

I am more than happy to sit down one-on-one to discuss any of the points discussed (or not discussed) in this document. Please feel free to send me an email to set up a meeting.

Role of the President

My role as President is to **coordinate** and **cultivate**. I need to ensure that each member works on issues that are important to them in a structured and efficient manner.

Background

- Engineering background
- 5th year in Student Government
- 2007 WPI Student Government President - \$900K/year budget, 40 members
- Ashdown representative to the GSC
- Academics, Research, and Careers member
- Coordinated professional development panels on careers in entrepreneurship and non-profit organizations.

I can leverage my previous experience in Student Government to strengthen the GSC.

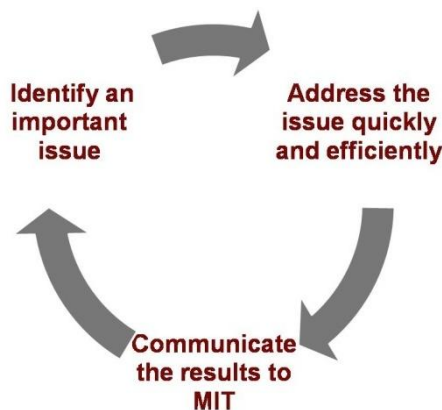
Core Strengths

It is difficult to know where you want to go without first understanding the current strengths and weaknesses of the organization. The weaknesses of the GSC are addressed in my vision. The strengths of the GSC are:

- Extremely dedicated core group of leaders
- Data-driven approach to issues
- Collaborative versus confrontational
- Known by almost all graduate students because of Orientation

A Successful GSC

How does the GSC know when it has done a “good” job? The purpose of the GSC is to create positive change within the MIT graduate community. This entails identifying important issues, addressing them quickly and efficiently, and communicating the results to the graduate community. **My strong belief that we can significantly improve this process is the foundation of my vision.**



2009-2010 Vision

My vision is divided into five areas: **membership, structure, meetings, funding, and communication.**

Membership

Historically, the GSC has been 30% vacant. In addition, retention of members and regular attendance is poor. My goal is to have a GSC that is 95-100% full. The question is how will we get there? First, the GSC needs to have an orientation for new representatives. The leadership of the GSC needs to understand why a representative has joined the GSC and work with them to best identify where they can make a difference. In addition, basic roles and responsibilities need to be described so that the representative understands how the GSC operates. Second, the GSC needs to survey outgoing representatives to understand why they left so that the organization can be further improved. Third, the GSC needs to have a sustainable election process so that the GSC continually has representation in each constituency.

Structure

Only 23% of the GSC is a part of the committee structure. My goal is to have at least 70% of the members involved with a committee. How can we address issues quickly and efficiently if only 23% of our members address pertinent issues? As I mentioned in **Membership**, we can address this issue by understanding what issues members are passionate about and actively working with them to identify where they can make a difference. This will ultimately increase the productivity of the GSC and help to remove the stigma that the GSC is “slow” to bring about change.

I would also like to see the officers work more closely with the committee chairs on creating change. Currently, the committee chairs and officers, a group of more than 10 people, meet once per month. How can this group effectively address the challenges of every GSC committee in one meeting? I would like to see smaller subsets of this group meet twice per month. For example, the President and Vice President would meet with the chairs of ARC and HCA twice per month. These smaller meetings would allow the chairs to discuss the projects of their committees in greater depth and allow for more discussion among the GSC leadership.

Meetings

How many times do representatives from all MIT graduate departments get together in one room? The answer: once a month at the GSC meeting. **Currently, we do not have enough discussions at GSC meetings. My goal is to have a discussion of one major issue at every GSC meeting.** Background information would be provided prior to the GSC meeting and the GSC meeting would consist almost entirely of discussion. The results of the discussion would be recommendations to a group, such as the administration, or the formation of a problem that the GSC needs to solve.

The only time I see the GSC not having a discussion is during two yearly presentations titled: the State of the GSC. These presentations are simply see where we have come in terms of our goals (set at the previous State of the GSC) and to set goals for the next six months.

Finally, we need a room that can accommodate every GSC member. If everyone did show up, we would not be able to accommodate them! How can we have a thought provoking discussion if members are crammed into a small room?

Funding

I have the following critiques of our current funding process:

- The funding criteria are not well-defined
- We do not know if the allocated funds are spent as intended
- Groups are not aware that they can present to the Funding Board
- Groups not associated with a club cannot request funding

I propose that we address these critiques by taking the following steps. First, we need to clearly define our funding criteria. This does **not** mean arbitrarily having a policy not to fund capital expenditures.

I propose that the funding criteria be the following:

- **Need:** Why do you need the proposed funds?
- **Approach:** How do you plan to satisfy the need?
- **Benefits:** What are the benefits to the approach?
- **Costs:** What are the costs to the approach?
- **Competition:** Is there any competition to the approach? (primarily for events)
- **Collaboration:** Have you attempted to collaborate with any other groups? (primarily for events where appropriate)

I propose establishing a Committee on Fiscal Responsibility that tracks that success of funded events. Money will always be scarce. As a result, it is the responsibility of the GSC to reward those groups who have successful events. The purpose of the Fiscal Responsibility committee will be to track the success of funded events for future funding decisions.

Many student groups are not aware that they can present to the Funding Board. A presentation will increase the transparency of the Funding Board and allow for questions to be answered by the group requesting funding. This will help to reduce information asymmetries and help the Funding Board to make better decisions.

I propose that we create a Council Sponsorship Fund. This fund will be available for students who are not affiliated with a particular club. Students who have ideas for events should be allowed to request funds for their event from the GSC.

Communication

The results of projects and announcements need to be communicated to the MIT community. **I propose that the GSC adopt the following methods of communication:**

- **State of the GSC held twice a year.** See the **Meetings** section for more information
- **GSC representatives know the top three projects:** Currently, members of the GSC are not aware of many of the GSC's projects. How do we expect other graduate students to know what we are doing if our own members do not know? The GSC representatives should all know the top three projects of the GSC. This can be communicated in a monthly email to GSC representatives. As a result, anyone who asks a GSC representative what the GSC is working on will hear a similar answer.
- **Routine presentations to departments and clubs:** These presentations will serve to discuss what the GSC is working on and to update various constituencies on the funding process.

Every idea presented in this document is subject to the approval of the Council. I am not going to push ideas that are not accepted by the majority of members.