

The California Tech

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TECH@CALTECH.EDU

NEW “RESNICK SUSTAINABILITY RESOURCE CENTER” TAKING SHAPE; MEAD LABORATORY TO BE DEMOLISHED

SNIGDHA SAHA | CAMPUS

In September 2019, Stewart and Lynda Resnick pledged \$750 million to Caltech to further environmental sustainability research. This donation enabled plans for a new 75,000-square-foot building on campus, dubbed the Resnick Sustainability Resource Center. On October 27th, a report to the Pasadena Design commission brought to light further details regarding its construction.

According to the report, the building will be on the east side of S. Wilson Avenue, between Del Mar Boulevard and San Pasqual Street, overlapping with the current Mead Laboratory, which will be demolished to accommodate the new building. The new building is slated to be 3 stories tall, with a basement.

The Resnicks own The Wonderful Company, which markets Fiji Water and POM Wonderful in addition to pistachios, tangerines, wine, and the mail-order flowers service Teleflora. The Resnicks are also known for their philanthropic ventures, and have been contributors to Caltech since their 2009 donation of \$20 million which helped start the Resnick Sustainability Institute (RSI).

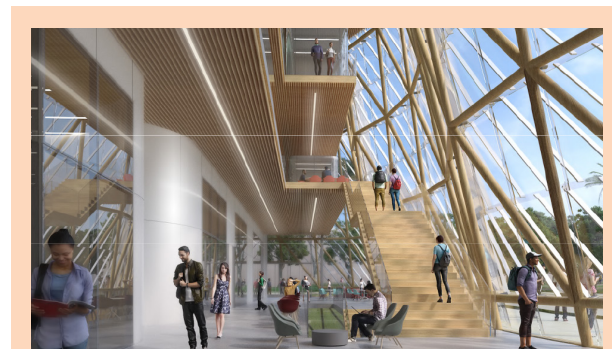
While the design is in progress, there is a focus on maintaining unity with the surrounding buildings and aligning with Caltech’s mission of “building into the future using the wisdom of the past”.

The building itself is meant to address the four goals of Caltech’s environmental research: sunlight, climate, water, and ecology. The building will be unique, in that it will not be affiliated with a particular academic division. Staff will meet and work in a unified manner through shared labs. Since no one division oversees the building, it will fall under Provost and Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering David A. Tirrell.

Professor Tirrell says that Caltech has “never designed a building with this concept in mind”. There are also plans for a “translational science facility”, to provide “translation from the academic community into the outer world” by hosting live demonstrations open to the public.

The building will also have new teaching laboratories, and Ch 3 ax, the institute’s introductory Chemistry lab will be held there as well. Until construction is complete, Caltech’s faculty is looking at building temporary laboratories to accommodate the classes currently held in Mead. With the new building and its modern facilities, Professor Tirrell hopes that the RSI will serve as an “inspiration to our own students” and that every student will be involved with sustainability from their first day on campus.

Currently, Caltech researchers in the RSI are looking at several issues in the four spheres of en-



A proposed design for the interior of the Resnick Center

vironment and sustainability (as mentioned above), but there is a large focus on the “sunlight to everything” problem; researchers are looking for ways to use sunlight to replace fossil fuels and also to act as a “source of new chemicals”, as Professor Tirrell says.

The RSI is also deeply integrated with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and its earth science program, with research interests in satellites monitoring environmental changes, monitoring how aquifers change, how irrigation methods can be made more efficient, and so on. The Resnick Sustainability Resource Center is intended to amplify these efforts from Caltech and JPL, benefitting both institutions and the world as a whole.

HOUSES ADAPT ROTATION TO ONLINE FORMAT

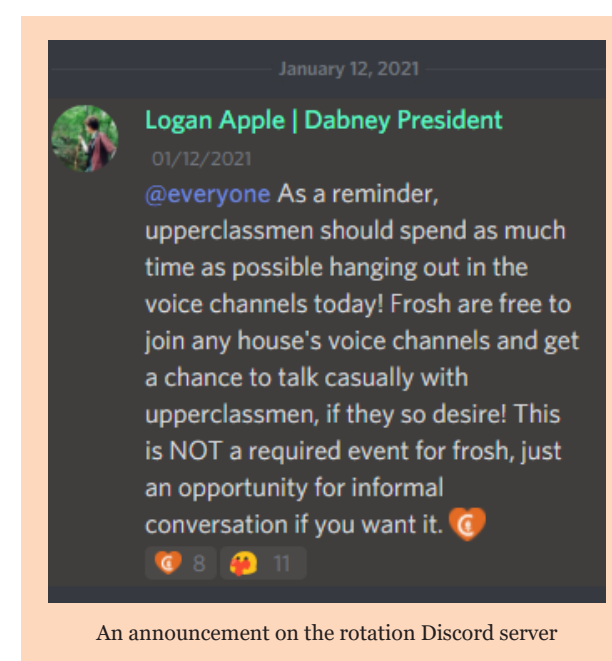
RAHUL CHAWLANI, ANKITA NANDI, ADITEE PRABHUTENDOLKAR | CURRENT EVENTS

As Caltech’s students continue remote learning in the midst of the pandemic, rotation, the most pivotal event for first-year students, was converted to an online format. This year, rotation consisted of video receptions on Discord, as opposed to the usual in-person dinners with each house, as well as house-specific events on the online socialization platform gather.town.

Rotation was planned from very early on in the pandemic. As Kriti Devasenapathy (CS ‘21, Ricketts, Ruddock), IHC Chair, explained, “Our initial hopes were to be able to run some limited version of rotation with social distancing in the fall. By July, it became clear that very few students were being

invited back for classes, so we abandoned that model entirely and had to decide whether we wanted to wait until winter term (in case things improved) or have virtual rotation fall term. When it became clear that no one was coming back to campus, we had to choose between planning virtual rotation in 1 month or waiting for winter to see what the situation was. The pro of waiting was that we could have in-person rotation. The cons were that houses would have no new frosh and that frosh would be at Caltech for a full term without the support of the house which provides a lot of the academic services and social support.”

| CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 |



An announcement on the rotation Discord server

LOOKING INTO THE ONLINE VOID

RAHA RIAZATI | CURRENT EVENTS

Sometime in the midst of March, amid warming weather and meticulously planned spring breaks, a death toll sounded for in-person education. Across the country, K-12 and college students were sent home for what was initially intended to be a temporary period, but which has now stretched into 9 months of isolation. The current Caltech student body is no exception. The freshman class, already stripped of the chance to experience traditional high school events like prom and graduation, has now also found a variety of other hallmark frosh experiences indefinitely put on hold or altogether cancelled. Meanwhile, upperclassmen have been forced to shoulder the immense Caltech workload remotely for almost three terms. Removed from the social support network campus provides, many students have found themselves struggling to stay afloat, both academically and mentally.

The negative effects of long periods of quarantining on mental well-being has a very real basis. According to Dr. Betty Pfefferbaum and Dr. Carol S. North of the New England Journal of Medicine, extended home-confinement directives have been linked to greater stress, depression, insomnia, and substance abuse. These in turn may lead

to the development of more serious anxiety disorders, eating disorders, and clinical depression. Fears about the virus, combined with concerns about economic security, uncertainty over future prospects, and the general sense of boredom and loneliness that comes with staying at home, readily catalyze mental health decline.

Additionally, as Caltech’s own Dr. Lee H. Coleman, Clinical Director of Counseling Services, describes, “Everyone needs relationships, and so much of our growth and learning takes place best within the context of close, supportive relationships”, many of which are now withering away due to stay-at-home orders. Physically separated from the friends who we so often lean on for support, we are forced to interact with them remotely via social media, video chatting, or other forms of online communication. Yet many students report finding Zoom calls and FaceTimes much more draining than face-to-face conversation, most likely because of the increased difficulty in reading social cues. The feeling of being physically close to another person during a meal or social event seems impossible to replicate virtually.

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ASCIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 24, 2020.
TAKEN BY KATHERINE CHANG.

Officers Present: Yuying Lin, Kriti Devansanapathy, Megan Wang, Eileen Zhang, Ayooluwa Odemuyiwa, Katherine Chang

Call to Order: 7:05 pm

President's Report (Yuying):

Staff appreciation award logistics
Marsh funding

Officer's Reports:

V.P. of Academic Affairs (Megan):
SURF deadline update

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (Kriti):

Frosh have houses
Algorithm logistics
Working on getting 3rd term house dues

Director of Operations (absent):

Nothing to report

Treasurer (Eileen):

Funding for pairs of houses to run events
January 2021 expenditures summary
Budget posted to Donut

Social Manager (Ayooluwa):

Social events logistics
Frosh committee send survey for frosh events
Secret Snowman funds reconciled

Secretary (Katherine):

Nothing to report

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of the minutes please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:19 pm

REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 29, 2020.

Agenda

- BoD resolution (below)
- CRC Chair election

BoD resolution

On 22 November, 2020, the BoD passed Resolution XIII creating the Frosh Committee to help the matriculating class adjust to Caltech during online instruction. The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION XIII – FROSH COMMITTEE

In light of Covid-19, to help the matriculating class adjust to Caltech during online instruction,

SECTION 1. The ASCIT board of directors shall appoint 2 frosh members and 1 upperclassman member to a new Frosh Committee during the fall term of the frosh's matriculation year.

SECTION 2. The committee shall gather feedback regularly from the frosh class about ways to improve online learning and frosh involvement with ASCIT events. The committee shall report to the Director of Operations at least biweekly.

