Are you supported by money from an MIT department, lab, or center?
 2. Are you supported by money from an external company or organization?
 3. Do you get money from the GSC/UA?
- Exact definitions of what “supported by” constitutes are still being hashed out -- ie. does a single gift from a company count versus more consistent financial support? Some percentage of operating costs? TBD!

Updates on Space

- At the beginning of the Spring term, EHS, ASA, and CAC performed the **annual inspection of student group office and storage spaces**
 - We didn't email individual student groups with violations, because the COVID crisis happened and they can't be addressed with campus closed.
 - When we return to campus, groups will be expected to deal with all violations.
- **Please keep your space clean.** Space is limited and lots of groups want space that don't have it -- it's not fair to them to misuse this resource.
 - Some offices/storage spaces are messy, to the point of it being a hazard (e.g. no clear walkpaths, objects waiting to fall from highs, etc.).
 - Also, some rooms are not being used, while others are not used properly (you can use trash bins for trash, no need to use storage spaces).
 - On the other hand, there are some really nice offices.

Updates on Space

- Some groups had the same set of violations as in the previous years. We might take away the right to space for those groups in the upcoming re-allocation cycle, but we're also looking into other options, such as a time period for a group to redeem itself, before taking such drastic decisions.
- Some rooms are going to be **renovated**. When this happens, the group currently using that room will have to temporarily move all their belongings to a different room (in the same building). Groups will be emailed when that happens.

Updates on Space

- **Space allocation cycle** next year, starting in November
 - Applies to both office **and** locker space (and posters too, possibly)
 - Please be as specific and detailed in why you need space and how you would plan to use that space -- the more explicit and thorough your request, **the more likely you will be to get what you want!**
 - First round of allocations will be distributed ~December, then collect appeals and distribute a final set of allocations
 - Moves will be scheduled for IAP

Updates on Space

- **Space use agreement in development** to be used during the space allocation cycle -- this will be an agreement to essentially say “I will take care of my space, abide by ASA/SOLE/EHS policies, and respect other groups I share the space with”
- Formation of **space oversight board** w/SOLE, EHS, CAC in discussions
 - This would allow easier communication for how to use Walker and W20 space big-picture and advocate for changes that would benefit student groups
 - More coordination for things like renovations and how to manage moving student groups between spaces
 - Still early on, currently deciding what membership would look like

Updates on Groups

- Group applications: 53 applied, 15 accepted already, 20 pending
- Looking into how groups use **ASA resources**
 - The ASA and SOLE have finite resources in terms of time and space (particularly when it comes to processing finances and events)
 - Among new group applications and existing groups, there are many who mostly live under another MIT entity but need specific certain privileges ASA recognition grants
 - Thinking about how to streamline access to these resources so ASA recognition isn't the only path to relieve pressure on strained ASA/SOLE resources and do more for the groups that have no other path to recognition
- Our new board members have great ideas about how to better streamline new group applications, including more explicit instructions and a mentoring process!

Board Elections

- President - Rebecca Black
- Secretary - Ixa Gani
- Treasurer - Alex Bookbinder
- Groups Chair - Hesham Nawaz
- Space Chair - Sabina Tontici

Parties who were interested but not elected or not interested in chair positions should reach out to the ASA - we have 20+ open spots on the board under any part of our activities to fill with students who want to help make student life happen on campus!

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(this is the same link as the first page if you missed it)

asa

association of student activities

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