Group urges checks on online learning at MIT
Social skills and credit integrity at stake

By Leon Lin

Concerned about the pace of change brought about by online learning, an institute subcommittee is now preparing to recommend a "face-time" degree requirement, strong oversight of on-campus MITx experiments, and a "conservative initial approach" to awarding credit for edX classes.

We're not against it. Just go slow, and see what's going to happen," Professor San S. Silbey said of digital learning experiments in MIT classes. Silbey, who leads the anthropology department, is the chair of the subcommittee.

A draft report detailing the committee's recommendations was presented at a faculty meeting on March 19.

The subcommittee's "incomparable value" in face-to-face engagement between faculty and students, suggesting that without such interaction, students would struggle to develop social skills like "turn-taking" and the use of "vocal, bodily cues."

"Face-time also helps build community and makes faculty members more approachable," the draft report said.

While encouraging professors to use MITx—a software platform that allows instructors to post videos, text, quizzes, and various other types of modules—in a way that enhances face-time with their on-campus students, the subcommittee expressed a concern that some would use MITx "as a substitute for physical co-presence."

The subcommittee recommended a limit to the number of classes with insufficient face-time that may count toward a degree.

Professor Sanjeev S.arma, the director of digital learning, said that "every online experiment that I've seen using MITx actually had the effect of enriching interpersonal interaction in the classroom.

Sharma and Ndengeyingoma win election for UA presidency
UAP/VP-elect discuss plans, goals for upcoming term

By Tushar Kamath

On March 23, after weeks of campaigning from three tickets, Shrut Sharma '15 and Billy Ndengeyingoma '15 emerged as the winners of this year's Undergraduate Association elections for president and vice president. In preparation for their upcoming administration, Sharma and Ndengeyingoma have described three overarching themes for their tenure on their campaign website: the MIT educational experience, communication and visibility, and the residential campus of the 21st century.

To achieve the long-term goals stated on their website, Sharma and Ndengeyingoma said they would look to the Presidential Advisory Cabinet and the Corporation Joint Advisory Committee as "channels of advocacy." By requesting "transition documents" for each position on the UA executive board, they aim to "ensure a smooth continuity between UA administrations." Sharma and Ndengeyingoma said that they would be continuing a number of the initiatives set forth by Sidhanth P. Rao '14 and Devin T. Cornish '14, the previous UA president and vice president.

Specifically, Sharma and Ndengeyingoma found the "Chief of Staff summit, weekly Institute committee lunches, and semesterly Institute committee policy reports" particularly effective and will maintain these programs in the coming semesters.

"In order to bridge this gap in communication, we are planning on reinstating the format of presidential summits of the Craighead administration and vice president."

During debates and campaigns, all of the presidential candidates touched on the perceived lack of transparency and communication between students and the UA. Sharma and Ndengeyingoma said they would establish or reestablish several UA programs to help address these problems.

"As part of this process, we'll have comprehensive, the draft report said.

Sharma and Ndengeyingoma in their winning speeches promised to "ensure a smooth transition," "serve students," and "promote the best interests of the MIT community.

"We're looking to the Prescott Advisory Committee as "channels of advocacy."

In a case with the potential to reshape the software industry, the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday seemed poised to issue fresh limits on patents for computer-based business methods.

Through the case originated far from Silicon Valley, it has been closely watched as an indicator of how specific or abstract technical ideas can be to become eligible for patent protection. Patent claims over the way such ideas are incorporated into computers, cellphones and other devices have become a challenge for many high-tech companies.

Most of the justices seemed skeptical about extending patent protection to the claimed invention at issue, a sort of conceptualized escrow mechanism that helps ensure that both sides in a transaction do what they have promised to do.

But given the importance of the software industry in the information economy, the court also appeared wary of a mistake in announcing a general legal principle.

"There is a risk," he said, "that instead of having competition on price, service and better production methods, we'll have competition on who has the best lawyer."

And if you go the other way and say never allow software patents, he went on, "then what do you do is you rule out real inventions with computer science and engineering."

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For more information, see http://housing.mit.edu/summer_guest/summer.html.

Applications for on-campus summer housing open today for undergraduates. East Campus and MacGregor singles will be open for Summer 2014. For more information, see http://housing.mit.edu/summer_guest/summer.html.

Fourth quarter PE classes begin tomorrow.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

IN SHORT

The Spring Career Fair is Thursday, April 3 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in La Sala Puerto Rico in the Student Center. Register on CareerBridge by April 2 to allow employers to view your resume in the career fair resume book.

The Spring UROP application deadline for credit, faculty pay, and volunteer UROPs is Thursday, April 3 at 5 p.m.

Applications for on-campus summer housing open today for undergraduates. East Campus and MacGregor singles will be open for Summer 2014. For more information, see http://housing.mit.edu/summer_guest/summer.html.

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WEATHER, p. 2

TUE 50° – 30°
Sunny
WED 52° – 35°
Mostly sunny
THU 54° – 33°
Mostly sunny

Weather for Monday, April 1, 2014

For more information, see http://housing.mit.edu/summer_guest/summer.html.
Expansion in use of cancer vaccine

Now that Brazil has introduced vaccines against cervical cancer, more than 80 percent of girls in the Americas can get them, the Pan American Health Organization announced last week.

The vaccines "will have a major impact on cervical cancer mortality," said Dr. Renato Andrade, director of the organization.

In 20 countries in this hemisphere, from Canada to Argentina, girls and young women at public schools or paid for by private insurers will be vaccinated against the virus thanks to a $1.5 billion purchase by the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization.