SECTION 3. The committee shall work with the Social Director to plan events dedicated to supporting the frosh.

Call to order: 1:30 PST

Present: Chair Maggie Sui, Ruddock Representative Tarini Singh, Dabney Representative Danny Wendt, Avery Representative Antonio Caceres, Blacker Representative Alex Hong, Lloyd Representative Emily Du

The BoD resolution is passed by a vote of 5 - 0 - 0

Meeting Adjourned 1:45 PST

ARC MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 16, 2021
TAKEN BY MOHINI MISRA.

SFL updates/action items - in the process of emailing

SURF deadline updates

Institutional Review Board Rep

SFC

ARC Tip of the Week

Action items:

Figure out what exactly IRB is and time commitment

Start getting committees together for SFC

James and Maggie interested in Sci Writing

Math1B concerns - prac is like anal, topics covered not listed

Editor's Note: As it has been a while since we've last published, these minutes have been piling up. The ones you see here are just the most recent ones. Since we're still obligated to publish them according to the bylaws, multiple pages later in this issue are dedicated just to meeting minutes.

Write for
the *Tech!*

So that we can keep this
from happening again!

IHC MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 9, 2020

Call to Order: 6:33 PDT

In Attendance: Kriti D. (Chair), Adam A. (Secretary), Nerys H. (Pa), Irene C. (Bl), Michelle H. (Ll), Logan A. (Da), Paulina R. (Ru), Alex G. (Ri), LC C. (Av)

Call to Order: 6:19 PDT

Look over Rotation Rules, will be sending out to Felicia soon

Drugs/Alcohol line?

- Leave it in

Gifts/Taking Offcampus Rule

- Kriti: Take out the i.e.?
- Paulina: Should replace with a new example
- Kriti: "Inviting prefrosh to events not accessible to all prefrosh"
- Irene: Worried this might be too restrictive, lots of side events/activities happen during rotation
- Logan&Kriti: We should just make sure that no events happen that have an 'invite list'
- Prerotation rules -> "everyone must be invited"
- Kriti: Gifts are going to be coming from people not houses
- Irene: Kind of already an ambiguous rule, since different amount of attention is placed on different prefrosh during rotation.
- Kriti: Yeah situations arose that weren't violations but were still kind of contentious. So should we clarify no house chats or anything?
- Irene: Yeah monetary gifts over \$5 sounds good
- Adam: Anything behind a "full/social" wall should probably be off limits to prefrosh

Event registration

Outline for event registration (which will be done through spa.caltech.edu) should be in by November 20th

Kriti: This deadline is mostly to get things started, vs. video deadline which is pretty strict

Outline of rotation plan to be presented to VPSA tomorrow

Similar to what was drafted before, but contains info from ORE + Housing

House leadership training

Info session so that everyone is aware of the risk of "having rotation in everyone's living rooms"

Will also want to figure out what content we will be including in the kickoff panel.

Will also have an RA/RLC training

- Kriti: We should make some kind of demo for discord/gather.town and have the RAs test run it.
- Logan: We might be able to post existing tutorials as opposed to making our own
- Kriti: Might be nice to have rotation specific (i.e. how to switch tables)

Re: Event Registration

December 4th is probably the final, if things aren't 100% by November 20th

New Video Rubric

Can include anything except explosions, fireworks, open flames, and substances, as long as they were filmed off campus.

They will be hard on loopholes. Don't try to cheat the rubric (ex. Glass with apple juice)

Communications Timeline

Memo to the institute going out tomorrow about rotation

- Dates, expectations from faculty
- By end of the day tomorrow, Felicia will have a response from Gilmartin on what dates will be happening
- November 20th, rotation announced. Rotation survey going out

Will be having first year information session to see if they would want to opt in/out of rotation.

- Will be discussing things not clear from FAQs
- Will probably include all of us + rotation WG

Rotation survey (to opt out) will close, but people will have the option of changing their minds up until beginning

ORE website will have rotation info + FAQ

Parents can check ORE website

Event platform

Gather.town -> \$1 per person per hour

No response on chngs to matching process/getting access

Will likely not get third bucket in before rotation. Can try again after rotation

Housing Timeline

Incoming freshmen will not have house priority next year. House lists and allocations will be normal.

International Students

Regulations don't apply to incoming international students, might want to explore ways the institute can support these students (since they weren't previously enrolled and can't come to US)

Gather.town

Everyone uses gather.town to start their big events,

vs. using things like discord instead

Houses want to stream things, not necessarily run events on gather.town

Gather.town is convenient if everyone is on it, and you can split up into smaller groups and talk to each other/link to videos or other events.

Might be able to save a lot of money and just use it on discord?

Gather for dinner/reception? very expensive

Gather facilitates not just house interactions but also prefrosh/prefrosh

Prefrosh FAQ

Can I rotate into two house?

What if I don't like any of the houses?

What happens next year if I opt out of rotation? Can I still rotate into a house?

If I don't like the house I rotate into am I stuck there?

Do I have to attend all the events for rotation?

What happens if I miss an event for rotation?

What if I see something concerning or feel uncomfortable during rotation?

Can I opt out of rotation after I've already started?

Will I be able to rotate in the fall?

How does being affiliated with a house affect my housing next year?

Can I have more than one house affiliation?

What's the difference between a social and a full?

Will my professors know that I am rotating?

What happens if I miss a dinner? Do I have to go to a makeup dinner if I do miss one?

If I've gone to all the dinners can I still go to a makeup dinner?

Rotation rule clarifications

Can I talk to other freshmen about what I think about the houses?

Can I ask upperclassmen what their rankings were?

Include section on Bechtel

Can I still be affiliated with a house if I want to live in Bechtel?

How do house dues and financial aid work?

Adjourned: 7:05 PDT

Signed,
Adam Abbas

ASK TERESA

Email Teresa at:
 teresam@caltech.edu
 626-395-4770

TREAT YOURSELF EVENTS FOR 2021

Happy
 NEW
 YEAR

ATTENTION: CALTECH!

ARE YOU READY TO TREAT YOURSELF?

Join Teresa, Caltech's Campus Sexual
 Violence Advocate, for some nights of
 self-care.

01/23@11am PT- Coffee Break

02/12@4pm PT-Good Vibes guided meditation

03/04, 03/11 & 03/18@12pm PT- Podcast Brunch Club

04/11@6pm PT- Bob Ross Self-Care Paint Night

05/28@6pm PT-Game Night/Summer Playlist

06/11@6pm PT-"Finals are over!" Netflix Party

RSVP at <http://bit.ly/RSVPTREATURSELF>

VICE PROVOST OFFICE HOURS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cindy Weinstein, Vice Provost, Chief Diversity Officer, and Eli and Edythe Broad Professor of English, holds regular office hours as an opportunity for undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral scholars to meet and discuss topics pertaining to the Council on Undergraduate Education; Caltech accreditation; the Staff and Faculty Consultation Center; Student-Faculty Programs; the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Outreach; and the Caltech Diversity Center.

There are four 15-minute appointments available per office hour. Please sign up by email to aliciac@caltech.edu and a zoom meeting or telephone call will be scheduled.

Vice Provost Office Hours:

Every Tuesday from
 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

http://provost.caltech.edu/vp_weinstein/office_hours



Vice Provost Cindy Weinstein

PRESIDENTIAL SELF-PARDONS

ADITEE PRABHUTENDOLKAR | POLITICS

Following the attack on the Capitol by former President Trump's most ardent supporters on January 6, 2021, it came as no surprise that he desired to pardon himself and avoid all legal consequences of his actions. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Google, and many other online platforms blocked either him or pages and apps dedicated to him, and his official impeachment took place about a week afterwards.

The ability to pardon comes from Article 2, Section 2 of the Constitution, which grants the President "Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offenses against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment." The founders intended it as a way for the President to help those who may unfairly fall victim to the harsh justice system--a merciful resort to the unfairly convicted and an essential check on the judicial branch. Of course, such a pardon could also easily be regarded as an abuse of power.

In the past 4 years, Trump used the power of pardon almost exclusively for personal gain. As scandals resurfaced in the past (Russian interference in the election, tax evasion, etc.), he repeatedly pardoned his political supporters. This is obviously a widespread abuse of power, but it's still constitutional. Before the end of his presidency, there was one thing Trump had yet to do--pardon himself.

In 2018, he stated in an infamous tweet, that he has the "absolute right" to pardon himself, but that he wouldn't because he had "done nothing wrong." Regardless of what he believes, based on various sources and legal scholars, it's unclear whether he's actually allowed to pardon himself.

The only precedent was when former President Nixon wanted to pardon himself after Watergate. At the time, the justice department issued a memo saying that a presidential self-pardon would violate the "fundamental rule that no one may be a judge in his own case." Nixon, of course, didn't need to pardon himself because his former Vice President Ford pardoned him shortly after being sworn in to the presidential office (which is regarded as one of Ford's most controversial moves). Given current circumstances, it's safe to predict that President Biden is not going to pardon Trump.

If we were to go by a loose interpretation of the Constitution, a self-pardon should be fine because it's not stated anywhere that it can't be done. By a strict interpretation, it can't be done because it's not explicitly stated anywhere as allowed. But whether or not a self-pardon is legal is frankly irrelevant because of the dangerous ramifications of such an action. Pardons are granted to forgive the unfortunate from the unyielding law, not to help the privileged escape their sentences.

