General Council Meeting
February 7, 2018

GSC President Sarah Goodman
GSC Vice President Lisa Guay
GSC Secretary Orpheus Chatzivasileiou
GSC Treasurer Krithika Ramchander

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Quorum check

Approve December Minutes

- Found on GSC website and GCM announcement email

New Faces

- Welcome to General Council!

MIT Mental Health and Counseling

Karen Singleton, Associate Medical Director; Chief

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Gordon Engineering Leadership Program

David Niño, Senior Lecturer

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New Leadership Development Programs for Graduate Students

- **David Niño, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer**
- **Gordon-MIT Engineering Leadership Program**
- **dnino@mit.edu**

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BERNARD M. GORDON
MIT Engineering Leadership
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

How many are aspiring to contribute something new and impactful in your career?

Skills Learned in 6.928/16.990J/15.S67

Leadership

> **Creating and Communicating a Shared Vision**
> **Building Power & Exercising Influence**
> **Developing and Empowering Others**

Teamwork

> **Forming, Launching, and Developing Teams**
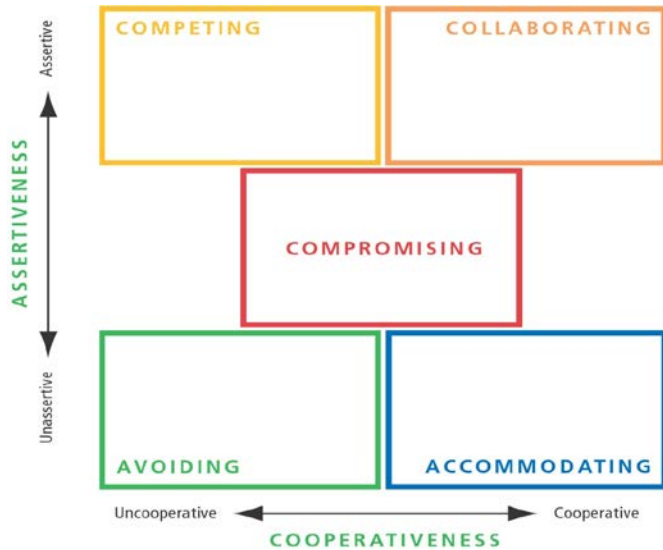> **Adjourning Teams · Decision Making**
> **Fostering Collective Creativity**

Interpersonal

> **Managing Conflict & Negotiation · Motivating Others**
> **Giving & Receiving Feedback · Listening**
> **Building Positive Relationships and Networks**

Personal

> **Developing Self-Awareness · Managing Stress**
> **Identifying and Developing Strengths · Thinking Creatively**
> **Ethical Decision Making · Managing Your Career**

Learning Methods

28 Personal Assessments

16 Skill Sets Case Analyses

Learning Methods

**Skill
Practice &
Feedback**

Autobiographical Paper

WHAT'S YOUR
STORY

Doctoral Minor

Take "Leading Creative Teams" (9 units)

