



Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

62.gsc.7.2: Resolution to create an External Affairs Board

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Whereas, the Graduate Student Council (GSC) of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has the potential to improve the lives of MIT graduate students through advocacy on behalf of their interests to governments and external organizations and through partnerships with external organizations to enhance the community outreach, service, advocacy, and educational activities of the GSC;

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

Whereas, the GSC can improve its capacity for advocacy and for projects and initiatives outside the Institute by coordinating such activities through a permanent organization reporting to the General Council and Executive Committee (ExComm); now, therefore, be it hereby

Resolved, that the Graduate Student Council establish an External Affairs Board;

Resolved, that the Bylaws of the Graduate Student Council be amended as indicated in Appendix 1 of this resolution;

Resolved, that the Legislative Platform of the Graduate Student Council be amended as indicated in Appendix 2 of this resolution;

Resolved, that the External Affairs Board shall begin operating after the election of the first External Affairs Chair.

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Appendix I: Amendment to the GSC Bylaws

The Bylaws of the Graduate Student Council are amended by inserting the following new item at the end of Article II. Section G.:

I I. External Affairs Board

i. *Purpose of the Board.*

The External Affairs Board (EAB, or “the Board”) shall coordinate the external affairs and activities of the GSC, including relationships with organizations outside MIT; political advocacy at all levels of government; community outreach, education, and service; and statements of the positions of the GSC or the graduate student body on issues of significance to the welfare of graduate students at MIT.

ii. *Platform Documents*

From time to time, the Board will develop Platform Documents enumerating the positions of the GSC on issues relevant to graduate student welfare and submit such documents to the General Council for consideration. Platform Documents approved by the General Council shall be reviewed by the Board at least once per academic year; any proposed updates shall be submitted to the General Council for consideration. The Board is empowered to communicate the positions contained in Platform Documents to relevant external organizations.

iii. *External Affairs Chair*

The Board shall be managed by the External Affairs Chair. The External Affairs Chair shall have a term of one year, which starts and ends at the same time as the term of the GSC Officers, and shall be elected by the General Council. The Chair shall set the agenda for all Board meetings, preside over Board meetings, execute the budget of the Board, and direct the activities of the Subcommittees of the Board. The Chair shall hold one vote in the General Council and one vote on the Executive Committee.

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iv. External Affairs Vice-Chair

The External Affairs Chair shall be assisted by the External Affairs Vice-Chair, who shall be elected by the members of the Board in the first Board meeting held after the first ExComm meeting to occur after the election of the Chair. The Vice-Chair shall have a term of one year which ends at the same time as the term of the GSC Officers. The Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the Chair's absence. The Vice-Chair shall maintain the records of all meetings and activities of the Board. If the Vice-Chair must preside over a meeting of the Board in the Chair's absence, the Vice-Chair may delegate responsibility for records of the Board to another member of the Board until the Chair is able to resume their duties. The Vice-Chair shall hold one vote in the General Council.

v. Members of the Board

The GSC President shall be an ex-officio voting member of the Board.

Up to two Chairs of the Committee on Housing and Community Affairs (HCA) shall be ex-officio voting members of the Board.

Up to two Chairs of each Subcommittee of the Board shall be voting members of the Board.

The Board may have At-Large voting members, up to two or up to $\frac{1}{4}$ of the sum of the maximum number of each other type of position on the Board besides At-Large positions at the time of the election (whichever is larger). At-Large members shall have a term of one year which ends at the same time as the term of the GSC Officers. At-Large members are elected by the ExComm by the single transferable vote method (using the Droop quota and fractional transfer).

Vacant positions on the Board may be filled by the appropriate election procedure at any time during the term. The replacement member will serve out the remainder of the term.

No member of the Board may ever exercise more than one vote on business of the Board.

There are no term limits on any Board positions.

vi. Removal of Members of the Board

Members of the Board may be removed by a Resolution of the Board, approved by a simple majority, proposed at the meeting of the Board following the 3rd absence from a meeting of the Board within a single academic year by the member in question.

