



# Graduate Student Council of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## Officers

### President

Michael McClellan  
gsc-president@mit.edu

### Vice-President

Kyle Kotowick

### Nominations Board

gsc-vp@mit.edu

### Secretary

Eva Golos

### Publications & Publicity Board

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### Treasurer

Janille Maragh

### Funding Board

gsc-treasurer@mit.edu

## Committees

### Academics, Research, & Careers

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### Activities

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### Association of Student Activities

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### Housing & Community Affairs

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### Muddy Charles Pub

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### Orientation

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<http://gsc.mit.edu>

## General Council Meeting December 2, 2015 at 5:30 – 7:30 pm in 4-270 Minutes

1. Quorum Check and Approval of November Minutes (5:30 pm)
  - a. Approved!
2. Approval of Minutes (5:31 pm)
3. New faces (5:32 pm)
4. Speaker Paul Laglacé, MIT2016 Gala (5:35 pm)
  - a. 100 years of MIT in Cambridge. We don't have balls anymore.
  - b. Events
    - i. Open House (2<sup>nd</sup> in the last century!)
    - ii. Moving day: May 7—procession, dinner? Department events? Then big ball with 4 separate locations. Maybe institute dessert.
  - c. Send emails with ideas to [pal@mit.edu](mailto:pal@mit.edu). Think about:
    - i. What is a party?
    - ii. Themes?
    - iii. What will attract grad students?
    - iv. Other items to think about—how to make attractive?
  - d. Q: Does it need to be on campus? A: Probably...
  - e. Comment: it's close to finals for students...
  - f. Q: Send out paper invitations?
  - g. Q: How to get a headcount? A: ~8000 people is estimate (incl. students, staff, faculty, alumni)
  - h. Q: Is there a way to incorporate the departments? A: Maybe structure dinners around departments,
    - i. Q: Dancing? A: Probably all will be expected to be dance
    - j. Q: Bruce Springsteen. But maybe a big-name star would help
    - k. Suggestion: Different time period theme for each location, live music at each?
    - l. Suggestion: Different schools?
    - m. Q: Family-friendly events? A: Open House
5. Report from Presidential Task Force on External Affairs (6:01 pm)
  - a. Many options, details in the full report.
  - b. Mission and purpose of task force—Assess how we currently interface with external groups; recommend changes; include all options
  - c. Organization: introduction; Chapter 1: independent actions that don't require re-organization; Chapter 2: Organizational changes
  - d. Independent Actions
    - i. Advocacy Platform: describes agreed-upon positions of GSC; write to include current Legislative Platform, or make it a partner document. LASC currently is defined in LP.
    - ii. Identity Documents: to give to external bodies to understand GSC
    - iii. Communication Guidelines: Who gets to speak for GSC, on what issues, what venues, standards?
    - iv. Formalize Partnerships



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### e. Organizational Changes: Four main classes

#### i. New Constitutional Officer for External Affairs (Foreign Minister?)

1. Would require constitutional change; needs  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote in council, and majority in student body referendum

#### ii. External Affairs Board (EAB)

1. Many options re: who is in charge, membership

2. President; special assistant in charge?

3. Run similar to Muddy Charles Board—chair and membership could be external to GSC

#### iii. External Affairs Committee (EAC)

1. New Standing Committee with 2 co-chairs

#### iv. External Affairs Subcommittee (EASC)

1. Directly under Excomm, or just redefine LASC and stay under HCA

2. Can be created/disbanded by committee chairs

#### v. Of course, also no change

### f. What next?

- i. Consider options and try to implement in spring semester. Working sessions, open houses over IAP

- ii. Legislative Platform Open House in January: review LP

- iii. Draft resolutions!

