



Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

General Council Meeting 62.9
April 6, 2016, 5:30 PM in 3-270
Minutes

1. Quorum Check and Approval of Agenda (5:30 pm)
 - a. 38 Present – quorum
 - b. Motion to move the New Business to #4, in order to let additional people arrive.
2. Approval of March Meeting Minutes (5:34 pm)
 - a. Approved
3. Introduction of New Faces (5:36 pm)
4. New Business (to be voted on at next GCM; 5:36 pm)
 - a. 62.gsc.9.1: Graduate Student Government Conference Bid Fund
 - i. Clarification of operating procedure for introduction of resolution, discussion of resolution in next meeting. Chair gets to decide rules of individual discussion/debates.
 - ii. We received another payment from 2015 Career Fair that had not been previously accounted for. Resolution will create a fund for national conferences for graduate student government conference (for hosting)
 - iii. ODGE in the past has promised us money for this. But this could be a safeguard if the new Dean does not agree to this.
 - iv. Q: Is this just going to sit in an account? A: Yes.
 - v. Q: Is this going to discourage the ODGE from
 - vi. Q: What about submitting a survey to all graduate students about what they would want? A: Council reps are going
5. 2016-2017 Officer Elections (5:46 pm)
 - a. President (5:47 pm)
 - i. George Chao: 3rd year PhD, HST department.
 1. Currently co-chair of HCA, current work: cost-of-living analysis, health insurance, Costco card and

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shuttles, seeing to graduate housing. Demonstrated engagement, uniting of HCA committee.

2. Running for this position because this is a pivotal time for GSC—new VPSL, new ODGE. Opportunity to reset conversation, push for changes
3. Would like to see: increase in grad student visibility on campus. E.g. new medical leave policy does not mention graduate students.
4. Also want to engage more graduate students; get more participation in GSC

ii. Arolyn Conwill: PhD, Physics department

1. Involved in GSC for four years; LASC, 2 Presidential task forces. Other issues: international entrepreneurship programs and policies, amicus brief work, advocating for off-campus housing opportunities. Also a physics REF.
2. Why run for president? Main duty is to represent and empower the graduate student body. Build relationships within and outside GSC. E.g. ERTF trying to increase representation and participation (esp underrepresented groups).
3. Want to see relationships continue and build new ones.

iii. Questions from audience

1. How do you plan to break away from your current roles and be more holistic as president?
 - a. A: Interests lie outside of advocacy, but the skills I've developed in advocacy (bringing in stakeholders, communicating and writing) prepares for discussions at institute level. Also interested in housing, healthcare, mental health. Broad base will be very useful.
 - b. G: I am going to miss HCA and MindHandHeart, but want to do more at an



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institutional level. Saw broader view at Ivy+.
Look forward to passing the baton.

2. There's a balance between the initial ambition and what ends up getting executed. Discuss time management and how you plan to get your projects done?
 - a. G: One of our primary roles is to do research, graduate. Going to rely on officers, delegating responsibilities. Saw how to delegate, work in a team on HCA, hopes to use these skills.
 - b. A: I (and George) have been involved enough that I know how much time it will take. The upcoming year I have time to commit to this position.
3. How do you plan on increasing outreach, knowledge of what happens in the GSC?
 - a. A: Orientation is a great opportunity to bring students in. Reaching out to international students can be done then. Insert some more GSC advertising and use this as an opportunity and example for what the GSC could accomplish.
 - b. G: Most people only know we give money to student groups, and organize orientation. PR is lacking. Want to expand the role of the secretary into more outreach to other student groups. Also interested in a second orientation for spring semester. Meet and greet, coffee hour.
4. Could you prioritize what your main projects are?
 - a. G: 1. Need to communicate to VPSL and ODGE what graduate students do and need at GSC. 2. Engagement, reaching out to groups, filling GCMs.



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b. A: Team-building: will make increasing representation in GSC, building relationships with admins.

5. How do you see your role within the officer group.

a. A: Aside from voting order, not much hierarchy. This extends into the rest of excomm, it's important that everyone doesn't feel like there is a power structure in place. In LASC, had a good balance with Yuqing the other co-chair.

b. G: It is important to have someone who acts as leader, have structure. I need to take on duties and direct focus of where we spend time. I won't feel like a superior, among officers there should be no barriers to communication (or excomm). Want open conversations.

