



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

Housing and Community Affairs (HCA) Meeting
April 8th, 2009
Meeting Minutes

Present: Alex H Chan (GSC), Bridget Wall (dorm environmental), DaCheng Lin (GSC HCA), Wendy Lam (GSC HCA), Amanda Zangari (Ashdown), Matt Walker (SP), Zenzile Brooks (SP), Steven Elliot (Edgerton), Mustafa Kara (Edgerton), Hila Hashemi (SP), Julia Nickel (GSC HCA), Andrew Freese (Westgate), Julie Valastyan (Eastgate), Jason McKnight (ResLife), Tanguy Chau (former HCA)

- (1) SafeRide: Route change of Boston West because of complaint from local resident. Wendy will email route change detail to HCA-all and grad-dorm-officers
- (2) Bike Route through MIT by Cambridge, will have presentation in May meeting by Shekhar Krishnan
- (3) Grad Gift will be in touch with grad dorm officers to work on activities

Wendy and Julia take over chairing of meeting.

Introduction by new Chairs

Plans of the new Chairs:

- (1) Transportation - get usage date on Tech, NW shuttles and EZRide. Explore weekend services. SafeRide to closer to North of Cambridge, provide accessibility to cheaper off-campus housing. Ashdown agreed and mentioned that there interest before. CSX railroad crossing, currently campus cut in half, try to get accessibility between the two halves of campuses. Tanguy mentioned that MIT wants to have a better overall plan on campus before they proceed, problem comes when the train is parked and it becomes dangerous for the students, a possibility is to disconnect the trains. Matt Walker- need for stop sign at the corner of Warehouse and Ashdown, it is dangerous for pedestrians, ramp is not enough.
- (2) Dental - want to bring us closer to a more comprehensive plan (with restorative care), gather data from Delta Dental and organize focus group (subscribers), and a survey for everyone on dental demand (will have survey ready by next HCA). HCA chairs to meet with Tanguy Chau to get more information about how to gather data.
 Mustafa: international students not aware of co-payment (idea for insurance).
- (3) Safety Sub-Committee - useful to have a chair to look into it, this past year, there were many incidents near NW. Have a mailing list with the police. There is no night time watch person for Eastgate/Westgate.
- (4) Community Service Sub-Committee - get students more involved with the city of Cambridge. Plan to organize events throughout the summer. Around 5 events in the year- start in the summer to recruit core of volunteers, then launch a kick-off event in the fall during orientation. Also, want to set up a more long term commitment opportunities. Bridget- such programs already exist in departments, but even just having an infrastructure/resource so student could get a sense of what opportunities are available would be beneficial. Want to help bring awareness to PSC, and collaborate with PSC. Mid May brainstorming meeting with PSC. Need new chairs.
- (5) Want to meet from new dorm officers to hear about plans and exchange ideas.

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(6) Open Floor

- Bridget: Trader Joe's shuttle. Tanguy- would Trader Joes be interested in getting more students? Bridget: that is our thought, plan on contacting not just Whole Foods, Trader Joes, Target and others. The hourly cost of running shuttle is around \$60-80, but if dorms contribute together or the stores contribute it would be great. If we could integrate all stops into one route. DC mentioned that CSSA have such kind of service, where everyone who takes the shuttle pay a small fee. Mustafa-how about build website for shoppers to carpool? Help match students who want to buy groceries, some other universities already have it (e.g. Stanford). Andrew: if we get Zip Car gives a better price it might help.
- Andrew, Zip Car, no annual fee (paid by employer), maybe HCA could lobby for discounted fee. Are students are good customers?
- Westgate/Tang Bus Shelter.

Adjourned