

### 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**

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  
Matthew Walker  
*gsc-hca@mit.edu*

#### **Muddy Charles Pub**

Paul Nerenberg  
*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*

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



## MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

### **GSC Memorandum on the Institute Planning Task Force GSC Executive Committee**

- 1) TA Cost Abatement: reduce number of TAs or TA hours paid to graduate students. Pay to actual TA effort.
  - Crucial to study carefully the impact on graduate support and financial support. This has an impact on the marginal rate of substitution between graduate students and post-docs. There are concerns over potential impacts on graduate student enrollment.
  - In many cases, teaching is already taking up too much time away from graduate research. Graduate students' primary task is to do research. Reducing the number of TAs and increasing TA workload might have a negative impact on both graduate and undergraduate education.
  - Credit from teaching does very little for a graduate student's career. It was perceived as a way to create unfair unpaid labor.
  - Ambiguity on how to measure and compare "TA effort."
- 2) Right-sizing the graduate population
  - Might lead to possible reduction in graduate enrollment by artificial cap on students.
  - Much more analysis needs to be done on how much PhDs give back to Institute, both monetarily and beyond. When considering the cost and benefit of graduate students, one must look beyond the GIB and consider the research grants (which often pay both student tuition and laboratory overhead charges), intellectual property coming out of work of graduate students, and other potential sources of income. Also, intangible impacts must be carefully thought through.
  - Current knowledge is insufficient.
- 3) Study impacts of time-to-completion:
  - Council was not against doing a study to gather more data.
  - Whatever results study suggests, flexibility must be emphasized. Huge amounts of heterogeneity across departments and schools and across research groups within departments.
- 4) 3+2 Masters Programs:
  - Concerns about diluting the prestige or brand value of the MIT graduate degree were expressed by some.

### **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**

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  
Matthew Walker  
*gsc-hca@mit.edu*

#### **Muddy Charles Pub**

Paul Nerenberg  
*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*

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



## MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

- These types of programs should neither compete with the regular admissions process nor create competition for financial support for graduate students accepted through normal admissions channels.