The vaccines work by preventing infections from a type of human papilloma virus that can lead to cervical cancer, according to Dr. Helen Galani, the chief HPV project officer at the World Health Organization.

"The introduction of the vaccines will help to significantly reduce the incidence and preventable deaths from cervical cancer," she said.

In a study presented in Geneva, Switzerland, Dr. Galani said researchers expected to see a reduction in cervical cancer incidence of 80 percent within 10 years and on average a 90 percent reduction in cervical cancer deaths.

Cervical cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women worldwide, according to the World Health Organization, and in Latin America is the second most common cancer in women, after breast cancer.

The vaccines were introduced to Brazil, the first country in the region to assign it in January. In the latest report, Brazil reached coverage for 31.4 percent of girls in the target age group.

In the Americas, the percentage of girls aged 9 or older who received the vaccine varies, from 99.1 percent in Brazil to 31.4 percent in Brazil.

The program in Brazil is being expanded to other countries in the region, including Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Peru, the report said. In Argentina, the vaccine is expected to reach 60 percent of girls aged 9 to 14 by the end of the year.

In Colombia, the vaccine is available to all girls aged 9 to 14, and in Chile, all girls aged 9 to 14 will be vaccinated.

In Mexico, the vaccine is available to all girls aged 9 to 14, and in Peru, all girls aged 9 to 14 will be vaccinated.

The report also noted that the vaccine is expected to be available to all girls aged 9 to 14 in Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Peru by the end of the year.

In Brazil, girls aged 9 to 14 will be vaccinated at a cost of $24.60 (Brazilian Real) per dose, and the government has set aside $400 million to cover the cost of vaccination.

The vaccine is expected to be available to all girls aged 9 to 14 in Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Peru by the end of the year.

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San Francisco crash was bad software

The passage of the economic measures, which are supposed to fuel growth, has been hampered by fears of a slowdown in the U.S. economy. The government is also struggling to implement the measures it has already approved. Asiana's flight into San Francisco last July, is plodding forward, and the Korean carrier is raising arguments. The current situation is not adequate warning to the flight crew. The damage settlements or court judgments. The court left open the possibility of future whale hunting if Japan redesigns its program. The search program, "dating to 2005, has netted hundreds of minke whales in the Antarctic Ocean Whale Sanctuary, established by the International Whaling Commission. Reading a summary of the judgment, presiding Judge Peter Tomka of Morris said the court's judgment is "do not qualify as irreparable harm." The rules also restrict the use of the drug, mifepristone, to 72 hours after conception, and would prevent some women from getting an abortion at all — especially in northern Arizona, where the only abortion provider offers only the medication route. The court found that it needs data to monitor the impact of whales on its fishing industry and to monitor the effectiveness of any recovery of the species. The court ordered Japan to "revolve all whaling practices," and not issue any new ones under the existing program. "I rarely heard such an unequivocal opinion at this court," said a lawyer with long experience in international courts. "I would not recommend that anyone read immediate praise from environmental groups, including the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, which has sent fast ships to the remote and icy waters off Japan to harpoon and knock Japan's whaling fleet. "We are very happy with the backing of a similar international court decision," said Grert Voes, a representative of the court. "We were very happy with the decision after leaving the court." The government was neither in the safe nor attached to it when the explosion occurred. Initial reports suggested that the ambassador, Jamal al-Jamal, was killed by a security system attached to a safe that had just detonated, the Czech police said Monday. Here, most likely died after an explosive device he was holding detonated, the Czech police said Monday. The passage of the economic measures, which are supposed to fuel growth, has been hampered by fears of a slowdown in the U.S. economy. The government is also struggling to implement the measures it has already approved.

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Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun

Somewhere on the Search for Meaning... by Letitia Li

Fun

Tuesday, April 1, 2014 The Tech

Somewhere on the Search for Meaning...
by Letitia Li

What are you doing?
I was making crème brûlée, but since I’m missing some equipment...

This isn’t a video game!!!
You can’t just MacGyver up a kitchen torch out of a candle, fan, and bottle of rubbing alcohol!!!

Why do you think we’re having this fire drill?
10 minutes later...
Oh, relax! I’m a MIT student!

Uh, routine testing?

Piled Higher and Deeper
by Jorge Cham

[1347] t Distribution

A Webcomic of Romance, Sarcasm, Math, and Language
by Randall Munroe

Saturday Stumper by Brad Wilber
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63 Goes full-tilt
64 Makes available
65 Shade source
66 Letter recipient
67 Goal
68 Husband
69 Seize

43 Winched at
44 Wipes out
45 Stand on more than two feet
47 Police-car accessory
51 Ironman Triathlon licensee
54 Town a bit east of the Rio Grande
55 Drillmaster’s word
58 OSHA compliance course
60 Honoree on a 2009 bicentennial stamp
When Professor Andrei Linde of Stan- ford University first read a paper in the 1980s by MIT professor Alan Guth, then a postdoc at Stanford, he was taken by its de- scription of cosmic “inflation,” the notion that one trillionth of one trillionth of one trillionth of a second after the Big Bang, the universe — for an infinitely brief moment — expanded faster than the speed of light. Linde immediately started improving the theory, completing his reworking before Guth’s next paper came from the United States that said the theory was impossible.

“It’s a good thing the Soviet mail system was so slow, I didn’t hear I couldn’t improve the theory until I already had!” jokes Linde.

