

President, Provost Forum focuses on core IIT issues (Continued from Page 1)

brought up in a more directed form. Next, a biology major made a plea for updated or improved lab equipment, but because nobody from that department was at the event, Provost Bronet directed him to contact officials from within his major before turning to university-level administration.

Moving on once again to more general concerns, the next question was perhaps brought to the forum on account of Provost Bronet's history in design fields. A male student of the computer science department lamented the lack of structured lounge-style spaces in outdoor areas of campus, especially in the vast park-like areas that split the distance between many of its academic buildings. In response to that concern, President Cramb stated that anybody wishing to offer input on transforming IIT's outdoor spaces was absolutely welcome to do so through SGA, and that if the school wasn't doing enough to engage students outdoors, then they wanted to know about it and act upon it. Bronet chimed in as well with news that Stetz and others were currently working on the development of a new master plan for the campus, examining how students currently socialize and work to inform their decisions about how to shape spaces both indoors and outdoors in the future. The new picnic table area on the western edge of Life Sciences was brought up to show how IIT is currently pushing for some such transformations, but Bronet, like Cramb, urged those in attendance to provide input so

that the school's newest projects are actually those most desired by students.

Before the end of the President and Provost Forum, there was still time for one more deep-reaching, morally important question. The same student who had earlier spearheaded the exchange over UMII once again took to the microphone, this time to lament the lack of belonging for many women at IIT. She pointed to verbal harassment from professors (though did not cite specific cases) and a perceived lack of accountability at the institutional level for such actions. In addition to generally poor recruitment of women, the student argued, the university had at times failed to take sexist speech and actions of its staff seriously, leading to a self-perpetuating cycle of uncomfortable unwillingness to report such occurrences on the part of students, followed by inaction on the part of the administration.

Provost Bronet was, perhaps for good reason, the first to speak on the subject. She pointed to her history as an advocate for women scholars in her former position at the University of Oregon, and stated that she was ready to be a passionate voice at IIT as well, as long as she could gather actionable information. Being more familiar with the workings of the university at this point, President Cramb stressed that reporting from affected individuals was key, and that speaking with Stetz, or in extreme cases, with the University Counsel, was essential to initiating a process to bring perpetrators to justice.

In perhaps his most solemnly passionate statement of the night, Cramb spoke directly to the student bringing sexism concerns forward (and perhaps indirectly to present faculty), saying "tenure does not allow one to behave badly and remain tenured."

However, despite those early triumphs, Cramb soon seemed to hit a rhetorical roadblock as he did before with the UMII group. Returning to the discussion about anonymous social media outlets used at times to spread hatred, Cramb suggested simply ignoring what he considered relatively "harmless" speech, quickly drawing a distinction between that and threats when prompted by an anecdote from the events at the University of Missouri. Though valid from a practical standpoint, his advice was not visibly popular, and the student who asked the question, in particular, argued further that simply ignoring hate speech was not acceptable as a way to reduce it and remove ideological barriers for women on campus. This issue, as well as the issue of undocumented students, brought up differences in administrative approach between President Cramb and Provost Bronet. While there was obviously no black and white answer to questions of hate speech, Cramb tended to take a more careful, fact-based path to discipline than Bronet, who was focused more on personal communication and advocacy. This was perhaps one of the more interesting places where their responses diverged during the event, and something to

pay close attention to in the future.

While the event itself was only an hour long, it was important to note different groups of individuals in the crowd that formed after one final question had been asked (a simple query about who managed the farm plot in the Quad) and Rahul Wadhvani had made a final joke to cap off the Forum. Provost Bronet made a beeline for the student who had discussed sexism issues, one of the two individuals from the College of Architecture who had spoken earlier made conversation with the student who was concerned about their printing situation, and members of OCL and other offices gathered to discuss much of what they had heard. In the end, the purpose of the President and Provost Forum extended beyond the immediate impetus for its existence. The reach of the event went beyond the MTCC Ballroom, beyond 1:45 on a Thursday afternoon, and back out through campus, up IIT Tower, into Crown Hall, over to the West Loop, and anywhere else touched by those in attendance. The major themes of the forum, like improving communications between SGA and administration and encouraging students to approach their department heads about long-standing issues, were exhibited immediately as the crowd dispersed, and with any luck, will continue to shape the future of the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Quidditch team hosts first scrimmage of the season

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Quidditch is a fictional game picked up from the world of Harry Potter and adopted into the 'Muggle world,' as Hagrid would say. The game is played amongst seven players, out of which there is one seeker, two beaters, one keeper and three chasers. As it is a fictional game, the rules applied in Harry Potter's world cease to exist, but new rules were written down to make playing the game easy.

Saturday evening proved to be a wonderful time to play Quidditch. The weather was sunny with a mild chillness in the air. Fall leaves of orange and red played well with

the uniforms of both teams, which was red for Scarlet Hawks and Blue for Columbia. These colors were playing across the field, in terms of the uniforms, leaves, and the equipment, which was red and white. The teams started coming in at 3 p.m. and the spirit of competition filled the air with the individual teams warming up. Before the starting of the match, both teams were running around warming up and shook hands. The match started at 3:30 p.m., when the referee blew the whistle.

