



# Graduate Student Council of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## March General Council Meeting Agenda

(All hail Jimmy, first of his name, Scribe of the March GCM)

March 1st, 2017, 5:30pm-7:30pm, 32-141

1. Introduction, Dinner, and New Faces (5 min; 5:30pm-5:35pm)
  - a. Started on time this month!
  - b. Quorum check (45 people present)
    - i. Point of order: Does agenda need to be approved?
      1. No; GCM doesn't approve the agenda, just minutes
  - c. Approval of February GCM Minutes
2. Guest: Jake Livengood, Global Education and Career Development (GECD) (10 min; 5:35pm-5:45pm)
  - a. Livengood is his real name; positive personal brand
  - b. Liaison to PhD students for GECD
  - c. GECD part of career services; serve all MIT students, as well as alumni up to 2 years after graduation
  - d. Three areas of GECD:
    - i. Career Services
    - ii. Global Education
    - iii. Prehealth Advising (med school, etc.)
  - e. Two main areas of career services:
    - i. Career counseling/career programs and events
    - ii. Employer relations and on-campus recruiting
  - f. Can schedule a 50 minute career advising session, as well as drop-ins for resume/cover letter reviews, job search questions, etc.
    - i. Career Handbook hyperlink available from slides
  - g. Some GECD resources
    - i. Grad student email list
    - ii. PhD careers section on website
    - iii. The Versatile PhD
    - iv. Data (grad salaries, grad industries, etc.)
  - h. 32% of career services utilized by grad students (largest portion)
    - i. Grad students most active in workshops
  - i. Earned Doctorates Survey is a great resource for seeing where PhDs go and what they do after graduation
    - i. Example of data: avg. applications, interviews, and offers for grads
  - j. GECD Offices: E17-294 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
  - k. Q&A

### Officers

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Angela Crews

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#### Secretary

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#### Publications & Publicity Board

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#### Treasurer

Lisa Guay

#### Funding Board

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#### Activities (AC)

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#### Muddy Charles Pub

Zsigmond Varga

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#### Orientation (OC)

Sarah Goodman

James Kaczmarek

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- i. Q1: What should students prepare for career appointment?
    1. A: Nothing really necessary, but it may be good to bring a resume. Also offer review of application packages (faculty, job, etc.)
  - ii. Q2: How applicable are services to international students?
    1. A: Try to have a couple of services tailored for international students. Partner with China and European career fairs. Also try to give information about what job culture is like in other countries.
  - iii. Q3: In a lot of pure science departments, there is a bias towards feeling like you have to go into academia, which causes stress among students. Are there any resources that can be shared with departments to help such students explore non-academic options
    1. A: Common experience. Individual appointments are very helpful for this discussion. There is also a blog through HigherEd to help such PhDs explore these career paths.
3. Old-Old Business (25 min; 5:45pm-6:10pm)
    - a. Review of parliamentary procedures (5 min)
      - i. Discussion must be organized!
      - ii. There are several motions that GCM members can make
      - iii. Tried to streamline process, especially through use of website designed to elicit feedback
      - iv. Last time: took a while!
      - v. Bylaws amendments require 2/3 approval
    - b. Bylaws Amendments (10 min each; 20 min total)
      - i. 63.gsc.12 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning the Election of Council Representatives (2 min intro; 8 min debate)
        1. Authors: Orpheus and Andrew
        2. Remove condition that at-large or other reps w/o governing organization need to get written confirmation to VP to continue serving by 9/15
        3. Council rep. applications can be received at any time
          - a. Council doesn't have to approve appointments
          - b. Elections called for if there are more applicants than positions by beginning of October
        4. Council will only vote if elections for at-large positions without a constituency
          - a. Friendly amendment: Council will only vote if



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elections for at large positions without a governing body are called

