Agenda

• Quorum and Approval of Agenda (5:30 PM)
• Approval of February Meeting Minutes (5:32 PM)
• Introduction of New Faces (5:32-5:35 PM)
• GSC Committee Updates (5:35 – 6:05 PM)
• Officer Updates and Board Reports (6:05 – 6:35 PM)
  • New Officer Candidate Nominations
  • Funding Board
  • Director of Libraries
  • Discussion of External Advocacy
• Service Awards (6:35-6:40 PM)
• Discussion (max of 10 minutes 6:40-6:50 PM)
  • Need based Childcare Grant
• Old Business (6:50 – 7:10 PM)
  • 61.gsc.8.1 Resolution to update the GSC’s legislative platform (5 minutes Q&A + vote)
  • 61.gsc.8.2 Amendment to the Bylaws on Initiatives Fund (5 minutes Q&A + vote)
• New Business (7:10 – 7:20 PM)
  • 61.gsc.9.1 Amendment Gov Docs (5 minutes + Q&A)
• Open Floor (7:20 – 7:30 PM)
NEW FACES?
Subcommittees

- Graduate Women at MIT
- Legislative Action

Institute

3/4/2015

Alina Rwei and John Yazbek
GSC Professional Networking Series: Energy Industry

• Network with company representatives & MIT Alumni in the Energy industry
• Co-hosted by ARC, the MIT Energy Club, and Greentown Labs
• Thursday, March 5th, 5:30pm-8:30pm
• Over 50 companies will be present with 150+ representatives
• Location: Green Town Labs in Somerville
  • Charter Bus
  • Saferide
  • Lyfe (promo $20 off)
Tax Preparation Panel

• March 10th, 6pm-8pm
• Certified Public Accountants as panelists
• Panelist present general tax filing tips
• Get your questions answered!
Candy Question:

What energy companies do you wish to network with?
Legislative Action Subcommittee (LASC)
March GCM Updates

Yuqing Cui
Arolyn Conwill
Current Projects

LASC Projects

Advocacy

Congressional Visits

State and City Level Advocacy

Joint trip with SPI

NAGPS

Op-ed writing and data collection

Collaboration with MIT Alumni Association

MIT Student Concerns

Immigration Reform

Legislative Issue Research

Who is doing all this work???

Policy Research

Negative scientific data

Alternative Science Funding

Government Interference and Innovation

Op-eds writing and data collection

Collaboration with MIT Alumni Association

Who is doing all this work???
Spring DC trips

• Science Policy Initiate (SPI) DC trip
  • Training provided by AAAS and the MIT Washington Office
  • 2 members from LASC
  • Focusing on science funding
  • Traveling with 20 other graduate students across the institute interested in science policy

• National Association of Graduate and Professor Students (NAGPS) DC trip
  • Training provided by NAGPS
  • GSC President + 3 LASC members
  • Focusing on graduate student specific issues

Next LASC Meeting: 6-7pm Mar.16
GWAMIT Updates

• New board!
  • Executive Co-Chairs: Nora Xu, Alex Toumar
  • Secretary: Annie Marinan
  • Membership Co-Chairs: Paula Ruiz-Castillo, Wenda Tian
  • Events Chair: Kelly Brock
  • Finance Chair: Sarah Spencer
GWAMIT Updates

• Spring Empowerment Conference co-chairs elected: Erica Du and Michelle Sing, conference set for late April
• GWAMIT member/board welcome coming up mid March
• Future meeting updates will be on our calendar and the website!
### ACTIVITIES (AC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subcommittees</th>
<th>Institute</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

March 4\(^{th}\), 2014

Jonas Helfer & Janille (Affi) Maragh
Candy Question!

Guess the country!
Candy Question!

Singapore!
Taste of Singapore

March 10th, 5:30-7PM
Morss Hall
Grad Gala Tickets Sold Out!

Exchange open March 9-20th
Battle of the Bands

2nd May 2015

Morss Hall
Join the Activities Committee!

Wednesday, March 11\textsuperscript{th}
5:30 pm in GSC office

Questions? Concerns? Ideas?
gsc-ac@mit.edu
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCA)

Subcommittees

- Sustainability
- Families
- Transportation
- Off-campus

Institute

- DAPER Advisory board
- Family and Work Council
- Medical Consumers Advisory Council
- International Student Working Group
- Student Benefit Advisory Committee
- Committee on Student Life
- Transportation and Parking

Boris Braverman and Andrea Dubin
March 4, 2015
Cost of Living

• Working with faculty and administrators to set graduate student stipend levels for next year.
• Stipend determinations are based on competition with our peers (esp. Stanford) and the local cost of living, as well as cost to grants and equity among the institute.
• Stay tuned for the official announcement on stipend levels for next year!
MIT iREFS Program

- iREFS program
  - Program is now live!
  - Website: refs.mit.edu
  - Check out bios of all the new iREFS online!
On the horizon…

- Costco shuttle will be starting back up on Saturday, and running until the end of the semester
- West Campus planning committee is underway

Get involved!