Members of the Board may be removed at any time by a Resolution of the General Council approved by a simple majority.



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vii. *Review of Actions of the Board and Resolutions of the Board*

Anytime the Board takes an Action or approves a Resolution, the GSC President or the External Affairs Chair may place that Action or Resolution under Review. An Action under Review shall not be taken unless the Review is resolved positively; a Resolution under Review shall not be implemented unless the Review is resolved positively.

Reviews of Actions of the Board and Resolutions of the Board may be resolved positively by either:

1. Passage of a motion by ExComm approving of the Action or Resolution by a two-thirds vote; or
2. Passage of a motion or resolution by the General Council approving of the Action of the Board or the Resolution of the Board by a simple majority; or
3. Passage of any other motion or resolution by the General Council clarifying that the Action of the Board or Resolution of the Board was appropriate. This may include, but is not limited to, updates to Platform Documents relevant to the Action of the Board or Resolution of the Board.

viii. *Subcommittees of the Board*

The Board may create Subcommittees to carry out work in any area relevant to the Purpose of the Board or any issue described in a Platform Document. The Board shall specify the Purpose of the Subcommittee and the work to be carried out when a Subcommittee is created. The General Council shall be informed of the creation of a Subcommittee and of the Purpose of the Subcommittee during the next General Body Meeting after the Subcommittee is created. Creation of a Subcommittee, or modification of a Purpose of the Subcommittee, requires the approval of a simple majority of the Board. In exception to Article II, Section B, subcommittees of the External Affairs Board will continue to operate for a term specified in the Purpose of the Subcommittee (the term may be indefinite). Each Subcommittee shall have one or two Chair(s). Subcommittee Chair(s) shall have a term of office of one year, ending each year at the same time the term of the GSC Officers ends.

Subcommittees shall have the opportunity to nominate up to two members to become the new Chair(s) at the end of each term. Any subcommittee that conducts such a nomination shall present the nominees to the Board during the meeting in which the Vice-Chair is elected, after the election of the Vice-Chair. If the Board takes no action, the nominee(s) become(s) the new Chair(s) of that Subcommittee. If the Board resolves to disapprove of the nominees by a simple majority, the Board shall elect Chair(s) of the Subcommittee.

Subcommittee Chair(s) are elected by the Board by the single transferable vote method (using the Droop quota and fractional transfer) following the Board meeting in which the Subcommittee was created or immediately after the passage of a Resolution of Disapproval



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of presented nominees. A Subcommittee Chair may not simultaneously serve as an At-Large member of the Board; if an At-Large member of the Board becomes a Subcommittee Chair, then this member must immediately vacate their At-Large position.

ix. *Quorum*

A simple majority of voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum to carry out business. The External Affairs Chair shall verify that a quorum is present at the beginning of each meeting.



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Appendix 2: Amendment to the GSC Legislative Platform

The Legislative Platform of the Graduate Student Council is amended as follows:

~~LEGISLATIVE ACTION SUBCOMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT~~

~~The GSC LASC has a threefold mission:~~

- ~~I. To advocate on behalf of the graduate student body to local, state, and federal governments in concert with other parts of the GSC, as appropriate;~~
- ~~II. To maintain awareness of legislative and regulatory developments affecting graduate students and disseminate information through the GSC;~~
- ~~III. To encourage graduate student participation and activism in the political and legislative process.~~

FOREWORD

The GSC ~~Legislative Action Subcommittee~~ External Affairs Board (EAB) is responsible for assisting the GSC in development of its legislative policy by annually submitting a proposed Legislative Platform for consideration and approval by the membership. While the Legislative Platform is not an exclusive expression of the legislative issues of concern to the GSC, this platform identifies the GSC's main public policy priorities. ~~GSC seeks to work with the higher education community to formulate policies affecting GSC's membership that advance national goals and objectives.~~