If Trump had been allowed to clear himself of all repercussions for inciting a deadly violent attack on the nation's Capitol building, it would imply that the law simply doesn't apply to presidents (and other government officials). And the very purpose of the Constitution is that no person is above the written law, following the idea enshrined in Magna Carta.

Presidents, as the head of the executive branch of the federal government, are meant to enforce the law. Naturally, they are expected not to break the law themselves, but they are in no way immune to it. If he were allowed to pardon himself, what would



Image is public domain

stop future presidents from doing the same? They would commit crimes to get into and keep themselves in office and then pardon themselves from being held accountable. It would incentivize them to rig elections and completely destroy the integrity of the American voting system, making our representative democracy a sham.

President Biden was sworn in on January 20, and Trump left office by pardoning Republican allies and business owners who were accused of tax fraud. Although he was found guilty and impeached by the house, he ended up not pardoning himself because it would have, at the very least, led to further scrutiny under state laws. A self-pardon would have been equivalent to a guilty plea.

We have yet to see whether more legal action will follow Trump, but for now it seems that the Biden administration has many more pressing issues to deal with: the pandemic, climate change, immigration, abortion, etc. This transfer of executive power leaves us with hope that this chapter of American history is finally over.

VIRTUAL CLASSES PUT STRAIN ON STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH

| CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 |

Quarantine also means many of the traditional sources of entertainment are no longer available. Movie theaters, restaurants, shopping malls, and theme parks, all havens for socializing and spending time with others, have been either closed or are under extensive restrictions. Thus, students looking for an escape often turn to social media sites like Instagram, Tik Tok, and Twitter or streaming services like Netflix, Hulu, and Disney Plus. Though some seem to have discovered new hobbies over quarantine, such as baking, drawing, or knitting, the most common answer to “What did you do over the weekend?” remains “I just watched Netflix”. The negative mental health effects of social media have been studied extensively, and much of these findings can be applied to bingeing content in the isolation of one’s room as well. Spending extensive amounts of time cooped up in a room by oneself readily foments the frustration and boredom characteristic of poor mental health.

Perhaps the most marked change in general mental well-being has been in the academic realm: students find themselves unmotivated, unfocused, and lacking work ethic. One student reported feeling constantly “drained” while another said their “work ethic and mental health declined significantly”. Some upperclassmen explained how their drop in motivation and thus performance during spring term was so large that they decided to take a leave of absence. They are not alone: many pre-frosh chose to defer their enrollment for fear of a less-than-ideal experience in their first year of college. One student perfectly summarized the rapid reduction in self-discipline and focus: “Being at Caltech physically...helps me be there mentally as well”. The change in environment that comes with attending physical classes is a vital element of finding focus; barriers between work and play blur at home, leading to idleness and a general lack of productivity. This, compounded with the seeming endlessness of the pandemic, may cause students to slip into the familiar, nihilistic mindset of “nothing matters so why should I try anyway”. As Dr. Grace

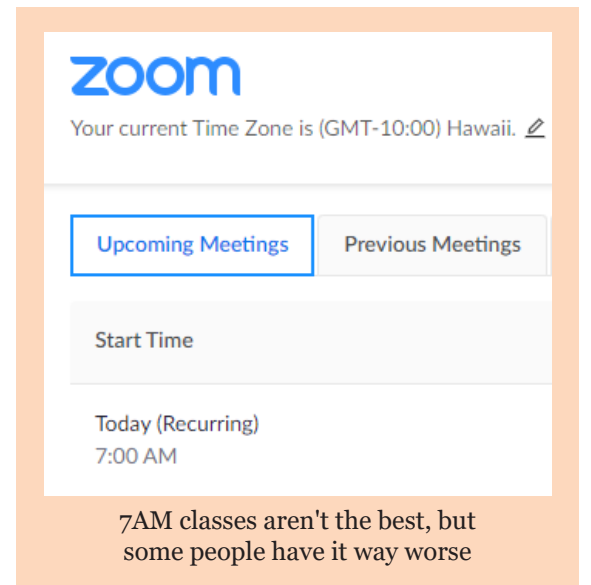
Though some seem to have discovered new hobbies over quarantine, such as baking, drawing, or knitting, the most common answer to “What did you do over the weekend?” remains “I just watched Netflix”.

Ho, Caltech’s occupational therapist, explains, being separated from the heavy academic atmosphere of campus may “make [students] lose sight of why what [they] do is important to [them]. There’s a huge lack of positive reinforcement - even the little things like hearing people talk about science over lunch” no longer exist, leaving minds stagnant and unmotivated.

Such hopelessness isn’t helped by the increased difficulty of the already challenging Caltech curriculum in a remote setting. One student reports that in-person education offers an “easier access to professors, teacher assistants, and upperclassmen for homework help” than online classes can ever provide. For a tight-knit community like Caltech, help from upperclassmen is especially vital in completing sets and understanding hard material. International students in particular have been disadvantaged with the switch to remote learning. Often unable to attend lectures and recitations without making radical changes to their sleep schedule, they must rely on busy classmates or notes and recordings to stay up to date with course material. Making the intense Caltech workload somehow more difficult is a Herculean task, but the COVID-19 pandemic has managed to do just that in a matter of months.

Normally, ends of articles like this one would end with a hopeful look towards the future, but unfortunately, much about the future remains up in the air. It is unclear when students will be allowed to return to campus or how the distribution of the new vaccine will pan out. The Institute plans to announce plans for Spring Term on February 15th. Yet, we can take heart in the fact that we are slowly learning how to better weather quarantine. Professors and teaching assistants are innovating new ways each term to connect with students virtually, while students are taking initiative in setting up Discord chats to find collaboration partners.

Often unable to attend lectures and recitations without making radical changes to their sleep schedule, [international students] must rely on busy classmates or notes and recordings to stay up to date with course material.



Perhaps most strikingly, the Interhouse Committee and Office of Residential Experience worked hard to adapt Rotation, an iconic Caltech experience, to the current situation; a variety of online programming brought freshmen and upperclassmen together to provide some much-needed social interaction and community. The launch of such an ambitious project in a virtual environment is definitely a positive sign for Caltech’s attempts to replicate aspects of the in-person experience in a virtual setting.

In the meantime, however, there are a wealth of support resources to take advantage of. Caltech’s Counseling and Occupational Therapy Services are continuing to offer workshops every week on topics ranging from tackling procrastination to managing stress, and students can speak with any of the counselors or occupational therapists on staff by calling (626) 395-8331. Dr. Coleman urges the student body to remember that the end of the pandemic draws closer every day and that they can reach out to support services whenever they need to for any reason.

TIANQIAO AND CHRISSY CHEN NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH BUILDING OPENS JANUARY 29

ADITEE PRABHUTENDOLKAR | CAMPUS

Caltech’s new Tianqiao and Chrissy Chen Neuroscience Research building officially opened last Friday, January 29th. The building hosts the majority of the Chen Institute of Neuroscience as well as faculty in other disciplines, including system biology, genomics, and developmental biology.

The facility was built with the intention of concentrating neuroscience research in one location on campus. Before the building’s construction, neuroscience research was primarily conducted in the Beckmann Behavioral Building, where many neuroscience professors will still have their labs. There were also neuroscience labs in the Kirchoff Building, Moore Building, and Broad Institute.

One of the most important features of the building is how its unique architecture promotes collaboration across labs. There is a central open area between the second and third floors, making it possible to view other labs and offices. David Anderson, Professor of Biology and Director of the Chen Institute, describes the space as “big” and “open,” which “makes interactions between labs much easier than most of the older buildings on campus” and promotes “imaginative research.” This theme of openness extends to the teaching and conference halls, where glass walls will provide ample sunlight.

The building also boasts a new neurotechnology center, run by Daniel Wagenaar, Professor of Biology and Biological Engineering. This center will help grad students and postdocs set up complica-

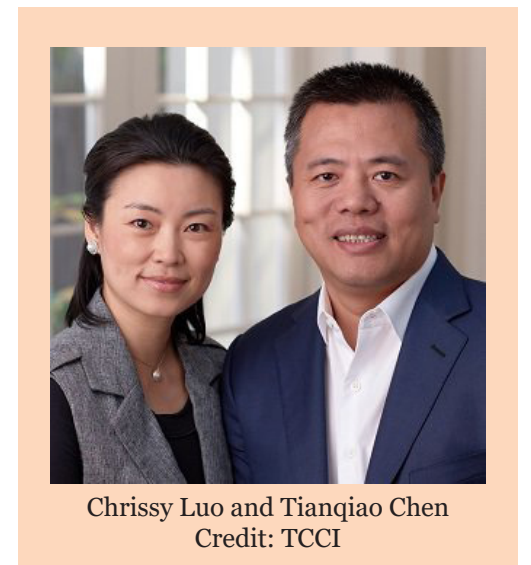
ed experiments that require system engineering, measurement of behavior, observing stimuli, and creating new software.

Another improvement the new facility will bring to neuroscience research is the optimized organization of behavior rooms, where mice are stored for behavior experiments. To maintain the health of the mice, and the cleanliness of the labs and behavior rooms, Caltech has a policy that a mouse can’t be kept in a lab for longer than 24 hours without putting it back in its behavior room storage. Once a mouse has been in a lab for more than 24 hours, it can’t go back to the same behavior room.

This creates a problem because many experiments go on for days with the same animal being tested, so these experiments have to be done in the behavior rooms in the basement. If someone performing an experiment requires input from another lab member, they have to repeatedly go down to the basement.

