Class of 2017 Mixer Series Proposal

Objective: The purpose of this ongoing event is to increase interaction between members of the Class of 2017. Although there are many tightly knit communities at MIT, these communities also make it difficult for students to meet people outside of these communities, who have very different interests. It is often difficult for individuals to explore on their own, and large community wide gatherings often only lead to brief interactions with people outside pre-existing bubbles. By encouraging students to eat meals with 2 - 3 other students randomly chosen from the Class of 2017, we can encourage interactions between people that would ordinarily not meet. This event would strengthen the bonds of our class significantly without much cost.

What: This is a Class of 2017 meet up series that will randomly pair up 3-4 people in our class to encourage meet each other in a more intimate setting (i.e. over lunch or dinner at a place and time decided by the specific participants).

When: The series will run throughout the 2015 Spring Semester. Once paired the participants can choose a time that works for everyone for their particular meal. We plan to set up one lunch a month, so the students will have a lot of flexibility to schedule their lunch, and also potentially meet over ten new people, in setting that allows for them to get to know each other quite well, over the course of the term.

Where: The meals will take place at a restaurant chosen by the participants, and will vary from group to group. That way participants will feel more comfortable and we don't need to do unnecessary planning.

How to run:
In order to run the lunch series, we will need: 1) participants to submit a google form stating information including their preferences for lunch, who they would like to have lunch with; 2) a few organizers to match students with one another, based on information from the google form; 3) Having matched the students, the students will need to find a time that works for themselves to meet up, and have lunch (hopefully within a two or three week window); 4) Provide a form for reimbursement and feedback.

Manpower:
The manpower needed for this event is minimal, as the lunches will run on itself by the participants. Justine and Andrew plan to create the google form, and match students with one another. We hope that if Class Council accepts this proposal, they will also be able to assist Justine and Andrew.

Publicity:
Publicity will be key to the success of this lunch series, as student engagement will help the event run more successfully. We plan to advertise through the Class of 2017 Facebook page, posting reminders for students to get together. We can also send emails to the whole class as a further reminder. Once a group is decided, an email will be sent, and also text reminders if need be.

With the growing trend of selfies, we were also thinking of implementing a selfie competition to promote the event. After students have had a meal together, they can also be encouraged to take a selfie, showing newfound friendship. The best selfie taken would win a prize, either

getting the whole meal for free, or something else to be determined. Possibly having an MIT Instagram or Snapchat to facilitate this would even be better.

Funding:
We propose to subsidize the lunches, and we would like to request $500 in funding. Funding will be used as an incentive to encourage If we can provide $10 per lunch from the student council's fund, then we can get 50 lunches subsidized, potentially connecting 200 people with one another. If we provide $5 per lunch in funding, then we can get 100 lunches subsidized and potentially connect 400 people in the class of 2017 together.