General Council Meeting
November 1, 2017

Follow us on Instagram: MITgsc

Sarah Goodman
Lisa Guay
Orpheus Chatzivasileiou
Krithika Ramchander
New Faces

• Welcome to General Council!
Quorum check
Approve October Minutes

- Found on GSC website and GCM announcement email
Fostering a culture of community service

Alison Hynd
PKG Public Service Center
Director for Programs
Fellowships Administrator

Kate Trimble
PKG Public Service Center
Senior Director
Legislative Process
Introduction of Legislation

Legislation introduced by author(s) 5 min

Q&A discussion 5 min total 1 min speaking limit

MOTION to suspend 2-session cycle and vote this session

VOTE on motion to vote now

VOTE This session

PASSES by simple majority

VOTE Next GCM
Voting on Legislation

**Decided to vote this session**

**DISCUSSION** with intent to vote 5 min, 1 min/speaker

**MOTION to extend discussion** (specify amount of time)

**MOTION to end discussion and vote before time runs out**

**MOTION to table legislation** Vote next GCM

**MOTION to amend legislation** (specify exact text)

Motions must be **specific**, **seconded**, and require **simple majority** to pass
Voting outcomes

Chair decides the method and means of voting (Bylaws V.C.5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes &gt; No</th>
<th>Yes + No ≥ ½ Quorum</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Approve</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>Legislation dies</td>
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<tr>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>Legislation tabled</td>
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64.gsc.5: A Resolution authorizing the GSC Officers to appear as co-signatories to an email by the Dean for Student Life

Orpheus Chatzivassileiou
Secretary
What is the GSC Policy Platform? (1)

- It’s a document.
- It tells the world about our policy positions.
- It’s been under development since at least 2009.
What is the GSC Policy Platform? (2)

• More formally…

FOREWORD

The GSC External Affairs Board (EAB) is responsible for assisting the GSC in development of its policy positions by annually submitting a proposed Policy Platform for consideration and approval by the membership. As specified in the GSC Bylaws, the Board is empowered to communicate the positions contained in this Policy Platform to relevant external organizations.

• The Policy Platform tells the Board the things General Council definitely believes in and that the Board definitely gets to share with the world.
Policy Platform Style and Format

Our Stylistic Goals for Platform Documents:

• Be specific enough to be meaningful.
• Be general enough that we don’t have to change every item every year.
• Be as concise as possible.
Policy Platform Organization (1)

36 items arranged in 6 sections:
- Rights and Diversity
- Quality of Life
- Higher Education Funding
- Research and Development Funding
- International Student Issues
- Promoting Research
Policy Platform Organization (2)

• 34 out of 36 items are expressed in a ‘positive’ sense.
  • “The GSC firmly supports:”

• The Policy Platform has had ‘subpoints’ in past versions, but we removed them all in 2015.

• The Platform has never named any particular politicians or political parties and usually does not refer to specific legislation or programs.
  • That’s what Position Statements are for!
Audiences of the Policy Platform

- MIT graduate students
- GSC contributors
  - Both new and veteran
- Members and contributors of the External Affairs Board
- Partners and allies
  - Other student governments and issue-focused organizations
- Policymakers
  - We regularly hand the Platform directly to policymakers in meetings
64.gsc.4: Updates to the Policy Platform

Peter Su
External Affairs Board Chair
EAB Federal Affairs and Graduate Student Loans

Katie Shulenberger
External Affairs Board
Federal Affairs Subcommittee Co-Chair
What do we do?

• Research issues relevant to graduate students
• Write statements on the issues
  • Our published statements can be found here: http://gsc.mit.edu/committees/external/statements/
• Advocate on behalf of graduate students to Congress!
  • Three trips to Washington DC per year
  • Most recently, Sept 29 – Oct 3
Perkins Loans

• What are (were) they?
  • Direct subsidized loans for undergraduate and graduate students
  • Low interest rate (5%)
  • Deferred repayment
  • Do not accrue interest until you enter repayment
  • Lender was your University
  • The last subsidized federal loan available to graduate students

• What happened?
  • Perkins program was set to expire in 2015
  • It was renewed for two years with the understanding that the HEA would be reauthorized in that time (it wasn’t), and Perkins loans would be addressed in that reauthorization
  • The Perkins loan program expired at the end of September 2017
Contribution Opportunity

• Looking for contributors to help
  • Frame our position on subsidized graduate loans and how that relates to the HEA reauthorization
  • Help craft a position statement
  • Go to DC this spring to advocate on this position!