In the new building, this issue is solved because the behavior rooms are adjacent to the labs that require them most, and easy elevator access from the other labs. With this efficient layout, it’s easier to conduct experiments within a lab and receive feedback from colleagues.

All of the institute’s ongoing research in neurobiology will continue with the new building. Viviana Gradinaru, Professor of Neuroscience and Biological Engineering, is developing neuro-



technology to treat brain disorders; Ralph Adolphs, Professor of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Biology, is investigating social cognition and emotion in humans; Paul Sternberg, Professor of Biology, is studying behavior control in nematode worms; Professor Anderson is looking at fear and aggression in mice and fruit flies.

There is also a collaboration between Professor Anderson and Pietro Parona, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computation and Neural Systems, to quantify behaviors objectively and correlate them to brain activity. The goal is to develop a transgenic jellyfish species (ideal because jellyfish are small and transparent) which can let us visualize neurons blinking on and off through fluorescent markers.

FOOD REVIEW: RED DOOR WAFFLE BAR

ALEX HONG | CAMPUS

In the beginning there was nothing. Then Red Door said, “let there be waffles”.

At its start, many people viewed quarantine as a chance for introspection and self-improvement. While those goals may have fallen away as our isolation drags on, one entity in particular has continued to improve and expand its horizons.

Over the past few months, Red Door has been introducing various new menu items, as well as improving upon old ones. There are some new ice cream options (milk shakes, pie shakes, affogato), as well as a couple of new sandwiches (brisket!).

The much-beloved waffle chicken sandwich has been 32%-resurrected in the form of a new waffle bar, with toppings options like Nutella, caramel sauce, fresh berries, and more. While the crispness of the waffle leaves something to be desired, the composition, presentation, and quality of fruit is particularly impressive.

Nothing about the waffle bar is a mistake, except for the decision to put Nutella in a squeeze bottle.

Chocolate/10 would recommend.



DISCORD, GATHER.TOWN AUGMENT ONLINE ROTATION

| CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 |

The impacts of postponing rotation were mitigated by the greater role Frosh Camp Counselors (upperclassmen assigned to mentor a small group of incoming students) played in providing support for freshmen in the first term. IHC Secretary Adam Abbas (MS '21, Blacker) explained that a lot of student input was necessary to make a decision about rotation and plan it accordingly: “We held town halls with students and sent out surveys to see what people's preferences were. We spent pretty much all of first term actually planning rotation (scheduling, events, working with ORE etc.), and I found that the main challenge was balancing a full rotation experience with burnout. We would've loved to have 2 straight weeks of just rotation, but combined with Zoom fatigue and classes, that wouldn't have been a good idea. So we settled on a week and a half of rotation, with dinners spaced out, and two days of big events (vs. having each house do a big event on a separate day).”

The Discord discussions provided a way for freshmen to meet members of each house and learn about each house's unique culture and traditions. To recreate the traditional dinner setting as much as possible, each house had a dining-hall channel for everyone to start the reception. There were also multiple table channels with different upperclassmen that freshmen could rotate between; having conversations in small groups with different people provided a more holistic view of each house's members.

The gather.town events, hosted the weekend of rotation, were a highlight for pre-frosh and upperclassmen alike. Students created avatars of themselves and walked around a digitized Caltech campus, going to house events and talking to upperclassmen. Hope Arnett ('24, Lloyd), likened it to Pokemon, saying, “It was fun to walk around and talk to people.” Sasha Tolstoff ('24, Blacker) agreed, “Because it allowed us to feel more like we were actually walking around campus and getting to know the scenery inside and outside the houses.” Tolstoff was also impressed with the level of detail involved with the digitized campus and individual houses.

One of the key components of gather.town was how each house was able to host a rotation event at staggered times so that pre-frosh could experience the culture of each house as much as possible. Page held Kahoot trivia games, Lloyd had Capture the Flag, Dabney had puzzles and trivia, and Blacker had a live Twitch stream. Ricketts hosted their traditional Open Mic Night near the end of gather.town on Saturday. Kimia Hassibi ('24, Lloyd) said,

“I liked how the types of performances were varied, and each one revealed a side to the performer that you wouldn't usually see in Zoom calls, Discord, etc. I learned that Caltech has talented musicians, dancers, and even haircutters.”

Although gather.town was interactive and engaging, it was still prone to the awkwardness that accompanies virtual meetings. Emily Zhang ('24, Lloyd) said, “I stayed at Lloyd for a while, sitting at the table with a bunch of upperclassmen after they stopped playing capture the flag and then the other frosh slowly just left and I was the only frosh left there. It was nice but it was awkward.”

This sentiment carried over to the Discord receptions, where both upperclassmen and frosh were affected by zoom fatigue and the overall sense of a house was harder to come by. As Abbas said, “I think one of the best and most important aspects of rotation is being able to walk into a courtyard and just walk up to people and talk/do something fun. Losing that was really hard, because so much of the houses' cultures are spontaneous and not “pre-planned” events. Getting to know frosh was also harder, since we only got to see/talk to some for an hour and even then it was mostly answering questions about the house vs. just hanging out.” Dabney President Logan Apple (CS '21) had similar thoughts regarding the connection between upperclassmen and frosh, as “the barrier to conversation is so much higher in a virtual environment because there's a natural disconnect between you and the person on the other end simply because of a screen.”

But despite all the Zoom fatigue and awkward social interactions, there were some benefits to having rotation virtual rather than in-person. Blacker President Irene Crowell (CS '21) said that an online setting “made it a little easier to keep track of everything. Sometimes there are nametag issues or you forget someone's name in person, but it's easier to remember if it's right in front of you on Discord. It also meant we could share information and answer some of the standard questions once in a text channel, and then let frosh reference them at their own leisure.”

Rotation was certainly a fulfilling experience for many students, providing different classes the chance to officially meet each other for the first time. Tolstoff said, “I spent upwards of 11 hours in a call with some of my friends and moles in the Blacker dining hall and we had a blast!” And as Apple put it, “I hope the people who haven't found their voice or footing in this virtual world will soon engage more and become better integrated with their house culture!”

The California Tech

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Devin Hartzell

PAGE EDITOR

Kenny Thai

COPY EDITORS

Alejandro López | Alex Hong
Devin Hartzell

STAFF WRITERS

Raha Riazati | Snigdha Saha
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COLUMNISTS

Norman Chung | Kenny Thai

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Richard Kipling

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THE ESSENTIALS OF ACADEMESE

NORMAN CHUNG | HUMOR

With the arrival of winter term, SURF and internship season is now in full swing! If you've applied before, you know what that means: lots of emails and resumes to be sent in the hopes of not getting ghosted, lots of proposal and application writing, lots of Zoom interviews, and overall, lots of professional communication. Of course, there's the problem of actually having to communicate professionally. How does one ascend from the abysmal depths of normie communication to the lavish language echelons fit for the desk of a potential employer? Worry not, prospective researcher/intern! Today, I'm going to teach you the basics of academese so that you too can bring your communication skills to the next level.

The Basic Principle

When it comes down to it, academese is all about one thing: making yourself seem smarter than you actually are. It turns out that one of the best ways to do this is to write things that your readers don't actually understand. The idea is to get them thinking that you have an incredible understanding of something which they don't. That way, you can make it seem like working with you means working with someone super knowledgeable, which will make your acceptance almost guaranteed! With that in mind, let's get into some academese tips.

Convolute, Convolute, and Convolute Some More

Let's start with the following sentence: "I've worked with these chemicals in a lab." Now, that's great and all for a sentence describing your experience with chemicals, but it could be so much better! Speakers of academese should strive to make their sentences sound as complicated as possible to ensure that comprehension is kept at a bare minimum. Instead of just working with these chemicals in a lab, you could say this: "Following the consumption of various polysaccharides and dihydrogen monoxide, I was primed to tackle the arduous task of combining hydrochloric acid with sodium hydroxide in the correct proportions in order to create the substance known as saline solution." Look what we've done here: we've gone from a mundane description of your lab skills to a description which allows you to demonstrate your skill at using incredibly niche scientific terminology. Convoluting your sentences helps signal a gargantuan brain to potential employers, helping to get you into the door for a potential interview and to the top of the hiring list.

Thesauruses: Vocabulary Boons

Of course, if you want to aggrandize your expected payoff in every sentence of your communication, you have to make every word count. Ponder the ensuing sentence: "In the past, I've researched ways to make this energy production process more efficient." Ignoring how prickly the lucidity of this sentence is, one could substitute multiple terms in this sentence with locutions of vocabulary much more seldomly used in quotidian happenings. Such a sentence sounds so prosaic in comparison to sentences like "Antecedently, I've scrutinized modi operandi to attain an increasingly systematized energy production operation." After employing a lexicon as urbane as this, if your employer is not of the opinion that you are an applicant with an IQ of at least 300, then they are straightforwardly non compos mentis. I pledge to you, using a thesaurus to enliven your diction will upraise your employment prospects to unparalleled heights.