I am writing to describe what it was like to sit in on a lecture that I did not under- stand, but that changed my life. The March 18 lecture in 54-100 entitled “Inflation: News and Perspectives” was delivered by Linde — who will now almost assuredly win the Nobel Prize in physics — just one day after his theory about the universe’s rapid expansion during its earliest moments was confirmed by direct physical evidence. The evidence, recently published by the BICEP2 team after a painstaking multi-year effort, included a surprisingly robust signal of gravitational waves of polarized micro- wave radiation throughout the universe. This work is by all accounts one of the most staggering scientific discoveries of all time — and will change our understanding of phys- ics and cosmology forever. And the craziest thing of all is that despite not understand- ing it, everyone immediately started improving the model,Linde had described, and the BICEP2 team had walked through, had been closed be- hind us forever. And being in the audience to hear Linde speak of that journey was the moment.

Linde had described, and the BICEP2 team had walked through, had been closed be- hind us forever. And being in the audience to hear Linde speak of that journey was the most dangerous for a scientist, but can you blame Guth — he chose instead to focus on how beautiful the model turned out to be, and how such groundbreaking work would open doors to entirely new fields of physics.

By the end of the talk, having proceeded through a parade of figures and equations, Guth led us through competing theories and one by one, said “done, done, done” — and in doing so, we were direct witnesses to the irrevocable realignment of cosmology. There was no coming back from this truth, the door that Guth had found, had walked through, had been closed be- hind us forever. And being in the audience to hear Linde speak of that journey was the moment.

He did his best to hedge his conclusions and future generations of those who have witnessed. And yet, this was a victory lap for the community, for humanity, not for any single person, and Linde made that point obvious, as he harkened back to New- ton, Einstein, and Hawking as having laid the groundwork for his own contributions.

And for this is how I came to be filled with an overwhelming motivation to ex- plore and to achieve on account of a lecture that I did not understand. Sometimes inspi- ration can be imparted by a shared experi- ence, by a communal feeling that science done properly and with full commitment can forever change the way we all think. The pervasive feeling that together we continue our march towards universal discovery and truth was undeniably imprinted on my own identity that day, and having felt it, I am no longer the same. Together we move forward as scientists, as humans, and as a civiliza- tion. Thank you Newton, Einstein, Hawk- ing, Guth, BICEP2, Linde, and countless other contributors. You have inspired cur- rent and future generations of those who dare to question, to answer, and to dream.

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Adam Freedman is a graduate student in Environmental Engineering.
Russian classical pianist Evgeny Iognievich Kissin performed at Boston's Symphony Hall on March 16.

By Evrika Trent
ARTS EDITOR

The stage of Symphony Hall — usually packed with over a hundred Symphony Orchestra performers — seemed empty on Sunday evening, as if it had nothing but one grand piano. But that all changed when Evgeny Kissin released the first chord of Franz Schubert’s Sonata No. 15. The sheer power of that first note, which filled the entire hall, marked the beginning of a night of phenomenal piano music.

Russian classical pianist Evgeny Kissin, internationally recognized as one of the most gifted classical musicians of his generation, has performed worldwide with countless renowned orchestras, including those in Russia, Eastern Europe, Japan, Germany, Britain, and North America. The Celebrity Series, a performing arts series that was celebrating its 75th anniversary, presented his recital debut thirteen years ago in Boston. Kissin has received dozens of musical awards for his performances across the world, and on Sunday, the audience of Symphony Hall had the opportunity to witness his extraordinary talent.

Kissin opened the night with Schubert’s Sonata No. 15, a piece noted for its vivid impetuosity and unpredictable harmonies. Kissin’s demonstration of this breathtaking virtuosic quality, his fingers running up and down scales with impressive dexterity, and his touch — playing his piano keyboard with perfect precision. Most striking was his range of dynamics: Kissin, at times, produced notes so hushed and delicate that the audience held its breath and at other times, he released notes so thundering and powerful that some audience members jumped out of their seats.

Following the intermission was Sonata No. 2, Opus 19 by Scriabin, also known as his Sonata-Fantasy. Its comparison to the whimsical character of Schubert’s sonata, this agitated and darkly somber sonata demonstrated Kissin’s musical depth and touched his listeners’ hearts. kissin delivered the complex counterpart between the left and right hand effortlessly, always guiding his listeners’ ears to the melodic character. I imagine heads poking out of Killian Hall, marked the beginning of a night of music at the MIT. Garcia-Dominguez discusses music at MIT.

By Chennah Hercor
ARTS EDITOR

The Emerson Scholars and Emerson Fellows program helps recognize the many talented students at MIT who had the opportunity to talk to Dario Garcia-Dominguez ’15 about what it’s like to be an Emerson Fellow, his Advanced Music Performance Studio recital which meets every Monday from 49 to 52 minutes. I’ll be playing 50 minutes of music. It was a very strict cutoff. I was worried that my program was clocking in at 58 minutes a week ago, and I had to cut it down. Now it’s between 49 and 52 minutes.

How long is your recital?

DGD: I’ll be playing 50 minutes of music. It’s a very strict cutoff. I was worried that my program was clocking in at 58 minutes a week ago, and I had to cut it down. Now it’s between 49 and 52 minutes.

So what did you have to do to cut down your recital?

DGD: I took out a couple of movements from the program piece [Gargoyles]. Unfortunately, the fourth movement is not up to performance standards and it was a clear choice. I also took out second movement because it’s not as interesting to me.

How many pieces are you playing?