5. Clarify: What counts as a position no governing body?
    - a. Ex: Thirsty Ear position has TEEC
    - b. Ex: Minorities: no clear governing organization
  6. Who decides whether a governing body *is* a governing body?
    - a. Council must be satisfied that the group represents a governing body
    - b. Council has ultimate power; if they choose not to accept a governing body, there's nothing ExComm or others can do
    - c. Q: Do these rules exist in writing?
      - i. No
  7. Motion to end discussion early
    - a. Passed
  8. Vote on legislation
    - a. Friendly amendment *not* voted on separately
    - b. Yes – 53
    - c. No – 1
    - d. Abstain – 0
  9. Passes
- ii. 63.gsc.13 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning Finances and Spending (2 min intro; 8 min debate)
1. Authors: Orpheus and Lisa
  2. Introduces safeguards against spending not accurately described by line items or spending against MIT policy
    - a. Treasurer can flag spending and it can be brought before council
  3. Raise stabilization fund cap to 35%, change deadline to 1 month after receiving flexible revenue
  4. Initiatives fund description removed from bylaws; still exists, but is less restrictive
  5. Friendly amendment
    - a. Treasurer may only block disbursement if it violates MIT policy (not if it *may* violate)
  6. Quote from past treasurer
    - a. Doesn't think autonomy should be taken away from groups



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- b. Thinks that chairs should only have to run purchases by the committee
- c. Concern that students won't be able to get disbursements, which would discourage participation
- d. Counter-argument: This situation has been adequately addressed in updates; should be rare; feel that just an "ok" by the committee chair is not sufficient

#### 7. Motion to end discussion

- a. Passes

#### 8. Vote on legislation

- a. Yes – 44
- b. No – 5
- c. Abstain – 4

#### 9. Passes

#### 4. Committee Updates (15 min; 6:10pm-6:25pm)

##### a. ARC

- i. Looking for new co-chairs! Feel free to talk with Andrew or Erik
- ii. PD grant deadline 4/1/17
- iii. Institute award nominations due 3/6
- iv. Profs on Tap with Muddy board starting soon

##### b. AC

- i. Grad Gala at the Aquarium on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 8pm – 12am
  1. Tickets on sale now and going very quickly
- ii. Battle of the bands Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 5:30 – 8pm
- iii. Taste of India March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6pm
  1. Coincides with a festival of colors!
- iv. Grad arts showcase coming up Friday before Spring Break
- v. Looking for new co-chairs as well!

##### c. ASA

- i. Updates via Lisa
- ii. ASA is the group that decides what groups get recognition
- iii. New student group applications due March 3<sup>rd</sup>
- iv. Want groups to cover undergrads and grads

##### d. EAB

- i. Preparing for 2 trips to DC
  1. International Women's Day (3/7-3/8)
  2. NAGPS legislative action days (3/11-3/14)



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- ii. Statehouse visit day tentatively scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup>
    - 1. Next meeting to discuss on March 8<sup>th</sup>
  - iii. NAGPS Northeast regional conference 4/8-4/9
    - 1. Next meeting March 20<sup>th</sup>
  - e. HCA
    - i. Quality Parks and Rec gif on powerpoint
    - ii. Biggest issue: graduate stipend recommendation
      - 1. Still looking for info about stipends at peer institutions
    - iii. Do we care about non-engineers?
      - 1. Yes!
    - iv. Do we reach out to other grad student organizations?
      - 1. Yes, but we don't have all
    - v. What information is specifically sought?
      - 1. RA and TA numbers
      - 2. Some online, but numbers for next year not up yet (e.g. Stanford)
    - vi. Jeff has CalTech report
    - vii. HCA elections on April 10<sup>th</sup>
    - viii. Costco shuttle dates: 3/5, 3/19, 4/2
    - ix. "Best food in GSC"
  - f. Muddy Charles Pub
    - i. Same message as always: Come to the Muddy
      - 1. It's important; they have laptop sockets
    - ii. Many ways to get involved!
      - 1. Plan activities
      - 2. Learn about accounting etc. on finance committee
    - iii. Going to start a survey of pub patrons
      - 1. Help establish long-term vision on how pub should operate years down the line
    - iv. What kinds of people welcome at board meetings?
      - 1. Anyone!
      - 2. Some financial information can't be disclosed with non-board members
  - g. OC
    - i. Trying to form an actual committee that's beyond just the chairs
      - 1. Frees up chairs to actually improve orientation
      - 2. Makes being chair less stressful
    - ii. Still recruiting new chairs! Feel free to talk to current chairs.
5. Officer Updates (10 min; 6:25pm-6:35pm)



