



40 U.A.S. 6.4

Bill to Increase Transparency and Empower Student Representatives on the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee

Whereas the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee is charged with deciding the future of the dining system at MIT; and

Whereas the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee consists of representatives from the administration, faculty, and student body, including the Director of Campus Dining and representatives from the UA; and

Whereas the UA supports and appreciates the work that the UA Blue Ribbon Dining Committee representatives have put into the committee; and

Whereas the UA supports and advocates for transparency in all committees of the Institute, especially those whose charges concern undergraduate student life; and

Whereas the UA believes its representatives on the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee should be able to report back to the UA and their constituents; and

Whereas after an extensive campuswide survey in May of 2008, the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee has access to large volumes of data about community members', mostly undergraduates', desires for campus dining plans, and this data has not yet been published; and

Whereas minutes and recommendations of Blue Ribbon Dining Committee meetings are not publicly available; and

Whereas Blue Ribbon Dining Committee representatives may not publicly discuss the data collected in the survey, nor disclose details of meetings or recommendations; and

Whereas rumors and hearsay are harmful for trust in our representatives in the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee and prevent reasoned debate of actual recommendations; and

Whereas the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee has provided a draft of recommendations regarding campus dining, which will be evaluated by a consultant, sent back to the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee for revision, and eventually presented to the administration; and

Whereas at the Dormitory Council meeting of December 4, in which aspects of the proposal were presented, many of the members responded negatively to the closed nature of the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee process;



Be it enacted, by the Undergraduate Association assembled in Senate:

That the UA disapproves of the closed nature of the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee, in particular, now that a proposal has been drawn up and sent outside of MIT, and

That the UA student representatives require the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee publish summaries of all meetings, past and upcoming, and

That the UA student representatives require the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee make public any proposals that leave the committee, and

That the UA student representatives on the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee are allowed to fully report on all discussions held, all proposals written, and all data considered by the committee, and

That the UA student representatives on the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee are required to fully report on all discussions held, all proposals written, and all data considered by the committee to the UA, and

That the UA student representatives on the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee are tasked with the prompt execution of this bill, including the timely publication of the committee's proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dormitory Council Secretary

Vrajesh Modi
UA Senator from East Campus

Elizabeth Denys
UA Public Relations Chair

Christian Ternus
UA Representative to the Faculty Committee on Student Life

Maggie Delano
UA Vice Speaker

Iman Fayyad
UA Senator from MacGregor

Nelson Elhage
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