Build a small collection of other classes

Gain advisor approval

Implementing a Doctoral Minor

Dhanushkodi Mariappan, **Mechanical Eng**
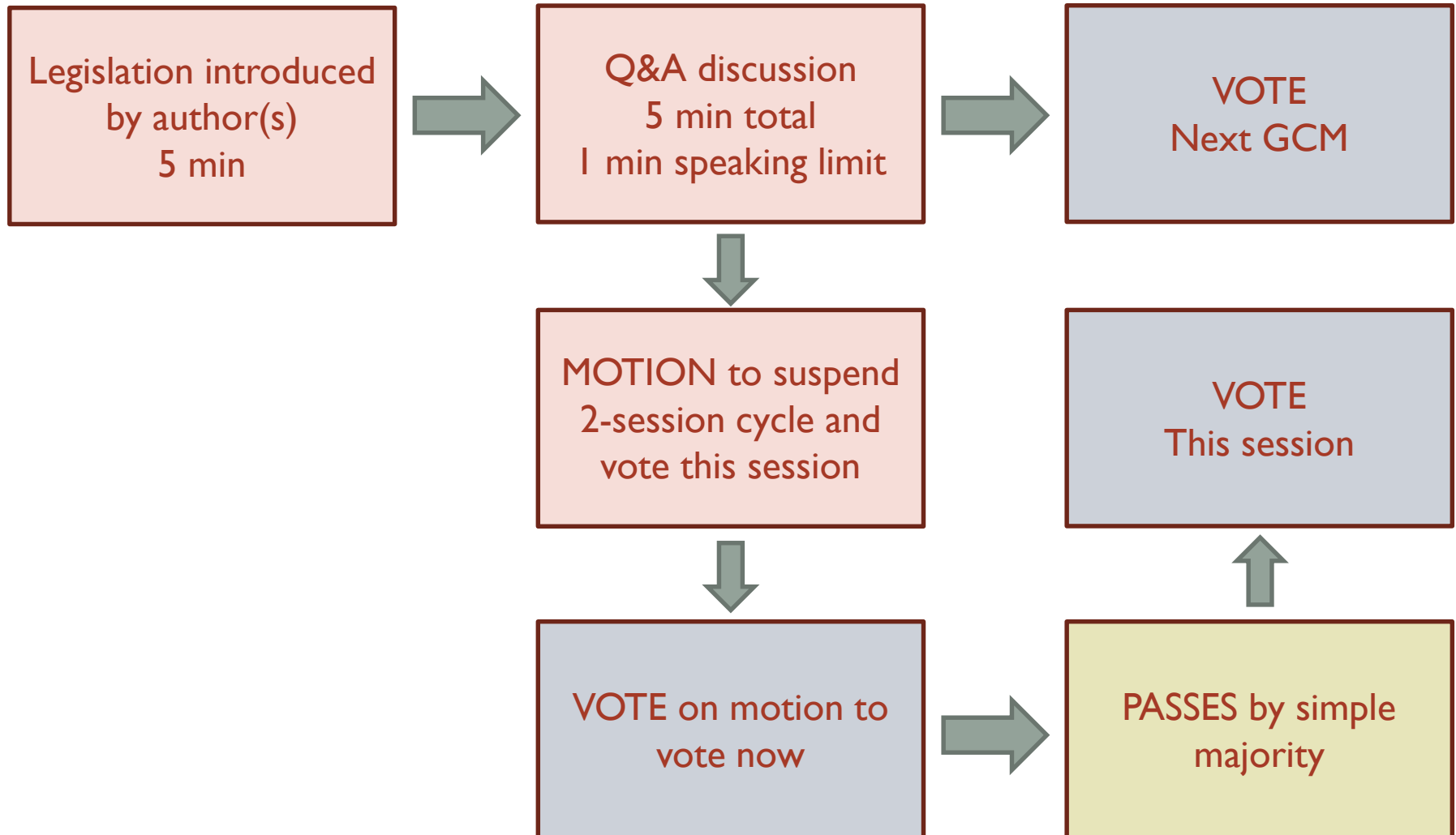
Shuting Feng, Chemical Eng

Leadership Certificate Idea

- Disaggregate class into a series of workshops

- Award some form of credential, like a certificate

- How could we tailor this to align more with our broader graduate community?

- How can we spread workshops out over time?

- Other questions or recommendations?

Legislative Process

Introduction of Legislation

Legislation introduced by author(s)
5 min

→

Q&A discussion
5 min total
1 min speaking limit

→

VOTE
Next GCM

↓

MOTION to suspend 2-session cycle and vote this session

↓

VOTE on motion to vote now

→

PASSES by simple majority

↑

VOTE
This session

64.gsc.5: Updates to the Policy Platform

Peter Su
External Affairs Board Chair

Graduate Student Council
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Background

- Discussions for additional policy platform updates in November & December

- The following changes were approved by the External Affairs Board on December 14th

- Unless otherwise mentioned, all the items are prefaced by "The GSC firmly supports"

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Rights and Diversity

- Protecting the rights of all students regardless of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, ancestry, employment status, marital status, national or ethnic origin, or immigration status.

- New Item:
  Protecting open and equal access to the internet.

Quality of Life

- Policies that effectively prevent sexual ~~harassment and assault~~ misconduct, provide resources and support for survivors, and result in fair and timely investigations with appropriate consequences for perpetrators.