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### a. President

- i. There will be a graduate professional development working group getting started
- ii. Includes ODGE, GECD, grad students, and others
- iii. Let us know opinions on professional development priorities!

### b. Vice President

- i. Several council reps have attended 6 meetings in a row!
  1. They get a free coffee mug and a \$25 amazon gift card

## 6. New Business (45 min; 6:35pm-7:20 pm)

### a. Nominations for Officer Team 2017-2018 (10 min)

- i. Can nominate at this meeting or through the GSC website up to one week prior to elections
- ii. Elections take place on April GCM
- iii. Website: [gsc.mit.edu/elections](http://gsc.mit.edu/elections)
  1. See who's running
  2. Nominate yourself or someone else
  3. Nominees will be able to edit nomination, upload a photo, CV and personal statement
- iv. There's a fancy poster for elections!
- v. Nominations open NOW
- vi. Nominations (if nominated for one, can participate for any position below; order is Prez, VP, secretary, treasurer):

#### 1. President nominations

- a. Sarah Goodman – Accepts
  - i. Much applause
- b. Lisa Guay – Accepts (“for now”)
- c. Angie Crews – Declines
- d. Orpheus Chatzivasileiou – Declines
  - i. Not his objective to seek that high an office

#### 2. Vice President

- a. Andrew Fiore – Accepts
- b. Daniel Curtis – Declines (gratefully, though)
- c. Orpheus Chatzivasileiou – Declines (for the moment)

#### 3. Secretary

- a. Orpheus Chatzivasileiou – Accepts (finally)
- b. Lauren Chi – Declines

#### 4. Treasurer



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- a. Krithika Ramchander – Has indicated that will accept
  - b. David Rolnek - Declines
- b. 63.gsc.14 Budget Re-Scope for FY2017 (25 min)
- i. What is a rescope?
    1. Lisa is just a good, good treasurer. Great work Lisa.
      - a. Thunderous applause
    2. Update total budget based on flexible revenue streams
    3. Reallocate funds between line items
      - a. Helps next officer team to allocate better
      - b. Refines priorities
      - c. Make better use of funds we have
  - ii. Voting procedure: Will pass the same way as the original
    1. Can object to any number of line items on a sheet
    2. If no line items are objected to, it is approved
    3. If an objection arises, a vote will occur
      - a. Can vote to decrease or keep the same, but not to increase
      - b. Simple majority for one line item, 2/3 for multiple line items at once
  - iii. Career fair overpaid us by \$10k
    1. Partially offset by stabilization fund
      - a. Only ~\$5k off
  - iv. FY17\* is the rescoped version
    1. Color coding very pastel
  - v. Is there any way for council to get more money spent on line items?
    1. Yes, would have to introduce a resolution though; cannot occur through normal budget or rescope votes
  - vi. Chairs discussion of what has changed in budget sheets
    1. Restricted Revenue
      - a. Less rollover than anticipated
      - b. Support for subsidized dining replaced with general support from alumni association
      - c. AC ticket sales broken up by event
      - d. Outflows change largely due to stabilization fund and shortfall from career fair
      - e. Initiatives fund didn't used to have a line item; will now have a line item under funding board



