

Officers

Kendall Nowocin
gsc-president@mit.edu

Francesco Bellei
gsc-vice-president@mit.edu

Christopher Aakre
gsc-secretary@mit.edu

Shabnam Raayai
gsc-treasurer@mit.edu

Committees**Academics, Research, & Careers**

Alina Rwei
 John Yazbek
gsc-arc@mit.edu

Activities

Jonas Helfer
 Affi Maragh
gsc-ac@mit.edu

Association of Student Activities

Benjamin Kraft
gsc-asa@mit.edu

Funding Board

Shabnam Raayai
gsc-treasurer@mit.edu

Housing & Community Affairs

Boris Braverman
 Andrea Dubin
gsc-hca@mit.edu

Muddy Charles Pub

Stephen Messenger
gsc-muddy-chair@mit.edu

Nominations

Francesco Bellei
gsc-vice-president@mit.edu

Orientation

Hector Fornes
 Ina Kundu
gsc-oo@mit.edu

Publications & Publicity

Christopher Aakre
gsc-pp@mit.edu

Graduate Student News

Rudy Dieudonne
gsn-editor@mit.edu

Webmaster

Christos Tzamos
gsc-webmaster@mit.edu

Staff

Elizabeth Granese
 Imani Ivery
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

General Council Meeting
April 1st, 2015, 5:30-7:30 PM in 32-144
Agenda

1. Quorum check
 - a. 52 present, 36 needed, quorum reached
2. Approval of agenda
 - a. Approved by placard voting
3. Approval of March 18 meeting minutes
 - a. Approved by placard voting
4. Introduction of new faces
5. Election of new officers
 - a. Background on officer election procedure
 - b. Speeches from former officers
 - i. Brian Spatocco
 - ii. Bomy Chung
 - iii. Aalap Dighe
 - c. Movement to open nominations, seconded
 - i. Approved by oral vote
 - d. Presidential Election
 - i. Open floor to additional nominations, none made
 - ii. Speech by candidate Michael McClellan
 1. Previously president at Carleton College. Serves on Muddy Board of Governors. Want to bring community together on a number of different topics, such as mental health and wellness. Interactions with people in informal social spaces is very important as well. We need to figure out the future trajectory of the GSC with input from the community.
2. Q&A
 - a. Q: What is a major project that you led at Carleton?
 - b. A: I focused on issues of socioeconomic diversity while at Carleton. For example, I helped create a scholarship fund that waived the student fee for students from disadvantaged economic backgrounds.

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- c. Q: One of the points that you mentioned was making a long-term plan for the GSC. Given that there is so much turnover within the GSC each year, how do you imagine following through on this?
 - d. A: I was modeling my answer based on my experience as in undergrad, where there was more long-term planning. To have a longer term vision, I would want to tap into the officer alumni, for example the advisory board. I would also want to provide input to future officer teams as an officer alumnus.
 - e. Q: The previous question was really good. There are many examples of issues that span different officer teams. What are the main priorities for you that are longer term?
 - f. A: I'm really interested in ONE MIT. I would hope to get a better perspective on additional issues with the outgoing officer team.
 - g. Q: What do you think are good ways to engage people with the GSC?
 - h. A: I think engaging people in informal social spaces is a good idea, for example by leveraging the Muddy. Low activation spaces are very important, such as social hours.
 - i. Q: Can you talk more about how you would engage the undergraduate population?
 - j. A: I'm currently an RA in an undergraduate fraternity on campus. I've seen and experienced a lot of the issues that impact undergraduates. I hope to leverage my personal connections to undergraduates on campus.
3. Closed door discussion (not transcribed).
 4. Voting by clickers. Michal McClellan was elected president.
- e. Vice President Election
- i. Open floor to additional nominations, none made.
 - ii. Speech by candidate Daniel Smithwick
 1. No previous experience in the Graduate Student Council, but hope to learn from the outgoing officers. I've been at MIT for ten years pursuing a number of degrees. This is my last year, so I have time to devote to the role. One of my biggest strengths is my ability to work with a variety of different people – across departments, activities, classes. Some issues I care about are

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advisor-advisee relationships, online education, and well being and mental health.

2. Q&A

- a. Q: Given that you've been at MIT for so long, have you noticed any long term trends that will inform how you will be an officer?
- b. A: The trend that I've noticed is that MIT is trying to open itself up and become more transparent. For example, the open doors initiative that asked everyone to leave their doors open.
- c. Q: Do you have any ideas on how to improve advisor-advisee relationships?
- d. A: I'm currently serving on the Committee on Graduate Programs, and we've worked with Karl on developing a new set of guidelines for advisor-advisee relationships. I think this will help students realize that the advisor-advisee relationship can actually be very productive, if approached correctly.
- e. Q: How much power does the Institute actually have over how faculty treat their graduate students?
- f. A: You're right, the faculty have a lot of discretion over how they want to manage their graduate students.
- g. Q: Michael spoke about how ONE MIT is a focus for him. I'm curious if you think there are student life issues that uniquely affect graduate students over other groups?
- h. A: I think housing and cost of living is one of the primary issues facing graduate students. For example, living off campus, getting married, having kids. I don't know many undergraduates that are facing those issues.
- i. Q: What are some issues that we share with undergraduates?
- j. A: Music performance groups, who are composed of everyone ranging from freshmen to 35-year old graduate students.