- Policies and developments that increase the availability, quality, affordability, and safety of transportation services and infrastructure used by students.

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Quality of Life (cont.)

- New Item:
  Provision of convenient, fair, and safe restrooms for graduate students of all gender identities.

- New Item:
  Policies, programs, and activities that improve the relationship between MIT and the local community.

Quality of Life (cont.)

- New Item:
  Efforts to protect the environment.

- New Item:
  Measures that enable the MIT community and all individual members to decrease their carbon footprints.

Civic Engagement and Voting Rights

- New Item:
Allowing international students to vote in municipal elections.

- New Item:
Adoption of voting methods that more accurately reflect the preferences of voters.

Higher Education Funding

- Efforts to ~~maintain and/or~~ increase the amount of ~~state and federal~~ funding provided for colleges and universities ~~in the United States~~.

- ~~Actions take to promote affordable tuition and low student loan interest rates.~~
  Policies and programs that ensure higher education is affordable for all.

Research and Development Funding

- Policies that encourage public and private investments in research and development ~~in order to improve the competitiveness of the United States~~.

International Student Issues

- All measures that make more employment opportunities and more employment-based visas ~~(particularly H-1B)~~ available to international students who obtain their graduate degrees in the US.

- New Item:
  Allowing students at US universities to apply for US citizenship.

Promoting Research

- ~~Efforts supporting~~ open access to publications resulting from federally funded research.

- Replace: ~~Efforts by lawmakers to take action on issues raised by the scientific community that are crucial to society's well-being, including, but not limited to, climate change and sustainability.~~
  With 2 separate points: Taking action on issues raised by the scientific community. &
  Research on issues crucial to society's well-being.

Promoting Research (cont.)

- Replace: ~~Strengthening ties between policy makers and experts in order to take full advantage of the investments by the federal government in research by using research findings to inform policy decision making.~~
With 2 separate points: Strengthening ties between policy makers and experts. &
Using research findings to inform policy decision making.

Promoting Research (cont.)

- New Item:
  Efforts to promote the study and monitoring of climate change and its effects.

- New Item:
  Proactive actions to mitigate the effects of climate change, including but not limited to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Future of Diversity and Inclusion Working Group

Michael McClellan, Past GSC President (2015-2016)

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Future of Diversity and Inclusion Working Group

Purpose

Determine the ideal structure and scope of the diversity and inclusion efforts of the GSC, and develop a proposal to enact the necessary changes so that the GSC can better support sustained engagement on diversity and inclusion for many years to come.

Timeline of FDIWG so far

- Summer: Arolyn and Michael brought onto DIS as At-Large Members to study options for future of DIS; Met with HCA Co-Chairs and DIS leadership about current challenges

- October-November: Conversations with each DIS C-Rep on how they envision the future of D&I on GSC; Synthesis of conversations into five themes

- December: Formed FDIWG

- January: Series of five meetings on each theme

Progress report

- Kickoff Meeting in December
- Series of five meetings on five themes over IAP
  - Advocacy and statements
  - Communication and community
  - Relationships with student groups
  - Relationships with MIT's Administration
  - Relationships within the GSC
- Outcomes:
  - Meeting summaries available
  - Generated options for possible recommendations
  - Some topics require further exploration

Next steps

- *So far the working group has completed more inward reflection on how the GSC can better handle D&I topics, and next we will synthesize recommendations and solicit more outside feedback.*
- DIS Meeting on Thursday
- Upcoming meeting schedule TBA
  - Workshop full list of possible recommendations that came up and assess impact and viability
  - Targeted outreach to students outside GSC
- Report recommendations at March GCM

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Want to hear more?

- Sign up for our email list for updates
  - https://mailman.mit.edu:444/mailman/listinfo/gsc-fdiwg-all
- Stay in touch
  - gsc-fdiwg@mit.edu
  - We're happy to meet with any of you one-on-one.
- We have a google drive folder!
  - Background research
  - Meeting summaries

Officer Updates

Mental Health

- What is the climate surrounding mental health in your department?

- What challenges do grad students face in seeking out help?

- Is mental health something that your department/advisor prioritizes?