Next meeting **Monday, March 9**th at 6:00pm in the GSC office

- Email us at gsc-hca@mit.edu
- Consider running for an HCA co-chair position!
Association of Student Activities

3/4/2015
Ben Kraft

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
ASA Elections

• ASA Board Members:
  • Advocacy for student groups
  • Allocating resources (office space, postering boards, LEF/ARCADE)
  • Recognizing new groups
  • Resources for groups
  • Other projects

• ASA General Body Meeting:
  • March 11, 6-7pm in 34-101
  • Electing new board members (President, Treasurer, Secretary, Members At Large)

• Questions? Email asa-elect@mit.edu
MUDDY CHARLES BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Subcommittees

• Activities
• Renovations

Institute

03/04/2015
Chair, Stephen Messenger
We are Open!!!!
Reopening Party

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

• Muddy Board is recruiting
  Please email: gsc-muddy-chair@mit.edu

• Come see the new Muddy!!
OFFICER NOMINATIONS
The elections for the new GSC Officers will be on April 1\textsuperscript{st}, at the GCM.
The Officers positions are voted in order. A candidate can run for more than one position.
The nominations will be open until Wednesday, March 25\textsuperscript{th}.

- Nomination
- Second

gsc-vp@mit.edu
FUNDING BOARD

Shabnam Raayai
GSC Treasurer
Updates

• Election of a new Board Member to serve from now until June

• New Application for Funding
  • One stop shop with email confirmation of submission
DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES
Soliciting Feedback on Forming an External Advocacy Committee

Arolyn Conwill
Yuqing Cui
Some graduate student concerns can only be addressed externally

- **~2/3 of research funding** at MIT originates from federal agencies [1]

- **41%** graduate students are international students who often face legal challenges when it comes to securing and renewing visas [2]

These concerns cannot be addressed within MIT internally, and must be advocated for externally on a national level.

Since external advocacy is an essential and integral part of enhancing MIT graduate students’ welfare, it is also an essential and integral role of the GSC.
What role does the LASC currently play in external advocacy?

- Biannual trips to Washington DC
- Publishes opinion pieces to raise awareness of relevant policy issues
- Maintains an open line of communication with experts at the MIT Washington Office
- Tracks legislative, executive, and judicial developments at the federal, state, and soon local levels and reports those developments back to the General Council and to ExComm
What is the current status of the LASC?

• Created in 2009

• As an ad-hoc subcommittee of ARC, its existence is made possible by the re-affirmation of the ARC Chairs on an annual basis.

• However, the unique work of the LASC has grown to be outside the scope of any existing Committee of the GSC, including ARC.
Establishing the External Advocacy Committee would demonstrate that the GSC is committed to external advocacy on a permanent basis.
How would a new committee arise?

In order to form a new committee in the GSC, a resolution to amend the Bylaws would need to pass in the General Council with 2/3 majority support. (GSC Bylaws Article II)
Today we are soliciting your feedback on forming a new standing committee, the **External Advocacy Committee (EAC)**, dedicated to external advocacy that would expand on the roles currently performed by the Legislative Action Subcommittee (LASC).
Big Picture Questions:

• What would you see as the role of an External Advocacy Committee?
Big Picture Questions:

• What would you see as the role of an External Advocacy Committee?

• What specific provisions would you like to see in the mission of the proposed External Advocacy Committee?
Straw Poll #1: How important is it that the GSC advocate on behalf of MIT graduate students externally?

A. Very Important
B. Somewhat Important
C. Neutral
D. Not important
Straw Poll #2: Are you in favor of the proposal to create a new standing committee on external advocacy?

A. Yes
B. No
C. Undecided
Additional comments?
gsc-lasc@mit.edu
GSC Service Award!

02/04/2015
Francesco Bellei

Graduate Student Council of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
We acknowledge the former Council Representatives

Colin Buss, HST
Idan Blank, BCS
Shaiyan Keshvari, Thirsty Ear
GSC DISCUSSION TOPIC

Need Based Childcare Grant

10 minute discussion
GSC OLD 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
GSC NEW BUSINESS
Ad Hoc Committee on Governing Documents

03/04/2015

Co-Chairs Dan Day and Chris Smith
Article I. Duties of Officers: Vice President

• 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.
Article II. Committees: Clarifications

• 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.
Article III. Election of Council Representatives: Clarification

• 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.
Articles V. Procedures for Council Meetings: Voting

- Recommendation: Clarify the rules governing Council voting methods
- Recommendation: Clarify the definition of abstentions in Council voting
Article VI. Finances

- 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.
OPEN FLOOR
😊 NOT TO THE THIRSTY 😞

BUT

😊 TO THE MUDDY! 😊