DGD: I’m playing a total of five pieces. I’m starting the program with a couple of short Bagatelles by Beethoven. They are from his 23rd and 24th opus, and they’re very classical and almost childlike. I wanted to start off the program with something easy to chew on for the audience. Next I’ll be delving into his 30th piano sonata, which is Opus 109, one of his later works. He was really pressures and frustrated with life at this point. It’s very emotional and romantically driven, as opposed to his earlier works. It’s something to love about his music. The last movement is one of the most intense and substantial movements I’ve ever heard, or ever played, rather. I spent a lot of time figuring out what I wanted to get from this piece. After that, I’ll be playing Chopin’s Second Ballade, which is my favorite piece of all time. It’s a lot of fun to play. Following that, I’ll be playing Gar- goyles [by Lowell Liebermann], which is the most contemporary piece in my program. I’m only playing two of the movements as I mentioned earlier, the first [Presto] and the third [ Allegro Moderato]. Gargoyles is a good name for the piece because each of the four movements has its own wildly different character. I imagine heads poking out of corners and grasping faces. It’s very poly- rhymic and there’s a ton of dynamics, all of which that put the listener at the edge of their seats.

How many years have you been playing piano?

DGD: Fourteen years. I started when I was six. I would say that the first six years or so of piano lessons, I was forced to play by my parents, like a lot of kids were. Then I just kind of found out that I really enjoyed it and I was fairly talented, so I went on my own after that.

Is this a recital at MIT?

DGD: This is a recital at the MIT. It’s not associated with the music department.

What’s the difference between playing for an audience versus playing for a teacher?

DGD: There’s a lot of music classes get to do. With many of the introductory level classical music classes students don’t even learn the instruments being played in class, but this is something World Music achieved nicely — we got to learn and play the Sarbar drum and the Ra- line gamelan.

The performance not only was virtuosic in terms of technical skill, but demonstrated his exceptional expressive and poetic depth. For those two hours, all those in Symphony Hall were united, captivated by his piano music.
Art and framing — light and dark, light and out and touches somebody in some way. And in the photograph, something that reaches levels: one emotional and the other technological. And photography?

You don't really get through film?

You can express through photographs that you get?

New Yorker

I wonder what you think about photography as an art form rather than simply a recording process. He told the following story: There is this scene in the movie … the movie is about an astrophysicist. I had a meeting with him — I decided to do some more

Meanwhile we are introduced to a character … [kind of an] Einstein figure. In his classroom there is a large blackboard with a very complicated equation laid out in chalk, ending in an equals sign and unresolved. The genius from the Earth walks into the room there is this scene in the movie … the movie is about a being arriving on Earth and landing in Washington DC in a saucer shaped spaceship and he is from another planet.

There's not much that has not been revealed in some of my acting work and in the roles I've played. I've played all kinds of people, some good people, some bad people, some confused people, some smart people, some useful people, some useless people … Sexual identity has been a factor in my work. Physical appearance has been a factor. I really think I've acted it out in my acting work.

I've had a very interesting experience at MIT some years ago. A couple of experiences actually. I was there once for a visit to the Media Lab … I went specifically to MIT in the mid 1980s. I was preparing to direct one of the Star Trek movies and I contacted a professor there named Philip Morrison who was an astrophysicist. I had a meeting with him for about an hour talking about what I would like to do. He said, "It's 'Fermi's Paradox'! Science fiction but future science. What are we looking for? What might happen?" The question I put to him was the following: I asked him if he'd ever seen the movie 'The Searcher' by Ford which is set in the movie … the movie is about a being arriving on Earth and landing in Washington DC in a saucer shaped spaceship and he is from another planet.

You have any words of wisdom for a group of young people looking to succeed and push limits?

Yeah, yeah. Well I am a great believer in what we've been told time and time again by people like Joseph Campbell, "Find your bliss." Find out what it is that touches you most deeply, pursue it, learn about it, explore it, expand on it. Live with it and nurture it. Find your own way and make your own connections. Find out what it is that you feel is important to this society because God knows we need contributions from the coming generation. This planet and this civilization is in need. It is seen as a time of need. I spoke at Boston University's commencement a couple years ago, and I said to give us the best of what you have to offer. If you really think you need what you have to offer. It's important that you focus on what you can bring to the party. The rest will take care of itself. Hopefully. It's most important that you find a way to make a contribution and push limits.

Thank you so much for taking the time to talk with The Tech.

I've tried to just take pictures of what ever you feel like?

[laughs] Yeah … yeah, so. That is a pretty strong statement. I found it on the one hand funny and on the other enlightening. I began to understand that for him at least, and for me eventually, it was important to understand, was it that you're trying to capture with a camera. What you want to use this tool for. For me, it helped me to begin to search for and concentrate on thematic photography.

What would your Secret Self be like?

What would be your photography?

I tend to think that my Secret Self has been played out in a lot of my performances as an actor. I have been there and done it. There's not much that has not been revealed in some of my acting work and in the roles that I've played. I've played all kinds of people, some good people, some bad people, some confused people, some smart people, some useful people, some useless people … Sexual identity has been a factor in my work. Physical appearance has been a factor. I really think I've acted it out in my acting work.

There are a lot of Star Trek fans at MIT! Would you say that your secret self would be anything like Spock?

"The Voyage Home is about feeling close to your theme. He said that for him at least, and for me eventually, it was important to understand that for him at least, and for me eventually, it was important to understand, was it that you're trying to capture with a camera. What you want to use this tool for. For me, it helped me to begin to search for and concentrate on thematic photography."

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I've had to learn that lesson. It's a big, big lesson. I introduced that lesson into Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home where we were hearing sounds — the whales. That's where the idea of the whale song came to me. That is not meant for us to understand it, that is our human ego that says that we should be able to interpret that and know what it means. Well, it's meant for us. It's an unknown. Let's go. That's where the idea came from, that conversation with Professor Morrison at MIT.