Update on Departmental Best Practices

- October GCM – in-meeting survey on primary concerns and strengths across departments
- November GCM – shared results

| | Common Areas of Strength or Concern | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Community & Peer Support | | | | | | | | Academic Support | | | | Professional & Career Development | | Other Department Support | | |
Department/Program	Student government	Social events	Community	Community across research divisions	REFS	Peer mentoring	Diversity	Connectedness with broader MIT community	Degree tracking	Quals prep	Advisor selection	TA training	Professional development	Graduation support	Responding to student concerns	Student handbook / policies and enforcement	Student office
AeroAstro	Strength				Concern		Concern		Strength	Concern							
Architecture							Concern										
BCS		Strength	Strength	Concern	Strength												
BE			Strength		Strength				Strength	Strength			Concern	Concern		Concern	
Biology					Strength				Strength				Strength (academic) & Concern (non-academic)	Concern	Concern		
ChemE		Strength	Concern		Strength	Strength									Concern	Concern	Concern
Chemistry					Strength												
CSB		Concern								Strength							Strength
EAPS	Strength		Concern			Concern	Concern		Concern								
Economics			Concern			Concern							Strength				
EECS										Strength	Concern						Strength
HASTS		Concern	Strength						Strength	Concern		Concern					
HST		Concern						Concern		Strength					Strength		Strength
MAS		Strength						Concern					Concern				Strength
DMSE	Strength	Strength	Concern		Concern					Strength	Strength		Concern				
Math	Concern	Concern	Strength	Concern					Strength	Concern		Concern	Concern		Strength		
MechE	Strength		Strength		Concern					Strength			Concern			Concern	
NSE			Concern			Concern			Concern						Strength		
Physics					Strength	Strength							Concern			Concern	
Political Science		Strength	Strength	Concern						Concern			Concern		Strength		
DUSP										Concern			Concern				

- Used your feedback to create new survey for grad students to rate departments in various categories
  - https://tinyurl.com/MIT-Dept-Strengths
  - Opened Nov 7th
  - 31 responses…

- Next steps

Departmental Strengths Inventory

Please help the Graduate Student Council and your departmental representatives work to improve the graduate student experience at MIT. We need your help to understand what your department does well and where you think attention is needed. We are interested in identifying particular areas of strength and concern in individual departments as well as across the Institute.

If you have any questions about this effort, please reach out to the GSC Officer team at gsc-officers@mit.edu or to your departmental representative(s) (see the list here: http://gsc.mit.edu/representatives/list-of-council-representatives/).

Please rank the following items from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) for your graduate department or program.

Community & Peer Support *

	1 (Poor)	2	3	4	5 (Excellent)	N/A	I don't know
Student government	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Social events	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Community: General	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Community: Across research divisions	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
REFS program	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Peer mentoring	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Diversity	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Connectedness with broader MIT community	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

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Reminder for Council Rep Funding

- **Current cycle Nov 1st – Feb 15th**
- Talk to me after the meeting if this timeline is a problem for you!

- 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
- Application: http://mitgscapp.knack.com/funding#applications/councilrepfund/
- Questions? Email gsc-vp@mit.edu

New GSC Constituencies!

- New [Y Report](#) from the Registrar's Office
- In the process of creating seats for the following interdisciplinary degree-granting programs:
  - Real Estate Development (RED)
  - Supply Chain Management (SCM)
  - Engineering and Management (SDM & IDM)
  - Microbiology* (pending further discussion with students)

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Commencement Updates

- Issues with Commencement
  - Ceremony is too long (>4 hours for the first time last year)
  - Not enough space in Killian (over capacity last year)
- Proposed solutions
  - Stand-alone ceremony for PhDs - receive both hoods and diplomas
  - Stand-alone ceremony for Sloan's Masters and PhD candidates
  - Ceremony begins with speeches in Killian Court and all degree recipients in attendance. Then, candidates split to separate locations for diploma distribution
  - Two ceremonies: one in the morning and one in the afternoon (one for undergraduates and one for Masters/PhDs)

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Focus groups

- GSC requested focus groups to hear from grad students about aspects of Commencement that are most valuable to them
- If you didn't get a chance to participate and would like to share feedback, please email **Gayle Gallagher,** Executive Officer for Commencement

  - gayle@mit.edu

Commencement Speaker for 2019

- Please fill out the survey to give recommendations for speakers
- https://goo.gl/forms/UH8Y9saOiAeXgzMI3

Implementation team

- Working on improving clarity on DSL's communications & website.

