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MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

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?

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2. A: Swing storage space for groups would be helpful for groups putting on one-time events.
 - e. 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

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- 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?

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- 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.