As someone who has had a lot of success in a lot of different endeavors … I'm sure you know that many of my peers at MIT have grown up admiring you as Mr. Spock because you really made science and bring smart reality. Do you have any words of wisdom for a group of young people looking to succeed and push limits?

Yeah, yeah. Well I am a great believer in what we've been told time and time again by people like Joseph Campbell, "Find your bliss." Find out what it is that touches you most deeply, pursue it, learn about it, explore it, expand on it. Live with it and nurture it. Find your own way and make your own connections. Find out what it is that you feel is important to this society because God knows we need contributions from the coming generation. This planet and this civilization is in need. It is seen as a time of need. I spoke at Boston University's commencement a couple years ago, and I said to give us the best of what you have to offer. If you really think you need what you have to offer. It's important that you focus on what you can bring to the party. The rest will take care of itself. Hopefully. It's most important that you find a way to make a contribution and push limits.

Thank you so much for taking the time to talk with The Tech.

I've tried to just take pictures of what ever you feel like?
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**LOCATION:** MIT Stata Center
32-G449/Patil Conference Room

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By Daniel Kolodrubetz  

Shabu-shabu, the Japanese style of hot pot, actually translates to swish-swish, echoing the sounds that the ingredients make as you stir them in the soup at your table. It makes sense that Swish Shabu has evoked this auditory experience with their name, as they provide a dining experience that is a treat for all of the senses. Not only are the cook-it-yourself meats and vegetables delicious, the presentation is excellent and the pleasant service adds to an overwhelmingly positive meal.

Swish Shabu is located on a side street near Fenway, and their small dining room is clean, modern, and filled with a young crowd chatting happily over their soups. An attentive waiter came over to my table many times to refill drinks and clear empty plates, but she never felt pushy or out of place. She was also happy to answer questions, though she did not explain the hot pot concept, which would have been welcoming for a newcomer to shabu-shabu.

After salivating over the impressively large menu, I decided to start with the tentacles-only fried calamari. This starter made up for a small portion size with peppy flavor and light crispy batter that allowed exactly the right amount of the squid taste through. With its small size and high quality, the calamari left me looking forward to the main part of my meal. A large part of the appeal of Swish Shabu is the adaptability of your meal. You can pick from more than a dozen different soup broths, almost twenty different meat combos and seven different types of noodles or rice. There are also a variety of condiments, displayed expertly on tiny plates set out by the waiter, which allow you to further customize every bite. Fresh vegetables that you can cook to your exact specifications fill out the combination plates. The menu is even diverse enough to include ostrich meat. The only challenge to ordering an excellent meal is making up your mind.

The meat was displayed in what was practically an architectural accomplishment. I had to try the cilantro and duck egg (for a $3 surcharge), in addition to the standard pork soup, for the base. When the broth arrived and I saw the sea of green cilantro floating on one side of the split bowl, I worried that it would be overpowering. However, the broth managed to infuse the ingredients with a delightful cilantro flavor and the slices of preserved duck egg were like little sunkens treasures, floating just out of sight and delighting me every time I would grab one.

When the produce platter came out, it was piled high with fresh greens and accompanied with root vegetables like turn, radish and carrot. Ultimately, though the leafy vegetables were an excellent offset to the meat that would soon arrive, it would have been nice to have a greater variety of vegetables, both for flavor and color.

For the meat, the true star of this show, I stuck with classics and ordered sishun, pork, and lamb. Each generous portion was sliced paper thin and rolled on a plate in a display that was practically an architectural accomplishment. Though tongs were not provided to handle the raw meat, one of the best parts of the whole experience was watching the delicate pieces of flesh cooked to the exact level that I wanted in a matter of seconds. While all of the meats were high quality and extremely savory, the slightly richer sishun stood out due to its perfectly marbled texture. As I ended my meal, the soup tasted more and more flavorful as it absorbed the juices from the meat. Unfortunately, they didn’t provide a deep ladle to get to the last bits of broth. A glance at the entirely ice cream based dessert menu, which provided a nice contrast to the hot soup, helped me decide I should finish my feast the same way I had started it — with some deep fried comfort. Despite coming with a side of disappointing Hershey’s Syrup, the fried vanilla ice cream was a nice juxtaposition of creamy vanilla and a wonderfully light and crunchy funnel cake type batter.

As you leave Swish Shabu, you will definitely feel happy and full. There were a few minor issues keeping this meal from being sublime, but the staff was helpful enough to provide immediate response for any request in meal accommodation. The hot pot combos are reasonably priced between $13 and $20 for most options, which makes this dinner a bargain. With an emphasis on quality ingredients and beautiful presentation, Swish Shabu is a restaurant that certainly understands that a meal can be more than just an excuse to eat.

Restaurant Review

Shabu Shazam!

Japanese-style hot pot restaurant delivers on nearly every aspect of the dining experience

Swish Shabu

86 Peterborough St., Boston

Every day

11:00 a.m.—11:00 p.m.

4 stars

Are you a tetris ninja?

Use your powers for good!
MITx Subcommittee weighs credit for edX courses

Anthropology head calls for oversight, fearing that small curricular changes will add up

MITx, from Page 1

Proponents of such experiments often argue that delivering course material through, say, online videos frees up class time for richer interaction than offered by traditional lectures, which are seen as ineffective.