• First opportunity: Federal Affairs Subcommittee Meeting
  • November 14, 5-7 PM, GSC Office

• Send us an email!
  • gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu
Officer Updates
Graduate Housing Working Group
Membership

• Ian Waitz, Vice Chancellor (Chair)
• Jon Alvares, Director of Campus Planning
• 6 graduate students
• David Friedrich, Senior Director of Housing Operations and Renewal
• Stephen Graves, Chair of Faculty Committee on Campus Planning
• Suzy Nelson, Vice President and Dean for Student Life
• Krystyn Van Vliet, Associate Provost
Working Group Findings

- The Cambridge rental market has low vacancy rates and rapidly rising rents. We anticipate these conditions will continue.
- MIT’s graduate student population has grown in the last several decades due to changes in research volume and educational programs.
- MIT has made commitments to addressing both graduate student housing needs and Cambridge housing needs.
- These commitments have not kept pace with growing student preference for on-campus housing. We estimate additional preference for on-campus housing to be between 1000 and 1100 students relative to the number we have the capacity to house today (2557).
Working Group Findings

• We operate some of our existing stock at a loss (for example, by deferring maintenance which eventually comes due when we renew a building). This creates an impediment to adding more housing stock. We recommend that the Institute identify ways to operate differently.

• Some of our current housing stock has features and amenities that do not fully align with what some of our students value. These features and amenities cost us money to operate and also opportunity costs.

• We recommend increasing on-campus graduate housing capacity in a way that aligns with what students value/need.

• We recommend that the Institute develop a process for evaluating the benefits and detriments of changes to our housing policies.
Working Group Findings

• We recommend that a detailed evaluation of graduate student housing be conducted by a similar working group every three years, with a report to Academic Council and the MIT Faculty.*

• *Note: this should also include a short yearly update to assess progress relative to the last detailed evaluation.

• To submit comments or questions, please visit http://chancellor.mit.edu/gradhousingworkgroup
Senior Administration’s Response

- Net 250 beds from new graduate residence hall in Kendall Square.
  - 450 from new site – 200 from Eastgate
  - Planned to come online in 2020
- MIT will build a new residence hall with at least 500 beds.
  - Will apply for discretionary/building permit no later than end of 2020
- MIT will increase the number of permanent graduate beds by 200
  - Establishing new beds on MIT’s campus or properties owned by MIT
- Review process: detailed evaluation of graduate student housing is conducted every three years
  - Update on progress will be presented each year in the Town Gown report
Next Steps

- Analyze conjoint survey data to determine what amenities students value
- Make changes to the lottery process
- Investigate policy changes to increase capacity of current housing stock
  - Doubling up in efficiencies
Departmental Best Practices

• Thank you for your survey responses last month!
• We catalogued and categorized feedback from 21 programs/departments
• **Top Strengths:**
  • Quals prep (6 programs)
  • REFS program (6 programs)
  • Social events (5 programs)
  • Degree tracking (5 programs)
• **Top Concerns:**
  • Professional Development (9 programs)
  • Community (9 programs)
  • Quals prep (5 programs)
### Full Matrix

- We will share this with you!

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<tr>
<th>Department/Program</th>
<th>Community &amp; Peer Support</th>
<th>Academic Support</th>
<th>Professional &amp; Career Development</th>
<th>Other Department Support</th>
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<td>REFS</td>
<td>Peer mentoring</td>
<td>Diversity</td>
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• We will share this with you!
Next steps

- Connect with other departments to learn from each other
  - We could also have a couple of you share a brief (5 min) overview of a particularly successful model/program in your department at a future GCM. Is this something you would find useful?
- PD effort is already being coordinated by ARC
- How do we work on community?
  - Unclear from the responses what success might look or feel like
  - Would it be helpful for us to provide a forum in which to discuss/brainstorm (at a GCM or something separate)?
- Let us know if there are other issues you’d like to work collaboratively on!
Council Rep Funding Update

- Thank you for putting many events and projects together in the last month!!
- Sponsored last cycle:
  - CSE Student Symposium
  - NSE T-shirts
  - Political Science End of Year Student Body Meeting
  - Ashdown Wine and Cheese Night
  - DUSP Fall Kick-Off Meeting
  - ChemE Grad Student Social
  - CEE Snacks and Game Nights
  - MechE Muddy Monday
  - HST October TGIF
  - Math Halloween Cheese Party
  - Biology Halloween Dinner
  - EAPS Halloween Party
  - IDSS Embroidery for Department Fleeces
Reminder for Council Rep Funding