- Met with dorm governments of singles' dorms
  - Will meet with Eastgate & Westgate too.

- Talked about the possibility of doing pilots about:
  - Picking your own roommates
  - Picking your own roommates & rooms
  - Having couples in dorm/doubling up
  - Having families with children in dorms

- Follow-up meetings with dorms with proposals for pilots
  - Gauge interest in participating.
  - Discuss details, figure out process for each dorm.

Logo Policy

- Passed by ExComm
  - Included in full in the Agenda & Minutes page.
  - Also in http://gsc.mit.edu/about-gsc/logo-branding/

- Codifies existing publicity policies and regulates logos and logo use by GSC Entities (committees, subcommittees, etc).

Logo Policy

- In short:
  - Can always use the GSC Primary Logo in publicity
    - Must use the Primary Logo for contribution/sponsorship/money coming from General Council, ExComm, Initiatives Fund, Funding Board
  - Entities can have their own separate logos, with limitations:
    - Either use the GSC Primary Logo as their basis with small variations,
    - Or be visually distinct from the GSC Primary Logo <u>but</u> incorporate the words "MIT GSC", "GSC" or "Graduate Student Council" in the design.

- Policy also includes rules for using multiple logos.

- P&P in charge of implementation & enforcement.
  - 2 month grace period

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Newsletter

- Out the Friday after the GCM
- Open rates similar to the Anno's
- 4 categories
  - GSC Events
  - Updates
  - Volunteer Opportunities
  - Committee Meetings
- What works for you? What doesn't?
- Starting in March, we'll open up submissions to Council Reps.

Leadership Social

- Friday, February 23rd 5-7 pm
- Asgard Pub
- Learn about leadership opportunities within the GSC
- Strongly encourage everyone to join us!!

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Committee Updates

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Karthik Akkiraju and Yijin Wei
Co-Chairs
gsc-ac@mit.edu

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Event Updates: Taste of Series

1/23 Tuesday

2/20 Tuesday

Two sets of tables with the same dishes
One dedicated line for reusables

9REA7 SUCCESS

gsc-ac@mit.edu

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Coffee Hour

Refill

Sustainability — MIT GSC

MIT GSC

NOT landfill

Number of paper cups
trashed annually in the US:
58,000,000,000

GSC Coffee Hour with
GSC Sustainability Freebies

2/12 (Mon), 7 pm
Forbes Cafe, Stata Center

To help save trees, the GSC Coffee Hour is now a paper cup-
free event. Please bring your own mug or tumbler. Don't have
one? You can collect a free tumbler from GSC Sustainability
at the event and customize it with stickers and other designs!

First coffee hour of the semester
Monday: 2/12
7PM, Stata Center

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gsc-ac@mit.edu

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Institute of
Technology**

Grad Gala Updates

- Museum of Science
- Mar. 24, 2018, 8pm – 12am
- Drink Ticket Vs Laser Show
- Pink Floyd, Beyoncé?

- Ticket sales starting on Feb 19.

Ski Trip Update

- 1/19 – 1/22 at Smuggler's Notch Resort
- Two medial emergencies
- Refund policy revisited

Upcoming Events

- Battle of Bands (April)
- Casino Night
- Bodaborg/Escape The Room
- Trips to local schools

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gsc-ac@mit.edu

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ACADEMICS, RESEARCH, AND CAREERS

Pat O'Shea and Richard Zhang

Co-Chairs

gsc-arc@mit.edu

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February 2018 GCM Meeting ARC Updates

- Profs-On-Tap
  - ➢Joel Schindall (professional + professor) on 12/05
  - ➢Event overbooked (did not drag anyone out)
  - ➢Will collaborate with the MITAA to bring in more professionals

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February 2018 GCM Meeting ARC Updates

- De-stressing Dissertations
  - Double the turnout of the summer
  - 90% satisfaction rate
  - Great collaboration with the Writing Center. Potential collaboration with the Comm Lab
  - Received many positive comments
    - ➤ "Great event! Loved it!"
    - ➤ "Do more things like this! Honestly, just having a dedicated space and a steady coffee supply was immensely helpful."