The committee warned that the student experience — of which face-time is an important part — could be “significantly reconfigured” over time “without sufficient notice or coordinated oversight.”

“We could make lots of incremental changes without anybody looking at the whole, and five years down the road, ten years, we’ll be someplace different,” Silbey said.

The subcommittee thus recommended that “all experimental proposals involving MITx-related curricular changes be first channeled through departments, then schools, and ultimately, Institute faculty committees” for evaluation, feedback, and approval.

Sarma wrote in an email that the recommendations “give[ ] us enough leeway to do the experiments we are really interested in — such as blended learning experiments and so on — and yet opens the door to some distance learning experiments with oversight from the faculty governance system.”

“I feel comfortable with this approach and the recommendations are reasonable,” Sarma wrote.

As to awarding credit for courses completed on edX — which allows students around the world to take online classes from MIT and other schools — the subcommittee called for a “conservative initial approach.”

Some have suggested that students could take MIT courses on edX during high school and shorten their time as MIT undergraduates to three years. A separate task force, the Faculty Policy Committee, which prepared by the MITx Subcommittee of the Faculty Policy Committee, which charged the subcommittee with determining “the standards and policies necessary to guide discussions and decisions regarding the Institute’s residential education and degree programs in the context of MITx and other edX partners.”

The subcommittee comprised 15 members, including seven professors and five students.

One of the non-voting members of the subcommittee, Professor Diana Henderson, said that she saw many opportunities for digital innovation in education. “[A]ccess to multimedia performance and the ability to annotate, collaborate, and illustrate have been crucial for the development of new modes of studying Shakespeare,” she wrote in an email.

Writing-intensive subjects may not transfer as well to online-only courses, such as those on edX, Silbey suggested.

Even when evaluating courses taken at another residential college, when the claimed MIT equivalent course assigns papers, Silbey said that “if they have not written a paper, I tend not to give them credit.” Silbey is the transfer credit examiner for anthropology and sociology.

Given that edX courses regularly attract tens of thousands of students each, they typically can’t assign papers, at least not ones that can be graded by instructors. If Silbey has any way, such courses will never substitute for writing-intensive courses at MIT.

Silbey argued that some MITx-related proposals, like the three-year MIT undergraduate program, reduce the meaning of a college education to the mere acquisition of technical skills.

Education should not just be about learning these skills as quickly and efficiently as possible, Silbey said.

Last May, the Office of Digital Learning suggested that MIT might incoming freshmen to take an introductory computer science class on edX over the summer. Silbey said
EVENTS APR. 1 – APR. 7
TUESDAY
(12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.) Deutschland Theaterland: Exploring German history and culture through theatre — E40-464

WEDNESDAY
(3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m) MIT Spouses and Partners Wednesday meeting: Dispelling Myths about Libido — 55-Penthouse
(7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.) Space Board Games Night — Building 33, 1st floor lounge

THURSDAY
(4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) The Picower Lecture: Impact on circuits critical for memory across species presented by Dr. Carol A. Barnes — 46-3002
(4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.) The Untold History of the United States — E51-115
(6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) Romanian Students Association presents Wild Carpathia 3 — 37-212

FRIDAY
(5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.) Advanced Music Performance Student Recital featuring Eleanor Bors, cello — 14W-111
(7:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m.) LSC shows Saving Mr. Banks — 26-100

SATURDAY
(12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.) Science Carnival — Sidney-Pacific-MP Room
(2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.) Graduate Association of Mechanical Engineers Art Appreciation Day — W20-306
(6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) Ebony Affair: Essence of Excellence — W50-105

SUNDAY
(12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.) Sidney-Pacific Despicable Me April Brunch — Sidney-Pacific MP Room
(7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) Percussionist Hubert Zemler and Evan Zippel, clarinet — Killian Hall

MONDAY
(3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) Who Benefits When the Government Pays More? Evidence from Medicare Advantage — E62-450
(4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.) Land Reform and Sex Selection in China — E62-650

Send your campus events to events@tech.mit.edu.
that the idea raised concerns among some faculty members. "What is the message we’re sending to incoming students?" Silbey asked.

"The move, which was not approved, would pressure students to do lots of work and get ahead before coming to MIT," Silbey said. "That’s the wrong message."

"Many people are concerned that MIT students already feel pressure, that maybe what they need is time to think, time to relax, time to just explore the world," Silbey said.

The move would have also suggested to freshmen that "if you’re going to do work this summer, you should learn programming, coding," Silbey said. "Well, maybe we think you should read a history book, a novel, or maybe a book of poems."

However, she said that she thought suggesting things that incoming freshmen could do over the summer was a "perfectly good idea," and that she would have been happy had MIT sent them five different suggestions rather than just one.

A revised proposal was later approved by a faculty committee, and this summer, MIT will be offering five on-campus classes for all MIT students. The classes will experiment with "blended learning models" that incorporate elements of both traditional and online classes.

No poetry, though, since the classes are in mechanical engineering, materials science, biology, and physics.

Silbey cited the episode last spring as evidence that MIT needs more communication and oversight when it comes to online learning experiments. But Sarma, the director of digital learning, said that the fact that the proposal was not approved was a sign that review processes were working.

Still, "that kind of experiment needs not to come out of the blue, but has to go through the normal processes," Silbey said. "Lots of the experimentation is taking place outside normal department channels."

Sarma said that faculty members sometimes did not know when new courses with new digital components were being offered in their own departments.

"I don’t think anything has been put in the curriculum that didn’t go through [the Committee on the Undergraduate Program], but we’re pretty generous with regard to what counts as an experiment," Silbey said. "We let a lot of things happen under the rubric of experiments, but there’s no A/B testing; there’s insufficient evaluation in a systematic way."

