



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
**GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL**

**Housing and Community Affairs (HCA) Committee**  
**October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Present: Wendy Lam (HCA Chair), Brian Spatocco, Karan Mistry (Ashdown), Paul Monasterio (Tang), Yuxi Zhang (SP), Scott Valastyan (Eastgate), Alex Chan (GSC), Nan Gu (GSC), Jason McKnight (ResLife), Andrew Freese (Westgate), Vikram Yadav (Tang).

1) Election of New HCA Co-Chair:

Julia Nickel resigned from her co-chair position last month. The committee has one candidate, Matthew Walker (former SP president, current GSC Physics representative), to fill the position.

Committee elects Matt as the new co-chair by white ballot.

2) Dental Updates:

a. *Final enrollment numbers*

Open enrollment period over. 1051 subscribers (977 individual, 74 family). 710 are new subscribers, and 341 are existing. Saw peak in enrollment the weekend before the closing date. Lots of advertisement (Tech ad, Anno, email to grad admins) around that period.

b. *Preliminary survey results*

Grad dental survey ran for 3 weeks last month. Total response: 17% or 985/5913 (students enrolled in FA08 and/or SP09). Of the 985:  
 - 332 (34%) are current subscribers, and 653 (66%) are non-subscribers.  
 - 663 are domestic students, 322 are international.

- Overall Trends:

Subscribers are generally satisfied with the plan (in terms of rates, coverage, quality of dental care. Non-subscribers: top reasons for not enrolling: 1) cost too high, and 2) MIT Dental not a provider. Strong desire for minor restorative care (~70% answered important/very important) but less so for major restorative care (~50%). Willing to pay the following rates for: preventive plus minor restorative care: \$25 (individual) /\$45 (family), preventive, minor, major: \$30/\$60.

c. *Benchmarks* (collected from last weekend's Ivy Plus Summit)

In most cases, other Ivy schools had equivalent dental plans or no plans at all. However, Yale, Cornell, and Princeton had decent plans:

- Yale: Delta. \$8/month for preventive/diagnostic care. Next year: same rates as our current rates, but with 80% coverage of minor restorative care. Were able to get cheaper rates because plan is opt-out versus opt-in.

- Cornell: Ameritas of New York. \$271/yr for 100% coverage of preventative/diagnostic, 80% of minor restorative (with \$50 copay). \$750 maximum. (additional coverage: \$289/spouse and \$471/children)

**Officers**

Alex Hamilton Chan  
 gsc-president@mit.edu

Kevin McComber  
 gsc-vice-president@mit.edu

Chuck Gammal  
 gsc-secretary@mit.edu

Nan Gu  
 gsc-treasurer@mit.edu

**Committees**

**Academics, Research, & Careers**

Clarice Aiello  
 Ulric Ferner  
 gsc-arc@mit.edu

**Activities**

James Hong  
 Brandon Russell  
 gsc-ac@mit.edu

**Association of Student Activities**

Rachel Meyer  
 gsc-asa@mit.edu

**Funding Board**

Nan Gu  
 gsc-treasurer@mit.edu

**Housing & Community Affairs**

Wendy Lam  
 Julia Nickel  
 gsc-hca@mit.edu

**Muddy Charles Pub**

Sierra Towers  
 gsc-muddy-chair@mit.edu

**Nominations**

Kevin McComber  
 gsc-vice-president@mit.edu

**Orientation**

Sherif Kassatly  
 Danial Lashkari  
 gsc-oc@mit.edu

**Publications & Publicity**

Chuck Gammal  
 gsc-pp@mit.edu

**Graduate Student News**

Anusuya Das  
 Yoda Patta  
 gsn-editor@mit.edu

**Webmaster**

Wenhao Liu  
 gsc-webmaster@mit.edu

**Staff**

Imani Ivery  
 Laura Thomas  
 gsc-admin@mit.edu

### Officers

Alex Hamilton Chan  
gsc-president@mit.edu

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Nan Gu  
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77 Massachusetts Avenue  
50-220  
Cambridge, MA 02139-4307  
Phone: 617-253-2195  
Fax: 617-258-9274  
http://gsc.mit.edu



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- Princeton: \$170 year for preventative/minor

Wendy will contact MIT's Delta rep to discuss flexibility of current plan. Possibility of a plus one option? (According to dental survey, majority of family plan subscribers cover only two people per plan.) Also look into dentists in the area who would be willing to provide discounts to MIT students.

### 3) Transportation Updates: NW/ EZ Ride

Wendy met with Larry Brutti and Jim Gasciogne/Jeff Bennett to discuss possible switch from NW to EZ Ride next year. Before any switch is made, want to do trial run in Spring '10: Keep NW service the same, but on top of that have additional EZ Ride service to NW. But first, EZ Ride will need to change route, add GPS, etc.

-EZ Ride is on board, and has suggested new routes (which have all NW stops -- including Sloan -- but no 77 Mass Ave Stop). However, EZ Ride wants an extra bus (currently running 7, they want 8 total), partially funded by MIT. Also, MIT will need to pay for additional midday service (starting at 10:15). How much will this cost? This needs to be cheaper than the cost of running NW. Otherwise the switch will be pointless.

-Comments: Look at usage of 77 Mass Ave stop – students will be unhappy about losing this stop on the route. Could consider adding it to the midday route (since MIT is paying for it anyway). Wendy will talk to EZ Ride about reversing the direction of the midday route.

### 4) H1N1

Wendy met with Donna Denoncourt and Dennis Collins to discuss how to prepare students for an H1N1 outbreak. Office of Residential Life distributed cases of hand sanitizer, face masks, and thermometers to the house managers of every graduate residence. Will leave it up to the dorms and dorm governments to decide what to do with them. (Leave them at the front desk? Hand them out at coffee hour?) ResLife will supply more if dorms run out.

Will provide more information on H1N1 vaccinations in November. There will be one *seasonal* flu shot clinic for students only on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> in the student center. Flu shot clinic at Sidney-Pacific has been canceled due to vaccine shortage.

### 5) Open Floor

Family subcommittee chair recruitment: will schedule first meeting in November (either in Eastgate or Westgate). A few EG/WG residents have expressed interest. Could appoint pair in case one of the interested candidates is a spouse and not an MIT student. Paul suggests recruiting from grad moms.