Agenda

• Quorum and Approval of Agenda (5:30 PM)
• Approval of December Meeting Minutes (5:32 PM)
• Introduction of New Faces (5:32-5:35 PM)
• GSC Committee Updates (5:35 – 6:15 PM)
• Officer Updates and Board Reports (6:15 – 6:20 PM)
  • Funding Board
• Service Awards (6:20-6:25 PM)
• Discussion (max of 10 minutes 6:25-6:35 PM)
  • Wellness
• Old Business (6:35 – 7:05 PM)
  • 61.gsc.7.1 Budget Rescope
• New Business (7:05 – 7:20 PM)
  • 61.gsc.8.1 Resolution to update the GSC’s legislative platform (5 minutes + Q&A)
  • 61.gsc.8.2 Amendment to the Bylaws on Initiatives Fund (5 minutes + Q&A)
• Open Floor (6:20 – 7:30 PM)
Academics, Research and Careers

Updates

2/4/2015

Alina Rwei and John Yazbek
GSC Networking Dinners

• The first one will be Biotech/Pharma themed
• Representatives (ideally recent MIT alumni) from companies will be present
• We need help getting contacts and reaching out to people
• If you know of any recent alumni who work at local biotech/pharma companies, could you send us their contact info at gsc-arc@mit.edu
• Dinner will be on Thursday Feb 19th 2015
GRADUATE WOMEN AT MIT
GWAMIT Updates

• We have started our recruiting process for the 2015 GW@MIT Empowerment conference

• Any particular topics that would be interested in being discussed such as: implicit bias, negotiation, conflict resolution, work-life balance?

• Anyone interested in participating in the organization?

• Email gwamit-exec@mit.edu to get involved!
GWAMIT Updates

• Held our General Elections!
• We are very proud to have our new exec board!
• Me and Leyla are stepping down!
• Nora and Alex are the new co-chairs starting next week!
Legislative Action Subcommittee (LASC)

Arolyn Conwill
Yuqing Cui
Spring DC Trips

1. Legislative Action Days with NAGPS
   - March 21-24
   - Up to 2 students

2. Collaboration with Science Policy Initiative (another MIT student group)
   - March 17-18
   - 2 LASC members are joining the SPI trip
Candy Question

What legislative issues would your constituents most like to see us discuss with policy makers in Washington DC, the State Legislature, or Cambridge City Hall?
Next Meeting

Monday 2/9
6pm-7pm
50-220
GSC Activities Committee Update
WE DO THINGS SO YOU CAN TOO

February 4th, 2014
Jonas Helfer & Janille (Affi) Maragh
Battle of the Bands

2nd May 2015
Morss Hall
Publicity Starts Now
Social Media Explosion!
Candy Question!

Which country was featured in the December 2014 Taste Of... event?

Spain!
Taste of Israel

February 17th
Join the Activities Committee!

Wednesday, February 11th
5:30 pm in GSC office

Questions? Concerns? Ideas?

gsc-ac@mit.edu
• A Whole New Grad Gala
THE MIT GSC
cordially invites you to the 2015 annual

Grad Gala

On Board the
USS Odyssey

Saturday, the 11th of April
Two Thousand Fifteen
7 o’clock in the evening

Rowe’s Wharf
Boston, Massachusetts

For More Info: gsc.mit.edu/gradgala

FULL BAR. 2 BANDS. 2 DANCE FLOORS.
LIKE NO GALA BEFORE!

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
• Better food
• Full bar
• FREE shuttle
Amy
Come to the Gala!
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Andrea Dubin and Boris Braverman
MIT iREFS Program

- iREFS program
  - Launching next week!
  - Website: refs.mit.edu

- How many new iREFS do we have?
Cost of Living

• Like data analysis? Want to make a huge impact on graduate student life?
  • Get involved! Email us at gsc-hca@mit.edu
• Recommendations for stipends for next year

What percentage did Graduate student stipends increase by last year?
On the horizon…

- Recruiting volunteers
  - Impacts of the S&P HVAC renovations on the graduate community
  - Cost of living analysis
- West Campus planning committee

Get involved!