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- f. Standard practice to show total expenditure on funding board
  - i. Current Spent column shows money that has been spend to date
2. ExComm Budget Sheets
  - a. Extra money from computers/subscriptions line item
  - b. Open House GCM changed to Orientation Open House Event
    - i. More money put in for better turnout
    - ii. More money allocated towards officer meeting; assumes \$10/person for weekly meetings
  - c. What is the average spent on meetings?
    - i. \$10/person
3. Nominations Board
  - a. No changes
4. Funding Board
  - a. Initiatives Fund line item 3.13 added
  - b. What is the \$15,000 for OneMIT Board?
    - i. Agreement that there would be equal funding from ODGE and Sloan; net neutral line item
5. Publicity and Publications
  - a. No changes
6. ASA
  - a. No changes, pretty much ever
7. AC
  - a. Outdoor and Adventure Events increased using unused funds from community building
8. ARC
  - a. Travel grant increase requested to keep up with 25% increase in applicants
  - b. Cannot use money on this during this fiscal year unless this is voted on *today*
    - i. Procedurally, motion for approval acceleration can be made to vote immediately
    - ii. Andrew plans on making motion





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- c. Would we be voting on this one line item or everything?
  - i. Will follow normal procedure; will vote if objection is raised, just expedited
- d. Are applications still being accepted?
  - i. No; funding cycle is over and graded, but notification has not been sent out yet

## 9. HCA

- a. Costco shuttle main increase request
- b. Do we get any rebates due to the issues with the shuttle?
  - i. Touch and go; difficult to negotiate with the shuttle
  - ii. Alternatives have been explored, but there aren't any great ones
  - iii. Not totally neutral; ~4% increase requested
    - 1. Costco shuttle went up by 25% this year

## 10. OC

- a. Big changes
  - i. Underspent significantly on food due to free tastings
  - ii. Did not receive funding from Sloan for picnic
  - iii. Overestimated funding from MITFCU for incoming students gift

## 11. Muddy

- a. Zero inflow, zero inflow; net neutrality achieved

## 12. EAB

- a. Lots of items; relatively small changes
- b. Lots of subcommittees, so they need more food
- c. Ivy+ Summit in Rhode Island, so they spent less
- d. Small changes to NAGPS and legislative action days
- e. Advocacy trips increased due to changing political climate
  - i. Organized another trip to DC with surplus
- f. Many events ended up being collaborations;



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gsc-officers@mit.edu

### **President**

Arolyn Conwill

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### **Vice-President**

Angela Crews

### **Nominations Board**

gsc-vp@mit.edu

### **Secretary**

Orpheus Chatzivasileiou

### **Publications & Publicity Board**

gsc-secretary@mit.edu

### **Treasurer**

Lisa Guay

### **Funding Board**

gsc-treasurer@mit.edu

## Committees

gsc-excomm@mit.edu

### **Academics, Research, &**

#### **Careers (ARC)**

Andrew Fiore

Erik Tillman

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#### **Activities (AC)**

Saurabh Gandhi

Sami Khan

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#### **Assoc. of Student**

##### **Activities (ASA)**

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#### **External Affairs (EAB)**

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#### **Housing & Community**

##### **Affairs (HCA)**

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#### **Muddy Charles Pub**

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#### **Orientation (OC)**

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allowed EAB to spend less

i. Little to no cost in most places

vii. Motion to suspend normal regulations and vote on rescope today

1. Passes

viii. Vote on budget rescope

1. Reminders: Each rep can object to *any number* of line items; automatically approved if no objections raised

2. Arolyn and Lisa cannot chair; nominate Orpheus to chair

a. Point of order: Does this default to VP

i. President can appoint anyone

ii. VP currently working on voting

iii. Bylaws: VP performs duty "in president's absent" ; president not absent

iv. Orpheus still chairs

3. Objections to stabilization fund?

a. No; approved

4. ExComm

a. No objections; approved

5. Nominations Board

a. No objections; approved

6. Funding Board

a. No objections; approved

7. Publicity and Publications

a. No objections; approved

8. ASA

a. No objections; approved

9. AC

a. No objections; approved

10. ARC

a. No objections; approved

11. HCA

a. No objections; approved

12. OC

a. No objections; approved

13. Muddy

a. No objections; approved

i. General laughter

14. EAB



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a. No objections; approved

ix. We did it!!

