General Council Meeting
February 4th, 2015, 5:30 PM
Agenda and Minutes

1. Quorum Check
   a. 38 present, 29 needed, quorum reached

2. MIT2016 Announcement
   a. 100th Anniversary of MIT moving to Cambridge
   b. Looking for ideas on events that involve graduate students

3. Approval of Agenda
   a. Agenda is approved (placard voting)

4. Approval of December Meeting Minutes
   a. Minutes are approved (placard voting)

5. Introduction of New Faces

6. GSC Committee Updates
   a. Academics, Research, and Careers (ARC)
      i. GSC Networking Dinner
         1. Send biotech contacts to gsc-arc@mit.edu
      ii. GWAMIT
         1. Recruiting for Empowerment Conference
      iii. Legislative Action Subcommittee (LASC)
         1. D.C. Lobbying Trips
   b. Activities Committee (AC)
      i. Battle of the Bands, May 2 in Morss Hall
      ii. Taste of Israel, February 17
      iii. Grad Gala on a Cruise Ship!
   c. Housing & Community Affairs (HCA)
      i. Launch of iREFS program
      ii. Cost of Living Analysis
      iii. Sidney-Pacific HVAC Renovation project
   d. Association for Student Activities (ASA)
      i. Group Storage Space
      1. Q: What are the student group space needs on campus?
2. A: Swing storage space for groups would be helpful for groups putting on one-time events.
   c. Muddy Charles Pub
      i. Pictures of Muddy renovation project
      ii. Estimated reopening date: Tuesday, Feb. 10
   f. Ad-Hoc Governing Documents Committee
      i. Seven proposed amendments to the Bylaws

7. Officer Updates
   a. Funding Board
      i. Thank you to D.W. Rowlands for his service!
   b. GSC Open House
      i. Thursday February 19

8. Discussion Topic: Wellness
   a. Comment: I think grad students work way too many hours. It also makes grad students who put in normal hours feel bad.
   b. Comment: I think grad students often don’t get out of their own circles.
   c. Question: Are there any rules regulating how many hours graduate students can work?
   d. President: Karl is working on a resolution that enumerates the Rights and Responsibilities of graduate students. We hope to introduce a resolution on this topic in the next few months.
   e. Comment: While I agree that people work a large number of hours, I'm mostly concerned about graduate students feeling happy about their work environment (i.e. aren’t being coerced to work that much).
   f. Comment: The GSC should model the behavior we want to see among the general graduate student body. For example, forming getfit@mit teams among GSC members.
   g. Comment: I think that MIT has a policy that grad students are not considered employees and as such cannot be unionized.
   h. Comment: I would be against MIT treating us as employees, because as students we get a lot of benefits. For example, we get gym access, health insurance, etc.

9. Old Business
   a. Executive Committee sheet
      i. No objections, passed
   b. Nominations Board sheet
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

i. No objections, passed

c. Funding Board sheet
   i. No objections, passed

d. Publications and Publicity sheet
   i. No objections, passed

e. Association of Student Activities sheet
   i. No objections, passed

f. Activities Committee sheet
   i. No objections, passed

g. Academics, Research, and Careers sheet
   i. No objections, passed

h. Housing and Community Affairs sheet
   i. No objections, passed

i. Orientation sheet
   i. No objections, passed

10. New Business

a. Resolution 61.gsc.8.1 – GSC Legislative Platform

   i. Q: Have you asked outside groups, such as AAAS, for suggestions on your platform?

   ii. A: We’ve worked with groups such as NAGPS, MIT’s D.C. office to identify topics of interest.

   iii. Q: Can you clarify what the last bullet point means?

   iv. A: There are many undocumented people in this country, and this includes students at MIT. We want our platform to be more inclusive of all students at MIT.

   v. Q: Do you think it’s appropriate to call undocumented students international students?

   vi. A: They aren’t called that in the platform, the section on undocumented students just falls under a header titled international students.

b. Resolution 61.gsc.8.2. – Amendment to the Bylaws on Initiatives Fund

   i. No questions

11. Open Floor

   a. Vice President: How many people want printed documents at GCMs?
i. Comment: I like being paperless. Forces me to read the documents beforehand.

b. Question: Has anyone had any experience with the Stellar calendaring feature and whether Professors regularly use this for their classes?

c. Response: I think that TAs enter this information into Stellar. Also I’d reach out to MIT IS&T.

d. Comment: Come to the BGLO Mixer this Friday!

e. Comment: Is there a history of unionization that will be shared with the Council at the later date?

f. Answer: We’ll look into this and get back to you.