- **New cycle Nov 1ˢᵗ – Feb 1⁵ᵗʰ**
- Available to all Council members except those who are members by virtue of their GSC position
  - i.e. Everyone but committee/board and some subcommittee chairs
- $150/rep/term or $250/rep/term with GSC or Institute committee involvement
- Double your $150 if you collaborate with a rep outside your department
- Events/items must be accessible to entire constituency
- Program info: [http://gsc.mit.edu/funding/departmental-funding](http://gsc.mit.edu/funding/departmental-funding)
- Application: [http://mitgscapp.knack.com/funding#applications/councilrepfund/](http://mitgscapp.knack.com/funding#applications/councilrepfund/)
- Questions? Email gsc-vp@mit.edu
Institute Committee Openings

- **Working Group on Graduate Student Tuition Models**
  - Formed last fall, need one new grad student now
  - Charge:
    - *Assess competitiveness* in terms of total cost to RA for duration of doctoral studies including tuition, stipend, medical insurance, fees, indirect costs, employee benefits, etc. as well as fellowship support
    - *Review existing tuition models*, including all-but-dissertation, non-resident status, terminal graduate registration and related reduced tuition models for our peers
    - *Review cohort data* on doctoral time-to-degree and consider impact of tuition models on doctoral time-to-degree
    - *Reports to Vice Chancellor and Vice President for Research*
Institute Committee Openings

• Planning Group for New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Accreditation
  • Need one grad student
    • Familiarity with admissions, student services, and extracurriculars
    • Interest in governance and higher education
  • Charge:
    • Assess the Institute’s evolution over the last 10 years, critically examine MIT’s strengths and opportunities for growth, and articulate goals for the future
  • Time Commitment:
    • Commitment through Fall 2019, regular meetings and writing sessions
    • First meeting the morning of December 8th
• More info:
  • https://cihe.neasc.org/about-accreditation
  • http://web.mit.edu/accreditation/overview/index.html
Institute Committee Openings

- Student & Affiliate Health Insurance Advisory Committee (SAHIAC)
  - Need one grad student
  - Charge:
    - Reviews benefit change requests, recommendations for premium rates, coverage for student activities
    - Reports to Provost and Executive Vice President & Treasurer
  - Time Commitment:
    - 2 meetings in fall, 3-4 meetings in spring (during rate setting)
Committee Updates
ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Karthik Akkiraju and Yijin Wei
Co-Chairs
gsc-ac@mit.edu
Event Updates: Taste of Series

10/17 Tuesday

11/20 Monday

GREAT SUCCESS

Gsc-ac@mit.edu
Coffee Hour is Back.

Monday: 11/6
7PM, Stata Center
GSC Sustainability Subcommittee will be there to distribute reusable tumblers
Arts Gala

- Harvard Natural History Museum: Nov. 17, 7pm – 10pm
- Max. 400 students
- FREE! FREE! FREE!

Ski Trip Update

- Ticket sales starting on Nov. 6, Monday
- Fitting on campus in early December
Grad Gala Updates

• Mar. 24, 2018 8pm – 12am
• Museum of Science
• Attendees can choose between 1 drink ticket or 1 laser show ticket, 1st come 1st serve
• Ticket price: $55/person
• Expect the contract to be signed by Nov. 15
• Ticket sales should start late January or early February
ACADEMICS, RESEARCH, AND CAREERS

Pat O’Shea and Richard Zhang
Co-Chairs
gsc-arc@mit.edu
October 2017 ExComm Meeting ARC Updates

Growing Up In Science with Sigrid Staffilani
November 2017 ARC Updates

• Profs-On-Tap
  ➢ 11/07 with Jeff Gore @
  ➢ Currently looking for a prof for 11/14
  ➢ Suggestions are always welcome

• Travel Grant Term Update
  ➢ Cycle restriction: explicitly asking whether an applicant has been funded in the previous cycle
  ➢ Report deadline: reports must be due within 60 days of travel (15 days for the June cycle)
Nov 2017 ARC Updates

• Gordon Engineering Leadership Program
  • ARC is working with GEL on their IAP programing for this January, mostly starting as a co-sponsor
  • Continuing talks about possible certificate programs in the future

• Please join us for our November ARC Meeting
  • 11/15 at 5:30PM in the GSC Office
  • Dinner will be served!
ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Kelsey Becker
ASA President
asa-exec@mit.edu
Statehouse Visit – Fall 2017

• Last week, Tuesday

• Topics:
  • Sexual Violence on College Campuses
  • Road/Bike/Pedestrian Safety
  • Automatic Voter Registration
  • Election Day Voter Registration
  • Carbon Fees
  • Global Entrepreneur in Residence (GEIR) program
Help Push the Sexual Violence Bill!

• Up for debate in MA Senate tomorrow (Nov 2) at 11am

• Show support by showing up!
  • Wear MIT stuff if possible to identify you as a student
  • See what a debate in the statehouse is like

• Plan is to meet at 10:30am at Park Street T stop
  • But show up anytime!