c. 63.gsc.15 Resolution to Update the Policy Platform (10 min)

i. Made the forward to the platform more specific; states that it's changed once a year and its goal

ii. New items

1. Support protection of students' privacy of medical history

a. MIT records currently under HIPA, so likely records safe here

2. Student records should not be disclosed unnecessarily

3. Oppose faculty/staff demanding social media login credentials

4. Believe students should be given appropriate credit for their work

5. Oppose policies that disrupt students work or studies

a. Suggestion: Word "disrupt" is a little vague; may want to tighten language

b. Point: If a protest disrupts work, GSC may not want to come down on either side

c. GSC takes policy positions in multiple steps:

i. Pass platform

ii. Position goes through EAB and must be approved by EAB

iii. EAB chair and president choose *not* to go back to council

d. Opinion: vote on policy gives EAB discretion on certain issues

e. Point: Misleading language; should be more like GSC *retains the right* to firmly oppose...

f. Some conflicting resolutions in given circumstances; up to EAB discretion

6. Encourage entrepreneurship and visa policies that enable students to start companies in US after graduation

iii. Modified items

1. Support affordable quality housing for all members of graduate student households

2. Support measures that enable international students, research staff, and faculty to renew visas



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- a. Do we want to make a statement on other household members?
- 3. Oppose deportation of students at MIT, including undocumented students, and measures that would limit enrollment of undocumented students
- 4. Can the difference between household and dependents be elaborated on?
  - a. Dependents almost always means children/spouses
  - b. Households could include parents, co-op, roommates, etc.
- 7. Open Floor (7:20pm+)
  - a. Proposal for a resolution to modify bylaws (V.C.1) to allow council to table items brought up for a vote at council
    - i. Clarifies that adjourning before addressing line items automatically tables them until the next meeting
    - ii. Will be considering legislation in April meeting
    - iii. Motion to expedite voting process on proposal
      - 1. Opposition: Important for council to have time to consider proposal
        - a. Agreement
      - b. Motion to adjourn
- 8. Post-GCM Social at the Muddy Charles Pub (Building 50; ~7:30pm)
  - a. Join the ARC Chairs in discussing new professional development initiatives for graduate students!

**Upcoming GSC Meetings**

Academics, Research, and Careers (ARC)	Wednesday 3/8 @ 6:00pm
Activities Committee (AC)	Tuesday 3/14 @ 5:00pm
External Affairs Board (EAB)	Friday 3/3 @ 5:00pm
Events Subcommittee	TBA
Federal Affairs Subcommittee	TBA
Public Outreach Subcommittee	TBA
State and Local Affairs Subcommittee	Wednesday 3/8 @ 3:00pm
University Liaison	TBA
Housing and Community Affairs (HCA)	Monday 3/6 @ 5:30pm
Off-campus Subcommittee	TBA



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Sustainability Subcommittee	Tuesday 3/7 @ 5:00pm
Transportation Subcommittee *NEW*	Wednesday 3/1 @ 3:00pm
Muddy Charles Pub	Tuesday 3/21 @ 6:00pm
Orientation Committee (OC)	TBA
Executive Committee (ExComm)	Wednesday 3/29 @ 6:30pm

\*Unless otherwise indicated, all meetings are in the GSC Office (50-220)

**Remaining Spring Semester General Council Meetings (GCMs)**

April General Council Meeting	Wed. 4/5 @ 5:30pm in 32-141
May General Council Meeting	Wed. 5/3 @ 5:30pm in 32-141

Notes: Dinner starts at 5:00pm and meetings start at 5:30pm.