3. Closed door discussion (not transcribed).

4. Voting by clickers. Daniel Smithwick was elected Vice President.

f. Secretary Election

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- i. No current nominees.
- ii. Nominations
 - 1. Nominate Jen Gross, seconded. Declined.
 - 2. Nominate Affi, seconded. Declined.
 - 3. Nominate Ina Kundu, seconded. Declined.
 - 4. Nominate Eva Golos, seconded. Accepted.
 - 5. Nominate Astera Tang, seconded. Declined.
- iii. Speech by candidate Eva Golos
 - 1. Also in EAPS. I haven't been involved with the GSC very long, only since January. I'm looking forward to making a bigger impact with the GSC. I was involved in student government as an undergraduate. I'm really excited about the possibility of working with Michael and Dan.
 - 2. Q&A
 - a. Q: One of the main duties of the Secretary is publication and outreach. Do you have any experience developing newsletters or outreaching to constituents?
 - b. A: Yes, I did outreach as an undergraduate.
 - c. Q: I first wanted to applaud you for your courage. Could you tell us more about your experience at MIT and what you've enjoyed so far?
 - d. A: I'm in my second year, which means we're about to take our big qualifying exam in a few months. I've had a really positive experience overall at MIT. Everyone seems very grounded.
 - e. Q: Do you have any experience working with the administration?
 - f. A: Yes, I worked with the administration in my undergraduate student government and through EGSAC, the EAPS student government.
 - 3. Closed door discussion (not transcribed).
 - 4. Voting by clickers. Eva Golos was elected Secretary.
- g. Treasurer Election
 - i. No current nominees.
 - ii. Nominations
 - 1. Nominate Jen Groff, seconded. Declined.

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2. Nominate Jordan Romvary, seconded. Declined.
 3. Nominate Lee Weinstein, seconded. Declined.
 4. Nominate Lauren Chai, seconded. Declined.
 5. Nominate Ina Kundu, seconded. Declined.
 6. Nominate Shabnam Raayai, seconded. Declined.
 7. Nominate Alex Tumar, seconded. Declined.
 8. Nominate Nicole Ashurian, seconded. Declined.
 9. Nominate Boris Braverman, seconded. Declined.
 10. Nominate Jenny Wang, seconded. Declined.
 11. Nominate Janille Maragh, seconded. Accepted.
- iii. Speech by candidate Janille Maragh
1. Really care about event funding at MIT, as events make a really large impact on graduate student life.
 2. Q&A
 - a. Q: How familiar are you with finance?
 - b. A: Most of my experience is through GSC, not through TEEC.
 - c. Q: What is your experience with budgeting through the Activities Committee?
 - d. A: I always stay under budget!
 3. Closed door discussion (not transcribed).
 4. Voting by clickers. Janille Maragh elected Treasurer.
6. Motion to shorten committee updates and give HCA 2 minutes to present.
 7. Election times:
 - a. ARC: April 15, 6pm
 - b. AC: April 15, 5pm
 - c. OC: April 8, 5:30 pm
 - d. ASA: Elections already held. Current need graduate student at large representatives.
 - e. Muddy: April 14, 6 pm
 8. Updates on Housing & Community Affairs
 - a. Increase in graduate stipends of 3.7%, or an additional \$8M in the pockets of graduate students.

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9. Old Business

a. GSC OneMIT Board Charge

- i. Two friendly amendments proposed and accepted
- ii. Q: Is this a new initiative or are student groups already involved with this process?
- iii. A: This is the first of its kind, to some degree, to provide a model or framework for other groups to join in.
- iv. Motion to vote, seconded.
- v. Vote was 33 approve, 0 reject, and 6 abstain. Quorum is 36, and so legislation is tabled until next meeting.

10. New Business

a. External Affairs Committee

i. Scope:

1. Ownership of issues at federal and state levels
2. Collaboration at the local level with existing parts of GSC
3. Awareness for graduate students on external affairs
4. Engagement of MIT graduate students with policy makers

b. Questions

- i. Q: How are elections going to work given that this is a new committee?
- ii. A: Any graduate student would be able to run, and any graduate student attending the meeting would be able to vote. Typically only voting members (students who attended two meetings) would be able to vote, but that isn't possible given that this committee is just being established.

11. Open Floor

- a. Comment: GWAMIT social is on Monday at 6 pm at Mead Hall.

12. Motion to adjourn, seconded, passed by oral vote.