• Details and RSVP on Facebook: tinyurl.com/sexual-violence-debate
City Council Election

- MIT and Local Politics panel
  - Super fun! Filled the room!
  - Nadeem Mazen and Leland Cheung would do again

- Voter registration
  - >600 students registered!
  - Both Turbovote (~250) and physical forms (~400)

- Getting out the vote for election next Tuesday! Nov 7
  - GSC’s compiled info about candidates here:
Public Outreach

• Help with brainstorming ideas for a science gameshow!
  • Sign up for a 30 min session
  • http://tinyurl.com/science-gameshow-brainstorm
  • Need multiple disciplinary perspectives

• Continuing to work on connecting MIT researchers with local media and drafting resources for outreach by MIT students
University Liaison

• Ivy+ Summit: Oct 27-29 at Harvard
  • Just finished!
  • Discussions about what’s working in graduate student governments at the Ivy League schools + MIT and ideas for improvement
  • MIT Representatives include GWAMIT, Orientation

• NAGPS National Conference: Nov 2-5 at Syracuse
  • Discussions about what’s working in graduate student governments at schools across the country and ideas for improvement
  • NAGPS business
Other Subcommittees

• Federal Affairs:
  • Working on follow up with offices contacted at Fall LAD
    • Earlier discussion of Perkins Loans and grad finances was a part of this!

• Development:
  • Meetings are every week on Friday at 6pm in the GSC Office
  • Come discuss anything remotely External Affairs related!
    • Seriously, feel free to treat this as EAB Office Hours or something…
Next EAB Meeting:

Wednesday, November 8th at 5pm
GSC Office (50-220)

gsc-eab@mit.edu
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Malvika Verma and Nicholas Triantafillou
Co-Chairs
gsc-hca@mit.edu
Cost of Living Survey!

- Closes 11/6.
- It plays a huge part in determining future stipends.

Pritchett Dining Taste Test:

- 11/2 @ 6PM on the 2nd/3rd floor of Walker Memorial.
- 15 spots still open – free food, no string attached!

Next HCA Meeting:

- 11/20 @ 5:30PM in the GSC office (above the Muddy).
MLK Visiting Professors and Scholars Program

SCHOLARS ON TAP

MEET THE MIT MLK VISITING SCHOLARS

Nov 2
6–7:30 pm

The Thirsty Ear Bar
Dinner and 1 Drink will be provided


Institute Community & Equity Office

Graduate Student Council of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Inaugural Conference @ MIT

DATA FOR BLACK LIVES
CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 17-19, 2017
MIT MEDIA LAB
75 AMHERST ST, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

Over two hundred data scientists, computer programmers, racial justice activists, and elected officials to discuss the role that data can and should play in Black communities.

PORTION OF EVENT WILL BE SPONSORED BY GSC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION SUBCOMMITTEE (DIS)
iREFS

• Learn conflict management!
  • Videos!
  • In-person trainings!

• Destress at office hours – every Thursday 1-2 PM in 4-146.
  • Or talk it out over a free cup of coffee!
Sustainability Subcommittee

• Starting to plan Atlas Learning Center online course on Lab Recycling/Waste Minimization.
  • To accompany existing Responsible Waste Disposal Practice course.

• On-campus visualizations of energy-use data.
  • with Office of Sustainability

• Sell reusables at on-campus stores and cafeterias.
  • Negotiating with campus vendors.

• Helping AC minimize waste at GSC Coffee Hours.
Help shape the Muddy community!

Please fill out our Muddy survey! [muddy.mit.edu/survey](http://muddy.mit.edu/survey)

Join the board or a subcommittee and help run a small company!

Our next:

Board meeting meeting 6:30 @ 11/6! (GSC Office)

Please email: gsc-muddy-chair@mit.edu

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*Graduate Student Council of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology*
Celebrate the Muddy’s 50th anniversary!

• Established in 1968
• Planning two big events and accompanying smaller ones

• Our activities subcommittee needs help!
• Interested in coordinating or helping day of?
  • Email gsc-muddy-ac@mit.edu
Host a cultural event at the Muddy!

Host your next cultural group event with Muddy Mondays!

With 5:1 matched
Food funds up to $400

21+ always only
@muddycharlespub

Building 50
142 Memorial Drive
Enjoy wings & vegetarian options weekly!

Muddy Charles Pub
Join us for Weekly Wednesdays

Wings & Vegetarian Dumplings Served at 8 & 9pm
Limit 4 per person per serving

21+ always only
@muddycharlespub

Building 50
142 Memorial Drive

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
After the GCM

Come hang out at the Muddy!!
ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

German Parada and Akshata Krishnamurthy
Co-Chairs
gsc-oc@mit.edu
OPEN FLOOR