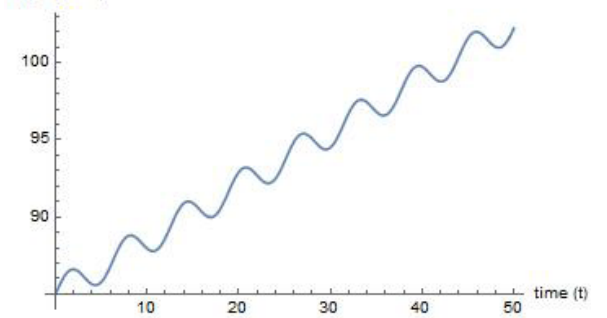
The Prepositional Phrase: Icing on the Cake

One common request employers have is to elaborate on things you have said already. You could do this by including more sentences which include details on your past experience. However, in the context of academese, there's an even better way to do this using prepositional phrases. Much like with the previous pointers, consider the following sentence: "I performed research remotely last summer." There's so many potential questions to be answered here. What did you research? What did you learn? How did you approach your problems? Lots of these questions can be answered in just one sentence using the power of the prepositional phrase chain: "I performed research remotely last summer from the comfort of my living room on how to increase the number of articles written for the Tech during the COVID-19 pandemic and learned that the number of articles written for the Tech decreases as a function of time into the academic term." By increasing the number of prepositional phrases in the sentence from 0 to 9, the information density of my sentence has massively increased! To the many potential employers out there, and especially those information theorists, that can only be a good thing! (Additionally, note the use of compound sentences to fit in even more prepositional chains for even more effectiveness.)

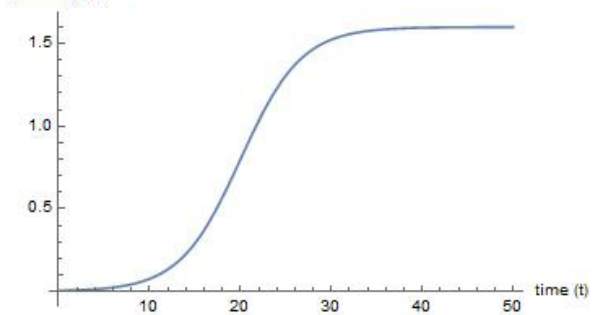
By The Numbers

Of course, we're all here at Caltech, so we all understand that a couple of well-placed statistics can make whatever you're sending off to be read all the more efficacious. Everyone knows that 5 out of 3 employers are 832% more likely to hire applicants who use cold, hard statistics when describing their past experiences. Because of this (and the suggestive data from the graphs below), the use of statistics in your professional communication grants you a 311% increased chance to get you where you want to be at the end of this season. Just think: how many fancy, scientific research papers have you read which don't use statistics? The use of oddly specific numbers is synonymous with sounding intelligent. So, if you're not already using top-notch quantitative evidence to make yourself look good, start doing so!

Perceived IQ by Employers vs. Length of Academese Usage
IQ (IQ points)



Employment Likelihood vs. Prepositional Phrase Density
probability (p)



Totally legitimate plots that capture the effectiveness of academese.

Conclusion

At the end of the day, hunting for SURFs and internships can feel like trying to win the lottery. However, with the tools of academese, there's no doubt that your professional communication skills will net you the SURF or internship you're looking for this summer. Best of luck!

AMAZON SKYMALL

KENNY THAI | COLUMNIST

Welcome back to Amazon Skymall! For those of you that haven't kept up, each time this column is published, we hold a raffle where we [not] randomly select one of our lucky readers and give them the item of their choice from our hand picked selections! Like last time, you can even click/tap on the item images to go to their respective Amazon pages! Oh technology~

Enter this week's raffle by using the QR code (right) or the link below:

<https://forms.gle/6DHNKzp23egKSeT97>

Note that we (still) make no claims that the winner of the raffle is determined randomly



2 Pack - Multiplication Tables & Fractions, Decimals, Percents - Math Poster Set (Laminated, 18" x 24")
★★★★★ ~ 238
\$10⁹⁵
prime Get it as soon as Mon, Feb 8
FREE Shipping on orders over \$25 shipped by Amazon

Ever feel like your math skills just aren't what they used to be ever since you've started using Mathematica for everything? Because I know I've felt that way. And I'm sure we all have that friend that can Fourier transform a function on sight but has to bust out a calculator to multiply 7×9 . I say it's time that we start rebuilding the skills that got us here in the first place! Who's with me?



ASBAYSON Women's Bandeau Padded Lace Up Bikini Swimwear, Tie Knot Front Bath Suit Bikinis Swimsuit for...
★★★★★ ~ 9
Limited time deal
\$12¹⁸
Save 12% with coupon (some sizes/colors)
prime
FREE Shipping on orders over \$25 shipped by Amazon

This is on here for no reason other than that it was the second result of an Amazon search for "goose". Yup. Apparently the search term "Goose Yellow" was more relevant to the search than the actual animal. The search result relevant to the actual animal didn't appear until the fifth result. Great job, Amazon.



It appears that "NO" has begun campaigning early for the upcoming ASCIT elections! While this vote will have no effect on its eligibility to run in the ASCIT election, it won't hurt to scare its opponents with high poll numbers!

more ASCIT minutes are on the next page.

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ASCIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 1, 2020.
TAKEN BY LC CHEN.

Officers Present: Yuying Lin, Kriti Devansenapathy, Megan Wang, Eilleen Zhang, Aditi Venkatesh, Ayooluwa Odemuyiwa, LC Chen

Call to Order: 7:41 pm

President's Report (Yuying):

Secretary appointments logistics
Budget logistics
Officer's Reports:

Officer's Reports:

V.P. of Academic Affairs (Megan):

At-Large ARC reps/secretary announcements out
REGIS tutorial for freshmen logistics

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (Kriti):

Deadlines for plans out

Director of Operations (Aditi):

Club funding logistics updated

Treasurer (Eilleen):

Starting financial trainings

Social Manager (Ayooluwa):

Event logistics with Tom Mannion

Secretary (LC):

Nothing to report.

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of the minutes please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:48pm

ASCIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 8, 2020.
TAKEN BY ADITI VENKATESH.

Officers Present: Yuying Lin, Kriti Devansenapathy, Megan Wang, Aditi Venkatesh, Eilleen Zhang, Ayooluwa Odemuyiwa

Guests: Varun Shanker

Call to Order: 7:30pm

President's Report (Yuying):

Secretary appointments (sign-ups end Monday 5:30pm PST)
Frosh Rep appointments
Faculty appointments
ASCIT Finance Manual meeting

Officer's Reports:

V.P. of Academic Affairs (Megan):

SFC date and Option chairs
Ma1a course concerns
Student-faculty lunch funding
Option advising on discord

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (Kriti):

Nothing to report

Director of Operations (Aditi):

Sent out Club Funding form

Treasurer (Eilleen):

Beginning to reimburse clubs for temporary funding period
Club meetings with BoD soon

Social Manager (Ayooluwa):

Planning virtual event
Started ASCIT instagram
Sent survey to gauge social events for this term
Going over frosh input survey

Guests:

Varun:

New pilot program with Caltech Y to help under-

served students in the Pasadena/LA community logistics

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of the minutes please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30pm

ASCIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 15, 2020.
TAKEN BY KATHERINE CHANG.

Officers Present: Yuying Lin, Kriti Devansenapathy, Megan Wang, Aditi Venkatesh, Eilleen Zhang, Ayooluwa Odemuyiwa, Katherine Chang

Call to Order: 7:32 pm

President's Report (Yuying):

Secretary appointed
Donut mailing list for clubs/announcements logistics

Faculty/administration committee appointment (applications close on 11/20) logistics
Frosh Committee logistics

Officer's Reports:

V.P. of Academic Affairs (Megan):

Discord option advising on 11/14 went well
REGIS tutorial mailed to frosh
Student faculty lunches logistics

Student Faculty Conference (SFP) Option Chairs appointed
Mental health survey logistics

Core writing requirement changes logistics

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (Kriti):

Rotation moving forward for 1st week of winter term
FAQ and website development under way

Director of Operations (Aditi):

Sent out club funding form and conducted club funding interviews
Club funding logistics

Treasurer (Eilleen):

Temporary club funding period complete
Meeting with Bursar on Wednesday
Getting trained on financial system soon
Budget logistics

Social Manager (Ayooluwa):

Budget update
Social events for the rest of term logistics
Fall event logistics

Secretary (Katherine):

Secretary transition

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of the minutes please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:39 pm

ASCIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - VPSA

MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2020.
TAKEN BY KATHERINE CHANG.

Officers Present: Yuying Lin, Megan Wang, Aditi Venkatesh, Eilleen Zhang, Ayooluwa Odemuyiwa, Katherine Chang

Guests: Tom Mannion, Kevin Gilmartin, Varun Shanker, Arushi Gupta

Call to Order: 12:05 pm

President's Report (Yuying):

Secretary appointment
Faculty committee appointments in progress
Frosh committee logistics (application sent out after faculty committee appointments finished)

Officer's Reports:

V.P. of Academic Affairs (Megan):

Option advising last Saturday went well

REGIS tutorial sent to frosh
Student faculty lunches logistics
SFC option chairs appointed

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (absent):

Rotation happening 1st week winter term

Director of Operations (Aditi):

Sent out applications and conducted interviews for club funding
Decided on club funding amounts (updates sent to clubs soon)

Treasurer (Eilleen):

Temporary club funding period completely processed
Budget almost complete
Going to do OBI and pcard training soon

Social Manager (Ayooluwa):

Social events for rest of term logistics
Midnight donuts discuss with Tom
Fall event logistics
Freshman oriented events logistics

Guests:

Varun:

Transition has gone smoothly
Sustainable mentoring program with the Caltech Y and ASCIT logistics

Unresolved bylaws from previous board need resolving

Kevin:

Accreditation logistics

Align ASCIT interests with admin

Met with various groups about how students were responding to uncertainty about on-campus instruction

Admin doing their best, but everything is uncertain

Tom:

Make room during first week rotation for senior class officers and events for ditch day

Lots of senior class interest for Ditch day and other senior events this year

Fosselman's Ice Cream event very successful (over 100 people showed up)

Coordinate events with Ayooluwa

Many people interested in food events

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of the minutes please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:40 pm

ASCIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 22, 2020.
TAKEN BY KATHERINE CHANG.