### g. Questions

- i. Detailing of history behind creation of Task Force

- ii. Board vs. Committee? A: Board has ability to define membership. Can make HCA ex-officio members of board, reduce problem of overlap of responsibilities

- iii. How will resolutions work? A: Some think it should come from outside of Task Force/current LASC

### h. Straw Poll: Do you find the following options acceptable?? 7 options + no change; out of 50 people voting

- i. Option 1: Create EA Officer—35% y, 61% n, 4% a

- ii. Option 2a: EA Board with president as chair—40% y, 54% n, 6% a

- iii. Option 2b: EA Board with new chair (analog to Muddy)—73% y, 23% n, 4% a

- iv. Option 2c: EA Board managed by appointed special assistant (non-excomm)—43% y, 51% n, 6% a

- v. Option 3ab: EA Standing Committee—62% y, 36% n, 2% a

- vi. Option 4a: EASC of Excomm—42% y, 54% n, 4% a

- vii. Option 4b: EASC replacing LASC, in HCA—38% y, 52% n, 10% a

- viii. Option 5: No change—36% y, 58% n, 6% a

### 6. New Business (6:46 pm)

#### a. Task Force on Recruitment and Engagement:

- i. Motivation: Difficulty in filling excomm and general council chairs; Council Chair funding underutilized; Situations of different viewpoints on campus often not heard by GSC



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- ii. Will be less formal than EA task force: more brainstorming
- iii. Timescale: short window for reporting (March GCM); try to pass resolution to accelerate voting to today
- iv. Motion to suspend rules and accelerate voting: via clickers. 82% y, 14% n, 4% a – passes
- v. Motion to pass resolution – seconded –

#### 1. Questions:

- a. Q: Why can't this just be taken care of by excomm? A: This is an opportunity for council members, community to contribute ideas.
- b. Concern: This is a cultural shift that has been taking place for years; we can't just find one magic solution. A: All the more reason to form this group! Will try to implement
- c. A few people voice support for the resolution.
- d. Q: Shouldn't the real task be to find why people aren't engaged? A: We want people on the task force who aren't currently represented. The task force should ideally address this very concern.
- e. Q: Worry that we are taking volunteers away from other groups? A: Hope that
- f. Q: Concern of bureaucracy?

#### 2. Vote:

- a. Test quorum – still there
- b. Vote (now, absolute numbers): 37 y, 4 n, 3 a; Passes.

## 7. Committee Updates (7:13 pm)

### a. Activities:

- i. Coming up: Ski Trip—still selling tickets through 12/6; Last coffee hour next Monday
- ii. Battle of the Bands: Will be late Feb/early March; bands looking for

### b. HCA:

- i. Costco shuttle is actually running again!
- ii. Renter's insurance campaign will launch in dorms
- iii. LASC: public comments on OPT rules; 67 people used LASC template, published in Tech; voter registration events before primaries

### c. Muddy: Social after GCM; finance committee; Muddy Mondays

### d. ARC:

- i. Faculty talk series: not many attendees this semester. ARC may take this over. Lack of advertising, inconvenient times. Suggest broader range of interests also.
- ii. Interdisciplinary journal club: starting in Spring 2016
- iii. Another dissertation bootcamp

### e. OC: Not much until spring

### f. ASA: General Body Meeting next Tuesday. MUST attend if you are an ASA-recognized group; otherwise there's a fine



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## 8. Officers (7:24 pm):

### a. President:

- i. Holiday party! Firebrand Saints this Friday starting at 6 pm
- ii. Ivy+ Summit. Learned that most other schools have a dedicated graduate student center space. In the future we may
- iii. Thanks to those who filled out the mid-year survey

### b. Vice-President:

- i. Inactive reps
- ii. Fall nominations board all filled (except ROTC)
- iii. Special project: mental health services referring students out

### c. Secretary: Anno is being marked as spam.

### d. Treasurer:

- i. Funding deadlines approaching: FB, GSC/PKG Public Service Center fund; Athletics and Performance Activities Grant; Collaboration Award; Student Group Initial Funding
- ii. New Diversity Fund: non-recurring events (not eligible for ARCADE)
- iii. OneMIT Board now active:
  1. Need HASS rep
  2. Student Group "speed-dating" event happening; first event funded by OneMIT
  3. No formal application process for applying; just email
- iv. Do we have a rescope? Will be determined in February

## 9. Open Floor

- a. Looking for Sloan OneMIT Board rep as well
- b. Remember Holiday party on Friday

## 10. Adjournment (7:35 pm)