Massachusetts Institute of Technology
GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

General Council Meeting
June 3, 2015, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM, 32-144
Minutes

1. Greetings/quorum (5:30 pm)
   a. Placard count: 41, Quorum
2. Approval of May Minutes
   a. Placard count: majority; passed.
3. New faces: (5:36 pm)
4. Review of 2014-2015 General Council (Kendall Nowocin) (5:39 pm)
   a. Graduate Student Issues:
      i. Privacy improvement: Home address, home phone number in online
directory changed to more professional
      ii. Governing documents revisions
      iii. Student Rights and Responsibilities
      iv. Tax Advice Sessions – work with ODGE for panels, also ISO
      v. IREFS program
      vi. MIT2016 Committee
      vii. Groundwork for student life fee, dental insurance
      viii. Will continue this next year
      ix. Discussion periods in GCM
      x. Sexual Assault and Harassment → It’s On Us approval;
      xi. Student Diversity – work with Ed Bertschinger
      xii. Graduate student perspective on report
      xiii. Community Equity – support for graduate students
   b. Events
      i. Large events (ski trip, Grad Gala)
      ii. Across-MIT events: OneMIT BBQ for first-years
      iii. Presidential Welcome
      iv. Ski Trip: lower attendance, possible alumni
      v. Grad Gala: on a boat, will evaluate future
      vi. Faculty Dinners
   c. Muddy Renovations: improved spaces, events (incl. Grand Reopening)
   d. Reorganization of Accounts – spearheaded by Shabnam Raayai
      i. GSC Wiki for council members – helping how to process payments,
etc.
      ii. Increase financial transparency: Financial org charts,
   e. Funding Board
   f. Career Fair: transparency on GSC’s side
   g. Stipend Increase: Had a committee analyze Cost of Living survey results;
      recommended 3.7% increase in stipend
   h. Graduate Housing: Looked at MIT-controlled housing (not dorms, but looking
      at other privately-owned buildings that students occupy); leasing land.
5. Budget Sheet
   a. Excomm:
      i. Initiatives: for one-off initiatives, people can apply to the funds on the first sheet, or on the Excomm sheet.
   b. No comments on Nominations Board
   c. No comments on Funding Board
   d. P&P: Ending old programs, introducing new large line items
      i. CMM into Graduate Content Creation, plus additional items (science writing program to make larger content items)
      ii. Print materials: cards and posters
   e. ASA: No objections
   f. Activities
      i. Subsidized dining: MISTI and AA (taste of) contribute
      ii. No objections
   g. ARC
      i. GWAMIT: $10k not coming from GSC, just showing as line item, but main funding from ODGE; main events are two conferences (spring and fall), mentoring program (200 members), orientation event (also supported by ODGE). Additionally, partners with external and departmental groups. Fully disclose budget to GSC and Excomm, FY16 will be available soon.
      ii. Institute Awards? Report on how they were allocated, and which were GSC-sponsored? Unsure on outcome, but line item is for committee that meets to decide. Current ARC will follow up on how these went.
      iii. Point of order: no concern with how voting occurs; no objections on entire sheet, entire sheet passes.
   h. HCA
      i. Budget is more or less stable; great activities will continue, and efforts will be focused on family issues going forward
      ii. 8.2: Family subcommittee, back-up childcare and initiatives going forward, money from ODGE but publicity and advocacy by committee
      iii. CostCo: proceeds on front sheet
      iv. No objections
   i. Orientation
      i. All focused on one timeframe, let’s engage students while they’re all in one location at one time.
      ii. Recruiting pool is enhanced by engaging students early on and making sure they know
      iii. 9.4b: Presidential Welcome including lunch and picnic, want to get 1200 students there
iv. 9.2 Info Booth: not many people went through Lobby 10, and we had to pay all of the facilities charges for not engaging very many students. No tickets sold here, all done online. Not best way to use funds.
v. 9.24: Gifts: Flash drives in past years. GSC and MITFCU sponsored, though with Dropbox and decreasing sponsorship, not enough money to get high-volume flash drives. Small token still distributed.
vi. No objections
j. Muddy Charles Pub Board
   i. Daniel: vision is to keep Muddy as it is, use nice space, and do something nice for the students. Two events: annual celebration and responsible drinking event series. When budget was put together, Board was looking for funding, but new funding sources have been secured.
   ii. Objection: net zero on sheets (39-0-1)
k. Overall: 37-0-1
6. Officer Updates (6:53 pm)
a. President: Social Hour at the Muddy—everyone invited, please approach officers if you have anything you want to talk about, suggestions, etc.
b. Nominations Board. Are any council reps present? Deadline is tonight.
   i. Nominations:
      a. Shabnam Raayai
      b. Whitney Hess, Chemistry
      c. Lisa Guay, Ashdown
   ii. Motion to Approve all in one vote – approved
   iii. Vote to approve – passed!
c. Funding Board: Deadline June 20
   i. Need one member from Council to be selected tonight
      1. Self-nominations, with a few words
         a. Shabnam Raayai: wants to stay on in order to preserve knowledge since no other members have had experience on board before.
   2. Clicker vote: Shabnam Raayai elected
7. Open Floor
   a. Six Flags Trip—sign up next week
8. Motion to adjourn – seconded – passed