Officers Present: Yuying Lin, Kriti Devansenapathy, Megan Wang, Aditi Venkatesh, Eilleen Zhang, Ayooluwa Odemuyiwa, Katherine Chang

Guests: Tom Mannion

Call to Order: 7:34 pm

President's Report (Yuying):

MOU updates
Faculty appointments logistics
Two Resolutions amended (Resolution I Section IV, Resolution IV Section 2)
Frosh Committee logistics
Resolution XIII to create Frosh Committee passed

Officer's Reports:

V.P. of Academic Affairs (Megan):

REGIS tutorial feedback
CTLO meeting about Ma1a
Course improvements for next term
SFC committee (mental health, writing core) logistics

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (Kriti):

Rotation logistics and announcements
Planning for house elections
Upcoming/potential stay-at-home orders

Director of Operations (Aditi):

Finished Club funding
Met with DONUT DevTeam to discuss DONUT website improvements

Treasurer (Eileen):

Budget completed
Big T book payment logistics

Social Manager (Ayooluwa):

Bagels and Donuts dates finalized
Christmas exchange logistics
Budget for social events logistics
Big Event funding and logistics
Movie logistics

Secretary (Katherine):

Document updates

Guests:**Tom:**

ASCIT BoD dinner
Clubs discussion with Dean Weyman and ASCIT
Director of Operations

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of the minutes please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:03 pm

ASCIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 29, 2020.

TAKEN BY KATHERINE CHANG.

Officers Present: Yuying Lin, Kriti Devansenapathy, Megan Wang, Aditi Venkatesh, Eilleen Zhang, Ayooluwa Odemuyiwa, Katherine Chang

Guests: Tom Mannion

Call to Order: 7:34 pm

President's Report (Yuying):

MOU updates
Frosh committee resolution passed, form sent out
Faculty appointments (round 2) applications sent out

Officer's Reports:**V.P. of Academic Affairs (Megan):**

Nothing to report.

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (Kriti):

Rotation announcement tomorrow
Rotation video primary approval done

Director of Operations (Aditi):

Nothing to report.

Treasurer (Eileen):

Some finance-related training completed
Carryover logistics

Social Manager (Ayooluwa):

Secret snowman updates and logistics
Donuts updates
Concert logistics

Secretary (Katherine):

Caltech Community Mentoring Program

Guests:**Tom:**

Will look into preferred concert names

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of the minutes please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:11 pm

ASCIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 2, 2020.

TAKEN BY KATHERINE CHANG.

Officers Present: Yuying Lin, Aditi Venkatesh, Eilleen Zhang, Ayooluwa Odemuyiwa, Katherine Chang

Guests: Lesley Nye, Tom Mannion, Kevin Gilmartin

Call to Order: 12:07 pm

President's Report (Yuying):

Faculty appointments Round 2 (application sent out, close on Friday)
Minor resolution amendments (Resolution I Section IV, Resolution IV Section 2)
New resolution (XIII) to create Frosh Committee (application sent out, close on Sunday)
MOU changes

Officer's Reports:**V.P. of Academic Affairs (absent):**

Faculty Board Appointments, Housner Fund, and CDC Liaisons committees reps appointed
Ma1a concerns communicated with Cindy and Cassandra from the CTLO, will email option administrator (Freddy Mora) about suggestions for next term Ma1b

Virtual SFC looking at Apr 9th, special committee topics (Mental Health in an online environment, scientific writing requirements)

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (absent):

Rotation announcement sent out

Director of Operations (Aditi):

Club funding completed
Working on Donut improvements (time zone checker, classes)

Treasurer (Eileen):

Budget completed, will be published by end of week

Social Manager (Ayooluwa):

Secret Snowman event to connect frosh with upper-classman
Donuts on 12/11, will use Grubhub

Guests:**Tom:**

Donuts updates
Concert idea logistics

Kevin:

Mental health SFC topic suggestions
Communicated with Cindy about SFC

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of the minutes please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:23 pm

ASCIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 20, 2020.

TAKEN BY KATHERINE CHANG.

Officers Present: Yuying Lin, Kriti Devansenapathy, Megan Wang, Aditi Venkatesh, Eilleen Zhang, Ayooluwa Odemuyiwa, Katherine Chang

Guests: Catherine Ko

Call to Order: 7:36pm

President's Report (Yuying):

Faculty appointments announced
Frosh committee appointments decided, will be announced after meeting
Diversity council logistics

Officer's Reports:**V.P. of Academic Affairs (Megan):**

SFC meeting with Cindy about special committees
Option Committee Surveys logistics
Grubhub certificates
Discord SURF advising logistics

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (Kriti):

Gather.town funding
Rotation final plans
House schedule
Moving election dates; houses to coordinate with ASCIT
UASH + SURF info sessions by house logistics

Director of Operations (Aditi):

CSOC meeting, approved new clubs
2nd round club funding logistics

Treasurer (Eileen):

Amazon account for Secret Snowman updates
Budget reports

Social Manager (Ayooluwa):

Secret Snowman delivering updates
Interhouse tournament event ideas

Secretary (Katherine):

Caltech Community Mentors Program updates
Document updates

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of the minutes please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:06pm

ASCIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 27, 2020.

TAKEN BY KATHERINE CHANG.

Officers Present: Yuying Lin, Aditi Venkatesh, Eilleen Zhang, Ayooluwa Odemuyiwa, Katherine Chang

Call to Order: 7:33pm

President's Report (Yuying):

Sweaters

Officer's Reports:**V.P. of Academic Affairs (absent):**

SURF Discord advising event

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (absent):

Nothing to report

Director of Operations (Aditi):

Donut updates: add timezone filter to directory

Treasurer (Eileen):

Summary of December spending
Receipts for donut event

Social Manager (Ayooluwa):

Secret snowman updates
Athman event funding

Secretary (Katherine):

Nothing to report

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of the minutes please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:56pm

ASCIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 3, 2020.

TAKEN BY KATHERINE CHANG.

Officers Present: Yuying Lin, Kriti Devansenapathy, Megan Wang, Aditi Venkatesh, Eilleen Zhang, Ayooluwa Odemuyiwa, Katherine Chang

Guests: Anna Mortari, Alice Cheng, Julia Sloan

Call to Order: 7:33 pm

President's Report (Yuying):

Sweater design and orders
Frosh committee logistics

Officer's Reports:**V.P. of Academic Affairs (Megan):**

SURF discord advising planned for 1/16
SURF deadline logistics

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (Kriti):

Rotation happening in the next two weeks
Discord and gather.town funding
Officer election logistics

Director of Operations (Aditi):

Will post donut timezone option update tomorrow

Treasurer (Eileen):

Will send reimbursements tomorrow

Social Manager (Ayooluwa):

Secret Snowman logistics
Video streaming logistics
Will plan events with Tom

Secretary (Katherine):

Nothing to report

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of the minutes please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:50 pm

ASCIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 10, 2020.

TAKEN BY KATHERINE CHANG.

Officers Present: Yuying Lin, Megan Wang, Aditi Venkatesh, Eilleen Zhang, Katherine Chang

Guests: Tom Mannion

Call to Order: 7:34pm

President's Report (Yuying):

Sweater form out

Officer's Reports:**V.P. of Academic Affairs (Megan):**

Restarted Student Faculty lunches for Winter 2021
Looking for undergraduate representatives for IRB
Frosh course report
Student Faculty Conference logistics

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (absent):

Updates in Slack

Director of Operations (Aditi):

Event funding approval for IHC
Chess Club funding logistics

Treasurer (Eilleen):

Nothing to report

Social Manager (absent):

Secret snowman updates
Winter term plans

Secretary (Katherine):

Nothing to report

Guests:**Tom:**

Concert contact information coming soon

Working on athletic programs

Movie talk and event logistics: Kip Thorne (Tenet, Interstellar), Pixar (Finding Nemo, Ratatouille), Parasite (Korean food grubhub)

Possibly combine movie event with senior event
Custom House ice cream flavor competition (Fossemans) logistics

Bagel making event before midterms/finals for LLGs

Donut/major food event planning logistics

Student publications suggestions (Big T, The Tech)

Caltech return to campus and certification to be a vaccine distribution center updates

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of the minutes please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:16pm

ASCIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 17, 2020.

TAKEN BY KATHERINE CHANG.

Officers Present: Yuying Lin, Megan Wang, Aditi Venkatesh, Eilleen Zhang, Ayooluwa Odemuyiwa, Katherine Chang

Guests: Joaquin Gomez, Albert

Call to Order: 7:31pm

President's Report (Yuying):

Sweaters ordered
Dinner with Tom Mannion next Sunday

Officer's Reports:**V.P. of Academic Affairs (Megan):**

IRB Rep logistics
Student-faculty lunches by 2/12
SURF deadline logistics
SURF advising event successful

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (absent):

Rotation is over, went better than expected
House affiliation out this week

Director of Operations (Aditi):

Nothing to report

Treasurer (Eilleen):

Funding for house pairings for interhouse events

Social Manager (Ayooluwa):

Finished Secret Snowman
Amazon order logistics
Events schedule logistics
Concert updates
Frosh committee will send out surveys and plan events

Secretary (Katherine):

Nothing to report

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of the minutes please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45pm

ARC MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 7TH, 2020

TAKEN BY MOHINI MISRA.