"Now, we recognize that there are multiple points of view here, that some people see faculty governance as an impediment to change. ‘Oh, they drag their feet, they always ask us such picayune questions.’ But you get good feedback a lot of the time, too," Silbey said. "So it’s a tradeoff."

"We’re trying to respond to everyone’s concerns," Silbey said. "We want to support this innovation, this experimentation, but we also don’t want to create something that doesn’t have the same kind of collegial engagement that normally happens. That’s our goal."
Patents for code? Court hears case

These summits will assemble IFC, Panhel, and DormCon presidents as well as representatives from cultural groups and department associations, Sharma and Ndengeyingoma wrote. “This will ensure a continuous flow of information, avoid misconceptions, and allow for diverse representation.” The newly elected pair will also establish new programs they said would make the UA more effective. They plan to “hold meetings with all the undergraduate course presidents in one room to discuss how advising, tutoring and academic events is done in each of the majors.”

A new UA Advisory Board, Sharma and Ndengeyingoma said, would “be available to all students to discuss the workings of the UA and MIT administration” and “help resolve the stigma surrounding mental health and support resources and clarify common misconceptions and academic appeals to the Committee on Academic Performance and the Committee on Discipline.”

They also said they planned to work with administrators like Provost Martin A. Schmidt PhD ’88 and Professor Sanjay Sarma, the director of digital learning.

The election results were announced by the UA on March 21. Sharma and Ndengeyingoma claimed 946 of the 1787 ballots cast for their positions. The other tickets were for Andrew M. Acker ’15 and Grace E. O’Malley ’15 and for Jeffrey M. Sperling ’15 and Nathan H. Varady ’16.

UA, from Page 1

Patents for code?
Court hears case

The patents were challenged by CLSBank International, which says it clears $5 trillion in foreign exchange transactions a day using methods to ensure that both sides performed.

The Alice Corp.’s patents, the bank said, merely recited “the fundamental economic concept of intermediated settlement of escrow.”

The justices considered only the threshold question of whether the Alice Corp.‘s ideas were eligible to be patented. The court has said that laws of nature, natural phenomena and abstract ideas do not qualify.
Bayern Munich vs. Manchester United

On paper, this draw looks fairly straightforward. Coming into the quarterfinals, David Moyes’ Manchester United seemed to be the weakest link and reigning champions Bayern Munich were stronger than ever. Manchester United threw the towel in for the race for the championship in the English Premier League a long time ago and right now it seems that they will fail to finish in the top four as well. They recently lost 3-0 to Manchester City to add to a series of lackluster performances. Their Champions League performance is not that thrilling as well. In the previous round, they initially lost 2-0 to Olympiacos. Despite facing the threat of elimination, they managed to turn things around in the second match by winning 3-0. This does not change the fact that there is a great difference between the Manchester United we’ve watched in the previous years and this year’s Manchester United under the guidance of David Moyes. There is not much to say about Bayern Munich, other than the fact that they have nothing to worry about except the Champions League. With 7 weeks left in the German Bundesliga, they earned the title with a record of 25 wins and two draws in 27 matches. When they earned the title, they were 25 points ahead of their closest opponents, Borussia Dortmund. They beat Arsenal 3-1 on aggregate in the previous round and are more than ready for their next English opponent. With the Champions League the only thing they have to focus on right now and their all-conquering display of soccer, Bayern Munich are definite favorites against a struggling Manchester United.

Real Madrid vs. Borussia Dortmund

Real Madrid will face off against Borussia Dortmund in what is to be a rematch of last year’s semifinals in which Robert Lewandowski pulled the plug on Real Madrid with his four goals in the match in Germany. However, coming into this match, Real Madrid seem to be the definite favorites. Real Madrid did face a 4-3 loss to Barcelona and a 2-1 loss to Sevilla in the La Liga and now sit in third place behind Atletico Madrid and Barcelona. However, they are still playing great soccer and tend to dominate the matches they play. They beat Schalke 04 9-2 on aggregate in the previous round in an utter display of dominance. Cristiano Ronaldo, Karim Benzema and Gareth Bale have been on fire recently and will definitely put on a show for the fans in this match-up.

Borussia Dortmund, on the other hand, haven’t been playing in the consistency we’ve come to expect of them. This is evident by all the points they lost in the Bundesliga, thus allowing Bayern Munich an early championship title in the league. On the bright side, this means that all they have to focus on right now is the Champions League. Nevertheless, their Champions League performances haven’t been all that consistent. They beat Zenit 4-2 in St. Peters burg, but then lost to them 2-1 in Dortmund. Zenit was one of the weakest links of the previous round as they had only six points coming out of the group stage, so losing to them at home is not a good sign for Dortmund.

Although it is not possible to write off Dortmund right now, Real Madrid seems to be the closer side to the semifinals as they have a more consistent display of dominance.

Paris Saint-Germain vs. Chelsea

This is another extremely difficult draw to decide. Paris Saint-Germain are currently in first place in the French Ligue 1 and have a comfortable lead over second place AS Monaco. They’ve managed to dominate in the Champions League as well by beating Bayer Leverkusen 6-1 on aggregate. However, their recent match against Nice, which resulted in a 1-0 win for the Paris side, did show that they still have some problems going into the match against Chelsea. As their manager, Laurent Blanc puts it, they are struggling to play efficiently on offense. The team does not seem in tune with each other despite the star-studded offensive line. Nevertheless, it is hard for players to concentrate in league matches when there already is a comfortable lead in the standings, so this far from perfect display may be explainable. Champions League soccer has another mindset, so the players may be fit to play in the matches against Chelsea and give it their all.

