MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

October General Council Meeting
October 7, 2015 at 5:30 pm in 32-155
Minutes

Attendees: General Council

1. Quorum check and approval of agenda
   a. Quorum (6:07 pm) (had to delay until clickers were working)
   b. Agenda (5:34 pm) – motion to move agenda item of committee updates to end (so as not to lose quorum) – agenda approved
2. Approval of August meeting minutes (5:36 pm) – approved
3. Presentation: Maryanne Kirkbride on MindHandHeart (5:37 pm) (from MIT Medical)
   a. Having a strong GSC is essential to goals of MindHandHeart
      i. Collier Memorial as an example of task, urgency, community-building, working together
   c. Want to bring together students, faculty as well as Medical, mental health services, administration
   d. Lots of support (~150 volunteers so far! 25 applications to Innovation Fund!)
   e. Campus Program Framework: Student wellness; identify students at risk; increase help-seeking behavior; provide mental health/substance use disorder services; means, restrictions & environments; policy, system and strategic planning; develop life skills; connectedness; academic performance
      i. Action meetings rather than committee meetings
   f. Concerns brought up against S^3, e.g. students turned away, or unwilling to check into the status of a current student.
   g. Question: Involvement in campus residences/houses? A: Working with RDs on curriculum. Also involved in Wellness Fair, Nov. 13th
4. Introduction of New Faces (6:01 pm)
5. Old Business (6:03 pm)
   a. Confirmation of External Affairs Task Force Chair
      i. Daniel Curtis, LASC chair has been appointed. He’s not present today, but we will vote.
      ii. George Chao: he’s a good candidate, very involved in GSC, active in SPI and other groups as well.
      iii. Vote by placard; 6 abstentions, no opposing. Passes, Daniel is approved (6:07 pm)
   iv. Until GCM, he will act as a committee on Excomm and give updates
6. Election for GSC Vice President (6:08 pm)
   a. Review of format
   b. Outline of Vice-President duties
      i. Chair of Nominations Board
ii. (blank for format)

iii. Elections: coordinate officer and committee elections (spring)

iv. General council matters: membership, attendance, participation of council members; council rep fund

v. Special projects that the VP would like to develop

c. Nominee 1: Angie Crews

i. 1st year grad student in Aero Astro; graduated from Naval Academy and served as a naval officer; space policy for marine corps also

ii. Leadership experience: mission commander; president of honors society in university; briefed marine corps

iii. Why interested in GSC: impressed by Orientation and Career Fair

d. Nominee 2: Kyle Kotowick

i. 3rd year, Aero Astro.

ii. Impressed by how involved MIT students are in their community

iii. Served as president for departmental student government (GA^3); joined in high-level department meetings; also worked as EMT here; residence hall tutor & advocate

1. Before MIT: Board of Directors for community sailing center


e. Questions:

i. What special projects are you interested in pursuing? Or what is your focus?

1. Kyle: Want to fill the rest of Institute Committees without graduate student representation

2. Angie: Outreach with community—integrating Cambridge with MIT community

ii. Francesco Bellei has agreed to help with the transition (for about a month). After that, about 6 months left. What are you thinking of in terms of involvement after the current term ends?

1. Angie: Would like to remain active in GSC. Involved in Aero Astro general grad students + womens’ group.

2. Kyle: Has already spent a couple years exploring opportunities. Would prefer to continue with GSC, maybe as an officer.

iii. It sounds like you have a lot to do. Do you think you’ll have time to do everything?

1. Kyle: That’s why I didn’t run in spring elections, because spring was very busy. Should have more time now; GRT is low time commitment, EMS can be flexible in scheduling.

2. Angie: Should have plenty of time; research hasn’t started to pick up yet.

iv. How many hours do you think it’s going to take?

1. Kyle: large part of administrative work is complete as VP; maybe estimating ~10 hours a week

2. Angie: Wasn’t given a time estimate: 5-10 hours per week?
vii. (Specifically for Angie) Since you’re a first year, how long will you expect to learn the culture of MIT?
   1. Angie: Schedule is a little more flexible. The transition month should be plenty of time.

viii. Follow-up: what do you think would be a disadvantage about being new (also to Angie)?
   1. Angie: Catching up on learning all the groups. But will make an effort to attend lots of meetings and hit the ground running.

ix. (Specifically for Kyle) What can you bring to GSC from your experience as an EMT?
   1. Kyle: Advocating for students; leadership groups, have often taken on difficult tasks that no one else has wanted to do.