Present: Megan, Mohini, Hannah, Alex Hong, James, Anjini, Nathan, Halle, James, Anna, Sophie, Turner, Marcos, Arushi, Maggie

Introductions and welcoming new reps

Add people to the drive and slack

- [email addresses redacted]
- Figure out new meeting time

Goals for the Year

Continuing student-faculty interactions remotely

Mental health initiative - Mohini

Remote learning

Program Updates (and gauge interest from new members)

Course Compliments-- Nathan

- Gave overview- students can submit compliments on website etc.
- Got some new entries recently

Research Page -- Megan

- Recently emailed profs from all departments, got lots of responses; daniel put onto research page; include remote research opportunities

SFL Remotely -- Megan

- Asked about last term; clarified turnout

Option Advising Event (Discord)- session on ug discord; sunday/saturday next weekend

- One undergrad advisor from each
- Get reps?- plz email us

Regis Tutorial-

- Anyone want to compile the document or be a back-up to Megan?

SFC

Presentation topics- currently considering mental health, online learning, CS in education

- Math 1 D being restructured and following course; several are math majors; have talked to math department but they want to wait a year

Arushi explained what it is

Option Chairs

- BEM and HSS still needed

Concerns with deans tutors & frosh academic experience in general -- james bowden

Deans tutors / study sessions

- Lots of frosh who want tutoring and not enough tutors; frosh getting turned away
- Trying to get deans tutors to lead recitation type things ("study sessions"- 2-3 deans tutors, 20-

30 frosh); very stretched thin; cap on pay

- Quiz review -- some for chem and physics, overcrowded
- Solutions: send out another email to upper-classmen, as grad students to be deans tutors

In general, need better support for core classes-kind of like intro CS sequence

Issues with normal course support in core (OH/recs)

- Normal recs-- lots of students go to lead TA's rec; but not as productive; lots a flipped but people need more time with concepts rather than "unrealized" problems
- Math1a (general):
 - OH are friday, recs are thursday-- so it's too late to learn material and then get set done
 - Lectures aren't good quality (also pre-recorded so can't ask questions) so ppl read textbook
 - Katz isn't at ombuds meetings
 - Only 5 TAs- issues with international students working, so TA got cut in half
 - BUT math 8 is good, esp because it is live
 - Solutions: piazza to answer questions? Push math 8? Request OH earlier in week, have undergrad TAs (in general for core)
- Math 1a unorganized grading
 - No grades on problem sets; ppl dont know their grade
 - No feedback (but James B. brought up a good point that you can't expect this from 5 TAs/250 students)
 - But students dont know their grades- have shadow grades for midterms
 - Head TA said that ppl who are turning things in pass
 - But then this brings up question of quality of education
 - Pass line is flexible
 - Level of rigor on solutions isn't what they expect from students

ARC tip of the week

Join math 8 - if you are in math 1a

Figure out new meeting time - 5:30 PST saturday(?)**Action items:**

Megan/ Mohini

- Add members to slack
- Alex hong forwarded megan research opportunity (done -Megan)
- Email about deans tutors for undergrads (done -Megan)
- Piazza for math 1a? And other classes (done -Megan)
 - Can integrate into piazza- ask Jenn
- Ask jenn about math grading and things in general (done-Megan)
- Poll for when to meet

All

- Get option advisers for event
- Person needed to write up registration process
- Get BEM/ HSS option chair
- Email Megan if interested in helping with student faculty lunches

ARC MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 14, 2020.

TAKEN BY MOHINI MISRA.

Program Updates

Course Compliments - not much

Research Page - not much

Student-Faculty Lunches

- Volunteers to email faculty
- Gift certificates - trying to get corporate grubhub acct
- Start emailing next week

Faculty board committee interviews- arc members should sign up!

REGIS tutorial

- Nathan is going to write script and make video
- Suggestions: registration doesn't close till add day,

SFC

Missing option chairs- none! We got IDS and HSS Committee on mental health

Second special committee ideas

- Writing/communication
- Different CS classes - data/ graphing packages
- Core- math and phys line up is incoherent
 - Math 13 is good but more coursework on top of other work; very practical; do it over winter break? Or recorded videos; or list of recommended resources.
 - Math dept wont change order of b and c
- Diversity

Date/format

Recurring Concerns

Meeting with Cassandra for Ma1a (CTLO) - working with katz; shes talking to him about survey responses

- Frosh reps + megan + mohini in meeting

ASCIT YWCA mentoring program

Virtual science experiment curriculum write-up

ARC Tip of the Week

Follow up from Option advising

Sometimes hard to follow threads

Voice channels (or at least some) next time

Action items:

Email for SFL - vibha and james bowde volunteered

Set up meeting with cassandra- Mohini, Megan, Frosh reps (james and vibha raised their hands); Arushi may come too, so keep her in the loop

ARC MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 21, 2020

TAKEN BY MOHINI MISRA.

Present: Megan, Mohini, Anjini, Nathan, Halle, James C, Turner, Alex Hong, Anna, Vibha

Regis tutorial feedback

Frosh thought it was well done and good (turner)

Also generally smooth

Reoccurring Concerns

Discussing meeting about ma1a

Mo & Megan went to meeting-> general overview of meeting minutes

Improvements for courses next term

SFC topic ideas?

Scientific writing requirement? (Anna)

- 6 units of writing requirements
- If we add another one maybe replace others
- Reform current courses and bolster them up to actual scientific writing that the department expects (nathan)
 - (Anjini) took anthro15 where they had to write a proposal; thinking some social sciences could take this on to a bigger extent
 - (Maggie) adding more options for students
 - (james) making a sci-writing class that can qualify as writing-intensive hum
 - (megan) add 9 unit class (instead of 6/3)
 - (Hannah) different classes for business writing class vs. academia writing class-> said there was a survey about this

- People to be on committee - nathan, maggie

(alex)- HSS flowchart on website isn't accurate->

ARC Tip of the Week

Post deans tutoring sessions

Tell ppl to submit schedule to advisors -- make sure

Ma6 - grades not back (James)

Reach out to emile (Mo)

Rumors about chem lab (Sophie) - extending p/f period for junior year?

Hum requirements (Anjini)

36 units writing intensive -- could that be all advanced hums? (not social sciences, just hums)

Would be helpful if all combinations of writing intensive-> advanced hums can count (but not social sciences)

Also flowchart may have the info wrong for the # of units (27 vs 36)

Action items:

Make suggestions to PMA from math1a meeting

Reach out to ch1b profs and see if it can be recorded

Megan ask about p/f period for chem3x

Update flowchart for hums

ARC MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 10, 2021

TAKEN BY MOHINI MISRA.

SURF Advising Discord Event- for frosh (16th)

Role of house reps - have one/house to participate

SURF deadline

- Cons- people will submit a lot of stuff late
- Pros- frosh uncertainty, internships deadlines

Frosh feedback

- Turner- stepping through application
- Send out links to samples, sfp office
- Alex's idea - discord event

- Finding a surf (?)

- Email

- Resume

- Proposal

- Rec letters

Freshmen Course Concerns (Updates on Ma1b, Ch1b, Ph1b)

Class structure is good

Haven't had any sets for phys/chem

Phys only has 2 recs but not a problem

Having flipped sections for math

Student-Faculty Lunches

ARC Tip of the Week

Action items:

Email sfp office (megan)

Edit email for SFL(mo)

Reach out to logan to host event

IHC MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 12, 2020

Call to Order: 6:33 PDT

In Attendance: Kriti D. (Chair), Adam A. (Secretary), Irene C. (BL), Logan A. (Da), LC C. (Av), Alex G. (Ri), Michelle H. (LI), Paulina R. (Ru)

Call with Felicia on Thursday about house events: if you hold a prefrosh event make sure you invite anyone. No in person events (duh).

What should IHC do if people aren't following social distancing?

- Likely not our responsibility

Felicia on Winter Term rotation: need to be meeting regularly soon to plan it

- Rotation working group starting up soon! Will now be having multiple regular meetings with ORE

- Working group is going to be a way for IHC to bring ideas we come up with at our own meetings.

No prize-giving to prefrosh ideally!

Tech Support!

- Has been sent out, form closing today(?)
- First training tomorrow + Thursday, will be matching mentors to frosh this week.
- If you're an FCC - tell your prefrosh to sign up! We have an abundance of upperclassmen.

Caltech Flu Shot email: do you need one to go pick up your things

- Irene: They haven't really cared about testing for picking up storage stuff
- Adam: Tried to schedule a time to come in / today/ and Jo Jordan said I wasn't allowed to come until my test was cleared
- LC: Does getting cleared involve the flu shot?
 - Irene: For now no.
- Kriti: I'll text Felicia for clarification

Departments on requiring people to get tested vs. not: faculty board responsibilities, not on the students. Follow whatever guidelines you're told

- Chad: Does it have to be a health center test? I think it's pretty easy to get tested outside of caltech (CVS)
- Irene: Over the summer I had someone take a month lead time, not reliable
- Kriti: Might be getting better now
- Michelle: I think it has to be through Caltech, they're making me get retested

Will probably be having house excomm/IHC meetings to start planning out rotation.

- Paulina: How many people should we try to bring?

