



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

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62.gsc.2.1: Resolution for Presidential Task Force on External Affairs

Author: GSC President Michael McClellan

Whereas the Graduate Student Council of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT GSC) has the potential to improve the lives of MIT graduate students through advocacy on behalf of their interests to governments and external organizations;

Whereas the GSC has the capacity to connect motivated graduate students to civic projects and volunteer opportunities in the community;

Whereas the administration of MIT strongly supports engagement of graduate students and the GSC in projects and initiatives outside the Institute;

Whereas the creation of a standing "External Affairs Committee" failed to pass as legislation in the 61st session of the GSC; and

Whereas the President of the GSC intends to empower the General Council to determine its own plan for engaging with external organizations and initiatives; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the President of the GSC shall convene a Presidential Task Force on External Affairs in accordance with the guidelines for *ad-hoc* committee creation in the GSC Constitution and Bylaws, and in accordance with the committee charge attached to this resolution.



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Charge for Presidential Task Force on External Affairs

Motivation

In the 61st Council (2014-2015) of the GSC, legislature to create a new External Affairs standing committee by amending the GSC Bylaws was defeated. The debate immediately preceding the vote, however, showed that there was broad support for increasing the amount of engagement between graduate students and initiatives and organizations outside the Institute.

Purpose

This Presidential Task Force on External Affairs shall assess the manners in which the GSC currently interfaces with governments and external programs, and shall recommend changes to the way the GSC handles its external affairs to the GSC President and to the General Council.

Timeline

The Task Force shall be convened within a month of passage of the resolution authorizing creation of the Task Force. Within three months of creation of the Task Force, the Chair of the Task Force shall report to the General Council with a recommendation of action(s) the Council may take regarding the external affairs of the GSC. The Task Force shall terminate with delivery of this report.

Membership

The membership of this Presidential Task Force shall be determined at the discretion of the President of the GSC. An ideal Task Force will have between four and seven members, and shall represent a diverse set of opinions regarding the past and future of external engagement by the GSC. A short statement of purpose shall be provided to the President by all potential Task Force members. Any graduate student at MIT may serve on the Task Force. A provisional Chair shall be selected by the President to serve in the role of Chair until the General Council approves the selection. The President shall serve as an *ex officio* member of this Task Force. All meetings of the Task Force shall be open to all MIT graduate students.

Support

Any operating costs associated with this Task Force shall be charged to Executive Committee line item 1.9 in the FY16 budget, which supports all Presidential Task Forces.



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Report

The exact format of the report shall be determined by the Task Force Chair. All potential forms of action that receive support from at least one-half of the committee shall be included as options, regardless of whether these options partially or completely conflict with each other.