x. What will be the difference between Marine Corps and MIT student government?
   1. Angie: In the military, things are very hierarchical; but overall as a leader things are similar—looking out for people and trying to achieve a common goal

xi. If this were a general election, not special election, which position would you want to run for?
   1. Angie: would start with president, since it’s a cascade; would be glad to serve any position
   2. Kyle: vice-president; wouldn’t want to jump directly into president without executive experience first

xii. Clarification on Katherine’s program/MIT student status

xiii. Any plans to get involved in mental health effort?
   1. Kyle: As GRT, helps students regularly with academic/personal/wellness. Has had training and experience with mental health issues among students; dealt with several cases.
   2. Angie: Mental health is also a big issue in the military. Emphasis on resiliency (bouncing back after loss/disappointment). Interested in implementing some sort of initiatives. Also, would like to look into crisis hotline

xiv. Is there something you dislike about the institute, something that should be represented better?
   1. Angie: Not sure at this point, lots of people seem very involved
   2. Kyle: Institute committees without student representation; e.g. medical management board

xv. Who are you rooting for in the World Series?
   1. Kyle: Is Canadian; only knows about hockey.
   2. Angie: Cubs, since she’s from Chicago.

xvi. Did you get a chance to speak to previous vice presidents?
2. Angie: have not, if selected would reach out.

f. Closed session without the candidates: allow council to discuss (6:45 pm)
   i. Did the candidates reach out to Officers?
      1. Both Angie and Kyle reached out to GA^3 department representative and then contacted us; Angie met in person.
      2. Henry has emailed us about how to get involved over the summer and is now a council rep; had a job interview so couldn’t attend tonight’s meeting.
      3. Katherine just sent in an application.
   ii. Is it a disadvantage to be a first-year? Has never happened before.
      1. Opportunity for developing a future GSC leader.
      2. Not sure about MIT culture, time commitment less easy to gauge.
      3. Note that Angie does have a research project lined up already and has had research experience.
   iii. About GRT time commitment: depends on which dorm and which time of year. Probably less than 10 hrs/week. Kendall Nowocin was President while a GRT as well.

7. Committee Appointments (6:59 pm)
   a. GSC OneMIT Funding Board: so far A+P, one Sloan candidate applied, so will be provisionally elected. Don’t need a council vote; will contact representatives from schools and vote online.
      i. School of Science: Hendrik Utzat – hustzt@mit.edu
      ii. School of Engineering: Nestor Sepulveda – nsep@mit.edu
      iii. SHASS: still need to look.
   b. GSC-GEL Task Force on Graduate Leadership:
      i. Sarah Goodman – goodmans@mit.edu
   c. Student and Affiliates Health Insurance Advisory Council: sets rates, benefits for students and affiliates on health insurance plans
      i. No one yet. Will keep looking.
   d. Title IX Student Advisory Committee (also no volunteers)
   e. DSL Health Promotion Committee (also no volunteers)

8. Committee Updates (7:09 pm)
   a. AC
      i. Taste of Brazil happened
      ii. Looking for a webmaster for ski trip (paid)
      iii. Coffee Hour next Monday
   b. HCA
      i. Student Mental Health: involved in MHH
ii. (Blank)

iii. Family Childcare Network: has been announced
iv. Costco Shuttle: not running now but they’re working on it
v. Campus housing: new Eastgate design will be finalized in January
vi. Please let George and Huma know if off-campus students are being displaced by rent/housing market in Cambridge.

vii. LASC:
1. Startups in America/immigration session held
2. Legislative Action Days, with NAGPS: grad student debt; immigration reform; grad student funding; open access, publications. Made some good contacts!

c. Orientation (7:19 pm)
   i. Orientation happened!

d. Muddy Board Chair (7:19 pm)
   i. Muddy Mondays! Cultural groups can hold events on Monday.

e. ARC (7:20 pm)
   i. Conflict management in the workplace
   ii. Improv/impromptu speaking panel
   iii. MIT Connect
      1. Don’t have a great way of managing the front end. Help on that would be appreciated!
   iv. GWAMIT: Fall Leadership Conference planning
   v. Travel grant: ~25 people requested funding

f. ASA (7:23 pm): Joint committee with UA; we gave them money for Undergraduate Association from our reserves and will recover it.

9. Officer Updates (7:24 pm)

a. President
   i. Michael is on the Vice-President for Student Life search committee. Send him feedback if you have any!
   ii. MIT2016; working with Priscilla King Grey Center (formerly PSC)
   iii. More closely meeting with UA
   iv. EA Task Force is set up and meeting
   v. NAGPS and Ivy+ Conferences upcoming
   vi. Use the Council Rep fund!

b. Secretary
   i. We need a Creative Media Manager. (paid)

c. Treasurer:
   i. Funding board: heavy cycle; will implement a priority-based system
   ii. APAG: This fund is severely underutilized.
   iii. The Sustainability Award is also underutilized.
   iv. The Public Service Fund
   v. The Diversity Fund is not running now but will be soon.

10. Open Floor (7:34 pm)

11. Adjournment (7:35 pm)