- Kriti: I think we should stick to 2 additional people per house to make things less messy.

Will provide updates on rotation working group meetings + felicia meeting tomorrow

Adjourned: 6:48PDT

Signed,

Adam Abbas

IHC Secretary

IHC MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 29, 2020

In Attendance: Kriti D. (Chair), Adam A. (Secretary), Nerys H. (Pa), Logan A. (Da), Alex G. (Ri), Michelle H. (LI), Irene C. (BL), Paulina R. (Ru), LC C. (Av), Chad T. (Fl)

Guests (House Social Chairs): Sophie Howell, Adam Kogan, Simon Lequar, Polina Verkhovodova, Vanessa Mechem, Zoe Rock, Regina Lee, James Park, Eileen Zhang, Ayooluwa Odemuyiwa, Chase Blanchette

Call to Order: 6:03

Kriti: Intent of this event has to do with the extremely constrained timeline - normally houses are separate, but this year want to work together to see what everyone is thinking. Had meeting with Gilmartin on Friday, is mostly approved and will almost certainly be winter term, we'll be working on the shortest timeline. House videos: get them in before thanksgiving. Events will likely be registered before Thanksgiving. Main goal of this meeting is sharing ideas, let's go house by house.

Avery

Zhang: Talked to socteam, thought about doing Avery tea bar and video games and speed dating. Wanted to try and get people to meet each other. Highlighted experience of Averite waiting in line for tea, getting tea, on discord.

Kriti: The way we are structuring things, we'll have 8 house dinners/hour event split into event and 1-on-1 interactions. Will also have large house event. What category do you think the events you planned full into?

Zhang: I think tea bar simulator would be our large event. Speed dating would fall under a dinnerish talking event. We're also playing a rotation video

Kriti: Rotation video should be pretty simple to watch. Do you think your tea bar simulator, how do you think you could do it? Would you need money?

Zhang: The idea isn't super fleshed out yet, we were thinking about discord and zoom. If gathertown ends up being a thing then maybe that.

Kriti: Gathertown is nice b/c of avatar and what not - but it's costly. Wanted to save money, but you could finance it as a house. You mentioned board games and stuff, where would that factor in?

Zhang: That was kind of a backup option. Don't think it fits in anywhere.

Kriti: It's good to keep ideas as backups. You guys sound pretty covered

Blacker

Adam: Planning big events is hard, but had some good ideas for small events. Have a Kahoot after where prefrosh have to grill upperclassmen during dinner to get obscure facts. Also we usually do skits, so carrying that over somehow. Big event were thinking flipped/random talent show, but not the biggest fan of that.

Kriti: Were you planning on doing this through discord

Adam: Yeah that's how I thought about everything

Irene: We've had success with setting up "tables" for dinner.

Dabney

Logan: Skit being worked on, receiving responses for events

Woo: Meme sharing, minecraft RPG, meme sharing/creating, carnival games style activities [& others]

Lequar: Dabney also did a similar speed dating event

Kriti: Having different sections with different ideas would probably be pretty fun.

Woo: Agree, don't think prefrosh will like all of the events so want to give them the option

Simon: normally do a bob ross wall - wanted to see if we could recreate

Irene: One thing is being mindful of people having minecraft accounts or not.

Woo: Were planning on streaming one person playing.

Kriti: Minecraft Education account maybe? Is there

anything you would need funding for?

Woo: No not really.

Fleming

Verkhovodova: Still going through ideas, but big part of rotation is dinner games so thinking of ways to do those. Also things like Fleming Jeopardy, or some messenger games (game bracket). We have a dated rotation video, so we might just edit and use that.

Kriti: You said you would just be modifying an existing video right?

Verkhovodova: Yeah we would just be doing minor editing.

Kriti: Would the plan be to have larger dinner games at the beginning or smaller at the end.

Verkhovodova: Yeah probably at the beginning, and then breakout rooms or something. Might also make our BFP event a smaller event

Kriti: We should try and be consistent with having events at the beginning and talking later.

Irene: Apparently newer versions of Zoom let you pick a breakout room (big useful).

Kriti: What's the difference between Zoom and Discord w/ video?

Adam: Does discord mute people?

Irene: You can. Discord does take more setting up, and the video/audio quality may be worse if we don't pay to boost the server.

Kriti: I think not having one person speaking would be better

Logan: Can also add option for "priority speaker" to talk over others

Lloyd

Lee: We were thinking of online capture the flag game, kind of like slither. Tried it out before and underclassmen seemed to have fun. Have a good amount of smaller events (like hide the gong in a minecraft server) or milkshake nights

Kogan: Might consider smoother alternatives to gather.town

Kriti: That's something we could all take advantage of. How would you run capture the flag?

Kogan: Site that lets you pick leaders, works pretty well. Game is based on capture the flag, but will share with everyone else.

Kriti: Feel free to reach out to IHC if you need to beta test these ideas or anything

Page

Mechem: For our big event we were thinking of doing a trivia night (discord and kahoot). Traditionally we've had groups with pageboys and prefrish. Could have different people streaming on different channels. Were planning on having dinner games, considering putting at the end but probably move to beginning. To emulate talking to upperclassmen, want to have upperclassmen on the discord at various times. Trivia night would be the only major structured thing.

Kriti: Do you guys have a video?

Nerys: We will.

Mechem: Dinner would probably be video then game then dinner.

Kriti: In general, are houses thinking of doing skit-type videos or intro to house

Avery, Dabney, Lloyd, Ruddock - skit type video

Fleming, Page - montage video

Nerys: All house Rotation puzzle hunt?

Kriti: For context there's a point based system that tries to get you to learn about the house system. That way people know about events without having to slide it into conversation. I've been working to find an interface.

Adam: Interface for the orientation puzzle hunt was repurposed, could be repurposed again.

Kriti: That might work. Would be a campus wide event, and probably wouldn't be too intensive to have every house paste things in.

Back to Page

Park: Avery was also thinking of doing trivia - don't want to overlap. General idea of format?

Mechem: Was just going to be mixed general and page trivia, with mixed channels of upperclassmen and prefrish.

Nerys: If we do gather for all of the events we might try it out with that platform.

Kriti: one way of potentially doing gather is to use it as the reception area instead of directly using it for events.

Park: We'll talk to page if the events end up seeming too similar.

Kriti: I might make an email group/google document so that everyone can stay up to date.

Ricketts

Odemuyiwa: Don't have finalized plans, but the general idea is live dinner themed skits, and activities that match that theme. For the big event we were planning on doing an open mic night type event, which we'll try out this term.

Howell: Going to send out a survey to see what the house wants to see for events. Will be doing an open mic night late November so have a fall back option.

Kriti: Concerned about running Rix skits because they're already a little cringe. There's a real possibility that people's parents will be watching the events so keep in mind.

Adam: Approval process will also likely be considering parental supervision at events.

Kriti: Live skits are definitely a risk. Might be a good idea to run skits through house beforehand.

Howell: We'll try to keep them as tame as possible but also still funny

Irene: Could prefrish wear headphones?

Guerra: I think in our survey we are also going to ask about dinner ideas. Think it might be cool to coordinate skits in households vs over zoom. We could make whole dinner 8 soliloquies and it'd just be a thirty minute shit post

Irene: Are there concerns about people living together and participating in videos together being seen as "not social distancing" (when they actually are being safe)?

Kriti: I ran it by Felicia and she said she thinks everyone will be understanding for videos.

Ruddock

Blanchette: Our video is a pretty big thing, so that'll be most of our dinner. Were thinking of doing a youtube premiere for skits every night, might be a solution. Also social time after dinner, will likely be on dinner. For events, something like a scavenger hunt on our server, or a collection of events

Adam: The way event blocks are structured right now, house events are staggered with a new one starting every 20 minutes. Might want to be mindful of what you do w those 20 minutes, and losing interest after those first 20.

Kriti: Okay it sounds like we don't need to dedicate significant funding to any of these events. Time wise, running over for social time is perfectly good, but try to make sure you're there for at least a half hour. We'll have to decide the order of house events at a later point, but otherwise we're pretty much good. It seems like you are all doing pretty decently.

Adjourned: 6:51PDT

Signed,
Adam Abbas

WINTER 2021 ROTATION SCHEDULE

Monday, January 4 - Start of Term

6:30-7:30pm | Kickoff Panel

Tuesday, January 5

5:00-6:00pm | Reception 1

6:00-7:00pm | Reception 2

Wednesday, January 6

12:00-1:00pm | Alternate Timezone Reception

5:30-6:30pm | Reception 3

Thursday, January 7

12:00-1:00pm | Alternate Timezone Reception

5:30-6:30pm | Reception 4

Friday, January 8

12:00-1:00pm | Alternate Timezone Reception

5:30-6:30pm | Reception 5

Saturday, January 9

12:00-1:00pm | Reception 6

4:00-7:00pm (Variable) | House Events

Sunday, January 10

12:00-3:00pm (Variable) | House Events

5:00-6:00pm | Reception 7

Monday, January 11 - Rank Survey Out

12:00-1:00pm | Alternate Timezone Reception

5:30-6:30pm | Reception 8

Tuesday, January 12

12:00-1:00pm | Alternate Timezone Reception

10:00-11:00pm | Makeup Reception

Wednesday, January 13 - Rank Survey Due

12:00-1:00pm | Makeup Reception



**This week's recommended
Tech usage after reading:
Cite these minutes in your
complaints to the ARC
about how they stopped
sending out tips of the
week this year >:(**