Each player had a broomstick in his or her hands; this was a replica of the actual broomstick used in the Harry Potter world. If a player dropped a broomstick, they had to pick it up and run to tag their poles. There were

two different balls, one ball, called a quaffle, was meant to be thrown amongst the players and shot into the hoops, while the other, the bludger, is used to hit the other player down. Initially, the Scarlet Hawks were playing with an air of seriousness, which got them a head start of the other team. With more time into the match, the Columbia University seemed to pick up pace and were putting up a tough fight. The first match was played for 30 minutes in which our Scarlet Hawks had a score total of 150 compared to the 60 points scored by Columbia. It was a good win for the Scarlet Hawks.

The second half of the game was even more competitive than the first one. Each

player was more determined to win the game and didn't miss a goal. Kevin, a freshman at the college of Architecture stopped a few goals while keeping along with Alvah, who was determined not to let a slip. The beaters were more aggressive towards the end, not only from IIT but also Columbia. At the end of the game, Columbia beat IIT by ten point scoring 110 versus the 100 scored by IIT.

Although both teams had each won a game, the experience gained couldn't be compared. Every player went home satisfied with a new gained knowledge and zeal to win more games in the future.

SGA meeting focuses on Board of Trustees, formation of new student organizations

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The last biweekly SGA meeting took place on Wednesday, November 11. This meeting was unique, as IIT students got an opportunity to directly converse with Craig Duchossois, a member of the IIT Board of Trustees. Students in attendance got to learn the important role the Board of Trustees plays in running IIT, something that some of us were unaware of.

The Board of Trustees carry out the herculean task of financially and operationally supporting the smooth functioning of the school. They are prominent business, industrial, community and professional leaders who very kindly invest their time, talents and resources to benefit the university. According to Duchossois, the Board of Trustees at IIT has a fiduciary duty to maintain students' values and the mission of the institution. In particular, they are involved in the selection of senior academics and recruitment of quality faculty as well as management of IIT's finances and implementation of its policies. It was a delight to hear that the Board of Trustees at IIT make conscious efforts to listen to the voice of students in order to meet the needs of student body better.

At the meeting, students received ample answers to their inquisitive questions and concerns. Duchossois shared that the board has been working on building a stronger balance sheet and maximize reinvestment in order to provide better resources to attract

quality faculty as well as to provide competitive financial aid to draw the best scholars in the country. He also expressed that to prepare for the future the board was working on providing new housing and upgrading existing housing. They are also going to maintain the current balance between the number of students and faculty.

In addition, Mr. Duchossois clarified that a great business idea can always find funding in IIT. There are tools like the incubator space for people to use. Some students voiced out a need for a greater variety of companies visiting the career fair. In particular, a student felt aerospace companies like Boeing should be invited. The board of trustees explained that students can leverage on alumni network or get their desired companies to visit campus by informing them about it. Moreover, they are trying to solicit Board of Trustees members to come in and meet students more as they can employ students in their firms too. The SGA President added that the gap between students and the Board of Trustees is in reality pretty narrow as he meets them on a regular basis and can present to them formally once a year. He aptly called himself a resource and encouraged students to use him to connect with the Board of Trustees.

Two new organizations made presentations in this meeting, one of which was approved. The first organization to present was Engineers Inspired, an organization that aims to build a community that discusses interesting scientific artifacts including projects in progress, breakthrough inventions and dis-

coveries. It required a budget of \$500 per semester for recruitment of around 30 people. The unique selling point of this club would be that while most existing clubs on campus are specific towards a major, this one aimed to create interaction between students from all the different engineering majors. The question and answer session following the presentation developed the idea further as a member suggested that this organization could collaborate with other existing organizations to bring in inspiring speakers and such. On discussion and voting, the SGA panel felt that the idea had potential to be further developed and hence decided against approving it at this stage. A constructive piece of feedback discussed was that this organization requires a clearer vision and mission statement in order to ensure that this organization had potential and longevity.

The second proposal was presented by Anne Crotteau, who sought to revive an organization called Illinois Tech Students for Life that ceased operation about five years ago due to lack of leadership as well as men and non-Christians feeling excluded. The organization planned to address these concerns by providing leadership training to interested members and ensuring involvement of males and those of different beliefs. The fact that they already had two men in the organizing committee would encourage men to get involved and support the cause. Their ultimate vision is to create a "world where women do not have to choose between the life of their children and completing their education, where all people know and understand the importance and beauty of life,

and where those who have suffered the loss of an abortion experience healing through the IIT community."

Illinois Tech Students for Life basically aims to provide resources to heal women who struggle with issues such as suicide, depression and the dilemma of conceiving a child. They plan to do this by inviting in motivational speakers and hold workshops to address these issues. The organization had garnered a respectable number of attendees for the two events they organized this semester: Beach Day and a Students for Life of Illinois conference. They have an upcoming volunteering event slated to happen sometime this month open to everyone, but catered toward new and expecting moms. Up until now, they have gathered interest from 67 students toward this cause.

A very useful part of the meeting were the officer's reports where the senate members shares with us the projects they are working on. From now on, these will take place at the end of the meeting.

The officer's reports began with the SGA president, Rahul Wadhvani, informing the board of two events that interested Senate members could sign up for. In addition, he pointed out that Students Speak is a platform where students can anonymously voice their opinion about how to improve administrative services for IIT students through <http://web.iit.edu/students-speak>. Students taking this survey are entered in a lucky draw for \$150, \$100, \$50 or \$25 visa gift card, a \$20 Starbucks card or an IIT Nalgene water bottle.