General Council Meeting
March 2, 2016 at 5:30 – 7:15 pm in 3-270
Minutes

1. Quorum check and Approval of Agenda (5:30 pm) – approved 5:34 pm
2. Approval of February Meeting Minutes – approved 5:34 pm
3. Introduction of New Faces (5:35 pm)
4. Old Business (5:36 pm)
   a. 62.gsc.7.1: Legislative Platform Update (5:36 pm)
      i. Introduction: updates; mostly cosmetic and most of text is same as in
         February. A few changes
         1. Added Parental Leave text
         2. Reorganized International Student Issues
      ii. Motion to vote – seconded
         1. 44 y, 2 n, 1 a – passes
   b. 62.gsc.7.3: Creation of an External Affairs Board (Bylaws amendment)
      i. Introduction
         1. Quick review of Board membership, timeline of member
            selection; how it will operate. Council can review proposal.
         2. Q: How do we decide who will consider a review? A: There are a number of options; can be President/Chair or Excomm
            or Council
         3. Anticipated Amendment: Review closure. No text so far to
            describe how to decide when review has finished. When: 1)
            review passes or 2) council
         4. Q: What about tabled reviews, or issues that want to cycle
            back to? A: This is possible if council wants to table; also if
            quorum fails or it does not get to the point where council
            discusses it.
         5. Q: Is this not redundant? This same process is applied
            according to the bylaws. A: This is useful in other cases, when
            there is a statement someone wants to put out, but they need
            to confirm with council. Also, the concept of a review is not
            the same as other legislature. This is a quick response to
            specific issues or actions (can review an action).
         6. Q: Value of this board? Why is this an improvement about
            that? A: Purpose is to coordinate different actions that are
            now performed in different parts of the GSC e.g. NAGPS,
            LAD, LASC business. Also this structure ensures coordination
            between all required and necessary parties.
   7. Another anticipated amendment: removes vice-chair’s vote.
      ii. Motion of Amendment: Remove General Council vote from Vice-
         Chair
         1. Q: What was the original point of it, and why scrap it? A:
            Motion originally has VC vote, basically to mirror 2 votes of
Standing committee chairs. As for why it’s being scrapped, EAB already has many votes in council, e.g. President, EAB Chair, HCA chairs. But Vice-Chair is not selected by general council, and voting on board is not open to general council.

2. Voting on Amendment to strike the line: 44 y, 5 n, 2 a

iii. Motion of Amendment on Review Process: that council can close reviews.

1. Vote: 42 y, 4 n, 4 a – passes

iv. Comment: Chairs are not standing committee chairs so they are prescribed differently. Response: Boards are considered standing committees in the bylaws, and committees reserve the right to determine the process of chair selection.

1. Vote: 38 p, 8 n, 3 a – passes

c. 62.gsc.7.3: Statement on Undocumented Students (amendment to Legislative Platform) (6:19 pm)

i. Introduction: Modifying “the GSC firmly supports” undocumented students; now: “the GSC firmly opposes any government actions that would result in the deportation of undocumented students enrolled at MIT.”

ii. Questions:

1. Q: What would happen if government would take action against? A: GSC can speak for them to try and defend these students.

2. Q: Does this cover students who did not come into the US as children? A: No, in general.

3. Comment: This is too broad.

4. Comment: This applies to students enrolled at MIT, so there is some level of support and documentation afforded by the university.

5. Q: Who handles undocumented cases at MIT w/in admin? A: Education offices (DUE, ODGE)

6. Q: What if government decides to change the standards for deportation, or issues an executive order? A: This is not considered in this amendment; the phrasing is broad enough that an EAB chair confronted with such an issue will have to interpret.

7. Comment: “This is a subversion of the law and undermines the legal process of the United States.”

iii. Motion to vote: 27 y, 15 n, 4 a

5. New Business: (6:36 pm)

a. 62.gsc.8.2: Rescoped Fiscal Year (FY16*) Budget (special debate procedures in effect, bylaws V.I.D)

i. Career fair money came under estimation.
ii. Motion to accelerate legislative schedule, and review budget in this meeting – seconded: vote: 33 y, 8 n, 2 a. Passes; and we enter budget discussion.

iii. Introduction: procedure of budget review and approval

iv. Summary and description of each sheet; passage of new budget.

6. Elections Procedure and Nominations (7:00 pm)
   a. VP gives a description
   b. Several nominations given and accepted: Arolyn Conwill (President), Lisa Guay (Treasurer), George Chao (President), Daniel Franke (President; not present so has yet to accept nomination)
   c. Nomination period will remain open until one week before the April GCM. Form on GSC website must be filled out, with a nomination + a second.

7. Brief Committee Updates:
   a. AC: Grad Gala Tickets on sale! Coffee hour, Taste of Singapore; looking for an outreach chair.
   b. HCA: Cost of Living analysis; renter’s insurance; interested in new HCA chairs!
   c. Muddy: Muddy Activities committee has been started.
   d. ARC: Kendall square company program starting, as well as research program; communications workshop. Dissertation bootcamp.
   e. OC: Starting to plan again for Fall 2016 Orientation.
   f. ASA: New website in the works.

8. Brief Officer Updates
   a. President: GSC Service; ETF, VPSL search finishing, ODGE search starting
   b. Vice-President: Institute Awards; working with ODGE and MIT Medical regarding mental health programs (other people interested in this topic as well)
   c. Secretary: Looking for a webmaster. Still.
   d. Treasurer: main work this month has been taking care of the rescope.

9. Open Floor
   a. Post-GCM Social

10. Adjournment: 7:19 pm