6. Underrepresented minority students are hard to engage. How to engage non-members?

a. G: A very good question. Do my best to reduce barrier of communication between different groups. There needs to be an effort to introduce cross-communication.

b. A: Example: BGSA gave recommendations on how MIT can improve, was not on GSCs radar. We don't want to meddle with a successful group, but we can support these other groups, eg introduce a resolution that says we support. We have an obligation to represent all students, not just Council. Establish channels of communication where they don't exist.

7. Much of recruitment is done to "perpetuate the GSC," many students won't get involved but we still want to represent them. What is your perspective on how to serve their interests?



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a. A: This comes down to trying to understand why we are here. People want to feel like they're making a difference. The GSC needs to talk to students in lab or other non-GSC settings. This also comes back to PR issues. (What do they want?) They want to be happy and accomplish things just as we do; we need to rely on our integrity to make sure we're representing them.

b. G: Disagree that most students would never join the GSC. We need to help people find community and bring them together, encourage them to give back. (That community is the GSC)

iv. Motion: Discussion for 5 minutes while the candidates have left the room

1. Passed, but the contents of this discussion do not appear in the minutes.

v. Vote: Arolyn Conwill is elected President. (6:43 pm)

b. Vice-President (6:44 pm)

i. Angie Crews: 1st year PhD, Aero-Astro.

1. Treasurer of women in Aero-Astro group, participated in cost of living survey

2. Want to give back, and very impressed with GSC

3. Engagement is also a big priority

ii. Vote: Angie is elected vice-president (6:50 pm)

c. Secretary (6:50 pm)

i. A few nominations given and declined

ii. Motion to suspend bylaws and move to treasurer election; motion passed.

d. Treasurer (6:57 pm)

i. Lisa Guay: 3rd year ChemE PhD



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1. Outgoing Ashdown chair, SPI president, Chemical engineering students social committee, Grad student advisory board.

2. Experience with working with administration, budgeting

3. Vote: Lisa Guay is elected Treasurer.

e. Return to Secretary Vote (7:00 pm)

i. Nomination accepted for Orpheus Chatzivasileiou: chemical engineering. Current secretary of Ashdown House, so this is a natural transition.

ii. Expertise in bureaucracy and writing policies.

iii. Vote: Orpheus Chatzivasileiou is elected Secretary.

6. Motion to move Open Floor to immediately after the EAB chair vote, because Kyle wants to introduce a resolution but needs to leave early. Motion approved.

7. External Affairs Board Chair Election (7:05 pm)

a. Nomination: Daniel Curtis. 4th year PhD, nuclear sci and eng.

b. LASC chair, chair of task force for External Affairs, has gone to DC in Legislative Action Days.

c. Motion to vote; Daniel Curtis is elected Chair of External Affairs Board.

8. Open Floor (7:09 pm) – moved from earlier

a. Kyle: We have found a conflict between the Bylaws and Constitution regarding nomination timeline; whether or not they are open at the April GCM. Introduces a resolution to amend the Bylaws to reflect what is written in the Constitution.

9. Committee Updates (7:12 pm)

a. AC: Taste of Canada; coffee hour; AC elections April 20th

b. HCA: Stipend recommendation presented last week. Health insurance copays will not be raised (premiums instead); elections

c. Muddy: Muddy Monday; showing soccer games; twitter; 4/15 open spots on board that they are recruiting for.



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- d. ARC: MIT Connect is up again; Institute Awards have been decided; Pitch to the Public workshops–TedTalk-style event
- e. GWAMIT: Empowerment conference coming up next week; sign up!
- f. Orientation: Combining Presidential Welcome, Grad101; New OC fellow job description
- g. ASA: new President, Nichole Clark
- h. Engagement and Recruitment Task Force: Please fill out the form on the little half-sheet we gave out, and return with your placard at the end of GCM.

10. Officer Updates and Reports (7:23 pm)

- a. President:
 - i. Will meet with Chancellor re: ODGE replacement: how that search will go, what they are targeting. If you have any feedback on this, let Michael know ASAP!
 - ii. MITFCU Board needs student members
 - iii. Serve-a-thon: all-day hackathon on Tuesday, April 19th. Student holiday; the Institute is very excited about this event, so please try to attend (at least 10 am – 4 pm). Link: gsc.mit.edu/serve
- b. Vice-President:
 - i. Following up on mental health and leave policy.
 - ii. Still pursuing referrals issue as well.
- c. Secretary:
 - i. Next week is ODGE's Grad Student Appreciation Week. Look for events in Anno!
- d. Treasurer:
 - i. Final funding board allocations decided.

11. Adjournment: 7:32 pm