Chelsea under Jose Mourinho’s guidance have been terrific. They’ve gotten some astounding results such as their recent 6-0 win over Arsenal. If it’s one thing that Mourinho has Chelsea do the best, it is definitely applying pressure on their opponents and preventing them from even starting an organized offensive move ment. The way they apply pressure allows Chelsea to get the goals they want and dominate the game. They have a talented squad filled with great strikers and creative midfielders. Despite all these positive features of the team, they’ve recorded two surprising losses in the past couple of weeks. They first lost to Aston Villa and then faced defeat against Crystal Palace. Thus, like Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea, too, can sometimes play far from perfect soccer.

All that being said, Jose Mourinho’s Chelsea seem to have a slight advantage simply because Jose Mourinho’s team can bring the pressure when it has to. The Champions League quarterfinals will showcase a set of closely contested matches and some great displays of soccer. The first matches of the draws will be on April 8 and 9. Mark your calendars!

Real Madrid faces off against Borussia Dortmund

Real Madrid will be looking for redemption and Chelsea takes on Paris Saint-Germain

Soccer, from Page 16

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Champions League soccer returns with quarterfinals
Barcelona to face Atletico Madrid in tight clash

**By Ali Soylemezoglu**

March was truly filled with madness in sports. NBA free agency opened up and teams raced to sign the best free agents in the market. NCAA basketball fans witnessed some incredible upsets and millions were forced to shred their brackets. European soccer saw some magnificent matches and events. Chelsea’s 6-0 demolition against Arsenal, Barcelona’s 4-3 win and Messi’s historic hat-trick against Real Madrid in the El Clasico produced in March. Apart from the leagues, Champions League continued and the round of 16 came to an end. Thus, only eight teams remained on the quest to be Europe’s best. Let’s take a look at the match-ups.

**Barcelona vs. Atletico Madrid**

This draw is extremely hard to determine which way it will go. Despite a minor setback in February, Atletico Madrid have been absolutely phenomenal this year. The fact that they sit in first place in the La Liga this late in the season is evidence enough for the feat that they have accomplished this far in the year. They beat Milan in the previous round of the Champions League 5-1 on aggregate. They are in winning form to say the least and they are playing great soccer.

Barcelona managed to beat Manchester City in a difficult draw in the previous round and are currently in second place in the league. They recently beat Real Madrid 4-3 at the Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid thanks to Messi’s historic hat-trick in a memorable El Clasico. However, criticism of their head coach, Gerardo “Tata” Martino has failed to die down. The critics are right to a certain extent as Barcelona has had a slight fall from their old form and have not been performing at the standard we’ve come to expect of them consistently. This does not mean that Barcelona are still not a force to be reckoned with.

Thus, the phenomenal Atlético Madrid will be facing the powerful Barcelona in what is to be a Spanish derby. These teams have faced each other three times so far this season: twice in the Spanish Supercup and once in the league. Each match so far has produced a draw as these teams seem equally matched. In their most recent match in the league, Atletico Madrid seemed to be the better side as they managed to pressure Barcelona and stop them from scoring. They came close to scoring, but failed to convert their chances. If they can repeat a similar performance, Barcelona’s come to expect of them consistently. This does not mean that Barcelona are still not a force to be reckoned with.

**Soccer, Page 15**

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

**Tuesday, April 1**

- Men’s Tennis vs. Gustavus Adolphus
- Women’s Lacrosse vs. Framingham State University

**Wednesday, April 2**

- Men’s Tennis vs. Wheaton College

MIT sweeps Clark with solid pitching

**NEWMAC: MIT baseball records 8-1 and 2-0 wins in doubleheader**

**NEWMAC: MIT baseball records 8-1 and 2-0 wins in doubleheader**

**By Phil Hess**

Solid starting pitching from Nicholas J. Locascio ’16 and David A. Heske ’17 led MIT to a sweep of the Engineers in the NEWMAC, winning 8-1 and 2-0. The Engineers took game one 8-1 before completing the sweep with a 2-0 victory that improved the Engineers to 7-3 overall and 4-0 in the NEWMAC. Clark fell to 4-13 and 1-4 with the losses.

Heske was outstanding in his outing of the day for MIT, throwing a complete-game, one-hit shutout in just the third start of his collegiate career. He allowed just a two-out single in the first inning to Daniel Lima, retuning 15 straight after the hit before issuing a walk to Brett O’Keefe leading off the sixth. He struck out five while allowing four walks as he improved to 2-0. Miles Sheehan also threw a complete game for Clark, giving up just the two runs on eight hits while striking out 11 in the pitchers duel.

MIT scored the only run it would need in the third when Jonathan E. Sheehan tripled off the bat of Kyle J. Parent ’15. The Engineers tacked one more on in the eighth on an RBI single by Sean P. Karson ’14 followed a double by Rea before putting the contest out of reach with four more in the ninth, highlighted by a bases loaded triple off the bat of Kyle J. Parent ’15.

MIT is scheduled to play another NEWMAC game today. The Engineers will travel to Springfield College for a 3:30 p.m. contest. The Engineers and Pride will compete in an inning just twice, while striking out seven on hits while striking out seven without issuing a walk. Locascio allowed multiple hits in an inning just twice, while striking out seven on hits while striking out seven without issuing a walk. Locascio allowed multiple hits in an inning just twice, while striking