Next meeting **Thursday, February 12th** at 5:30pm in the GSC office

- Email us at **gsc-hca@mit.edu**
Association of Student Activities

• Group storage space: what do you need?
• Online event registration: how is it working?

Upcoming:
• Next group recognition cycle: February 15
• General Body Meeting & Elections: late March
MUDDY CHARLES BOARD OF GOVERNORS

02/04/2015
Chair, Stephen Messenger
Renovations
Before
Before
Before
During
During
During
During
Reopening

• **Estimated** Reopening Date: **Tuesday, Feb. 10th**

• Grand Reopening Party: **March 19th from 6 – 9pm in Walker**
  - The Muddy Board in collaboration with GSC AC is hosting a Grand Reopening of the Muddy Charles Pub.

• **Come see the new Muddy!!**

Any comments or suggestions can be sent to: gsc-muddy-chair@mit.edu
Ad Hoc Committee on Governing Documents

02/04/2015
Co-Chairs Dan Day and Chris Smith
Recommendation: Clarify the definition of standing and ad-hoc committees and procedures for committee leadership selection

• Problem:
  • Bylaws Article II leaves unresolved the question of whether boards should be considered standing committees. It also lacks important specification about the selection and removal of committee chairpersons.

• Solution:
  • Clarify the role of boards within the GSC. Codify current standing committee practice for electing and removing chairs within the bylaws.
Recommendation: Clarify the rules governing Council voting methods

• Problem:
  • The Bylaws sections pertaining to Council voting are ambiguous on whether Council may exercise discretion in choosing voting methods. Implicit in this issue is the larger question of what Council should do to ensure transparency in voting.

• Solution:
  • This amendment edits Article V, Section C to clarify that Council has discretion in choosing voting methods and means except for certain items of legislation. It establishes a default requirement that certain articles of legislation be decided by recorded votes.
Recommendation: Clarify the definition of abstentions in Council voting

• Problem:
  • The language in Article V as it pertains to Council voting is confusing on the question of how abstentions affect Council voting outcomes.

• Solution:
  • This amendment states a new formal rule for how abstentions are to be handled during voting. Abstentions will be subtracted from the real-time member attendance count, potentially impacting quorum status. This new rule ultimately affirms the legitimacy of simple pluralities and of the right to abstain, but ties the legitimacy of voting outcomes to their being a sufficient level of participation by Council members.
Recommendation: Enhance the clarify the Council’s budgeting procedures

• Problem:
  • The financial administration provisions listed under Bylaws Article VI include terms and processes that are poorly defined. This is an obstacle to public transparency in GSC budget management and makes knowledge transfer to about GSC financial processes more difficult than necessary.

• Solution:
  • This amendment provides clarifying and updated definitions of financial terms and administrative processes.
Recommendation: Revise the description of the duties of the Vice-President

• Problem:
  • The description of the duties of the Vice-President under Article I is incomplete, and other important duties are referenced elsewhere in the Bylaws. This situation has created past misunderstandings about the full range of the Vice-President’s responsibilities.

• Solution:
  • This amendment modifies the description of the Vice-President’s duties in Article I, Section B, by referencing all of the duties indicated throughout the Bylaws.
Recommendation: Clarify the election process for Council Reps

- **Problem:**
  - The process for nominating and electing GSC Council Representatives, as described in Article III, does not account for the role played by student constituency organizations. It also prescribes a burdensome timeline for elections that is out-of-step with conflicts with Orientation and may be biased against first-years.

- **Solution:**
  - This amendment modifies Article III to institutionalize the GSC’s election coordination with the governing bodies of student constituencies. It also adjusts the timelines for the selection of new Council Representatives under various scenarios.
Recommendation: Revise the formatting structure of Article IV

• Problem:
  • Bylaws Article IV contains inconsistent section lettering which makes referencing the different sections of that article difficult.

• Solution:
  • This amendment modifies the lettering of sections in Article IV to improve the navigability and consistency of the Bylaws.
OFFICER UPDATES
FUNDING BOARD

Shabnam Raayai
GSC Treasurer
Winter/Spring I - Allocations

Funding Board for Student Groups

Start up Fund  Collaborations Award  GSC-PSC  Sustainability Fund  Athletics and Performance Activities Grant

Total Request  Total Allocated
Council Representative on Funding Board

- Thanks to D.W. Rowlands for serving on the Funding Board during the past few cycles.