Food for Event Attendees

Food is reserved for attendees of "Destressing Dissertations"

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February 2018 GCM Meeting ARC Updates

- Leadership Minor
  - Working with the Gordon Engineering Leadership to develop a minor/certificate program for graduate students
- Mentorship Panel Discussion
  - Collaborating with GECD and VPR to put together a panel on Academic Interviews and Offers
  - Taking place on February 22nd at 2pm in 26-100

February 2018 GCM Meeting ARC Updates

- Professional Development Working Group
  - Currently collecting data from grad students on departmental practices
  - Working with OGE and GECD on better organizing and managing graduate PD at MIT
  - Very likely will involve the Departmental Reps

ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Kelsey Becker

ASA President

asa-exec@mit.edu

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Allocations

- LEF-ARCADE funding delay
  - Resubmit applications by tonight!
  - Funding Board will step in to help. Talk to Krithika (gsc-treasurer@mit.edu) if you need urgent support for an event.
- New space allocations released in last month
  - Office/locker clean-outs coming – stay tuned for details

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Database

- Working group still dealing with known issues
  - Grad students mislabeled as alumni (IS&T database mismatch) – contact asa-database-feedback@mit.edu
  - Adding faculty/MIT affiliates to database – contact sao-staff@mit.edu
- Evaluating database overall
  - Feedback welcome!

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BOARD

Peter Su
External Affairs Board
gsc-eab@mit.edu

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IAP Workshop: Advocacy 101

- 1st Annual Workshop series!

Workshop #1

Policymaker Panel

Upcoming Trips

- Federal Affairs:
  - NAGPS Spring Legislative Action Days (LAD)
    - March 10-13
  - AAAS Catalyzing Advocacy for Science and Engineering (CASE)
    - March 18-21
  - Contact gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu if interested

- State and Local Affairs:
  - Massachusetts Statehouse Visit
    - Time TBD, most likely in April
  - Contact gsc-eab-state@mit.edu if interested

Upcoming Trips (cont.)

- University Liaison:
  - NAGPS Northeast Regional Conference
    - April 20-21
  - Contact gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu if interested

Upcoming Meetings

- We're determining our priorities this upcoming semester in this month's meetings:

  - Federal Affairs: Thurs, Feb 22 @ 5pm in 50-220

  - State and Local Affairs: Wed, Feb 14 @ 6pm in 1-236

  - Public Outreach: Wed, Feb 28 @ 6pm in 50-220

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Next EAB Meeting:

Tomorrow, February 8th at 5:00pm
GSC Office (50-220)

gsc-eab@mit.edu

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Malvika Verma and Nicholas Triantafillou

Co-Chairs

gsc-hca@mit.edu

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☹ Star Market is Closed ☹

- Star's lease runs through May or June, no next tenant yet.
- A new grocer seems unlikely.

We're working with Student Life to:
- Increase grocery shuttle services
- Make grocery delivery more affordable.

Other projects:
- LaVerde's discount (for survey takers)

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CostCo Shuttle Continues

- Every 3 weeks, but with coverage into the summer.
- Reduced to 2 round trips (3 hours).

- Know someone who might want to run the program? Comments/Questions? – email gsc-hca@mit.edu

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Stipend Recommendation - Soon!

- GSC presentation is key factor in stipends. (Feb. 27)
- 3.8% average increase over last four years.
- Email gsc-hca@mit.edu if you have ideas or want to help.

Next Meetings:

- 2/12 @ 5:30 PM
- 3/12 @ 5:30 PM
- 4/9   @ 5:30 PM

- All in the GSC office (above the Muddy).

MUDDY CHARLES PUB

Alex Genshaft

gsc-muddy-chair@mit.edu

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The Muddy Wants You!

Join us as we begin our 50th anniversary celebration with a
 Jazz Brunch 2/23 @ Noon!!!

Host a Muddy Mondays with us muddy-activities@mit.edu

Join and Run a small company! Come to our next meeting 2/26!

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After the GCM

Come hang out at the Muddy!!

We'll have wings & dumplings!!

OPEN FLOOR