- The position is open to serve from now until the new officer team is elected.

- To nominate, please email gsc-treasurer@mit.edu
The Executive Committee will host an Open House on Thursday, Feb. 19th at the Asgard, Cambridge.
GSC Service Award!

02/04/2015
Francesco Bellei
We acknowledge the former Council Representatives

Neesha Regmi Schnepf, EAPS
Cecile Casses, Aero Astro
Jordan Romvary, Ashdown
GSC DISCUSSION TOPIC

Wellness

10 minute discussion
GSC OLD BUSINESS
Resolution 61.GSC.7.1

Budget Rescope

Shabnam Raayai
GSC Treasurer
Budget Voting Procedure

2/4/2015
Vice-President Francesco Bellei
The Vice-President will chair the voting.

GSC Bylaws, Article VI.2.5

The first Council meeting of the fiscal year is the Budget Meeting, unless, at the Treasurer's request, the President has designated an earlier meeting as the Budget Meeting instead. The Budget is subject to the legislative process described in Article V, Section C, and thus must be first presented at the meeting preceding the Budget Meeting. At the Budget Meeting, the Budget is the first item on the agenda, and the presiding officer shall not be the President or the Treasurer. The Budget is passed in the following manner:
The voting procedure is explained in the GSC Bylaws.

GSC Bylaws, Article VI.2.5

1. Revenue and the beginning-of-year reserve represent the professional opinion of the Treasurer, and are not voted upon.

2. Each representative is given an opportunity to object to any number of line items. If no objection is raised regarding a given line item, it is approved automatically without a vote.

3. The remaining line items are approved either individually, or in groups of any size. The following rules apply:
   i) Line items may be approved at the original amount or at a lower amount, but not at a higher amount.
   ii) A majority vote is required to approve a line item individually, while a two-thirds vote is required to approve a group of line items.

4. The end-of-year reserve is set to the appropriate amount.
The budget is divided in nine sheets, and each is addressed individually.

Example!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line item</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Net</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n.1</td>
<td>Brownies</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n.2</td>
<td>Cookies</td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-$1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n.3</td>
<td>Ice-cream</td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-$1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n.4</td>
<td>Pie</td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td>$1500</td>
<td>-$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n.5</td>
<td>Sorbet</td>
<td>$750</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td>$4750</td>
<td>-$3750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You can ask any question on any line item to the Committee Chairs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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Why brownies?
Because they are delicious!
Fair enough.
Each representative is given an opportunity to object to any number of line items.

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I object to the line item n.2

No need for second.
No need for vote.
Debatable.
Line items may be approved at the original amount or at a lower amount, but not at a higher amount.

What is your objection on line item n.2?

More money for cookies!

We can’t do that.
After the debate, you can propose an amendment to the line item.

I object on the line item n.5

Some people don’t like sorbet, and $750 is too much for it.

What is your objection on line item n.5?

I move to reduce the budget for line item n.5 from $750 to $500

Second!

It is moved and seconded…
If no objection is raised regarding a given line item, it is approved automatically without a vote.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dessert Committee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Line item</td>
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</tr>
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GSC NEW BUSINESS
Resolution 61.GSC.8.1

Resolution to update the GSC Legislative Platform

(Posted Online: gsc.mit.edu/general-council/meetings)

______________________________
Arolyn Conwill
Yuqing Cui
Platform Content

1. Student rights and diversity
2. Higher education funding
3. Research and development funding
4. International student issues
5. Promoting science
Proposed Updates

Based on feedback at the Platform Open House in January:

• Removed references to federal programs that no longer exist
• Minor wording changes to clarify some items
• Included undocumented students in the section on international student issues
Resolution 61.GSC.8.2

Amendment to the Bylaws on Initiatives Fund

(Posted Online: gsc.mit.edu/general-council/meetings)

________________________________________
Shabnam Raayai
GSC Treasurer
OPEN FLOOR
😊 NOT TO THE MUDDY! 😞