



# Graduate Student Council of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## April General Council Meeting Agenda

April 5th, 2017, 5:30pm-7:30pm, 32-141

1. Introduction, Dinner, and New Faces (5 min; 5:30pm-5:35pm)
  - a. New Faces
  - b. Quorum check
    - i. 47 "present", 7 "not present"
  - c. Approval of March GCM Minutes
    - i. Approved
2. Elections (60 min; 5:35pm-6:35pm)
  - a. GSC Officers 2017-2018 (50 min; 5 min speech per candidate followed by debate and voting)
    - i. President
      1. Sarah Goodman
        - a. Orientation Co-chair
        - b. Will go further with all the priorities for President
        - c. GSC structuring relationships to receive feedback
        - d. Concrete methods to get reps to contact their departments
        - e. More face time with officers and students.
        - f. Go to departments, get to talk face to face with departments.
        - g. Personally invested in academic advising, thesis course evaluation, mental health.
        - h. Engage and serve the grad student community, got to know the administration.
        - i. Is also a GRT.
        - j. Has developed management skills.
        - k. Got to go to DC on other issues. Facilitate affective grad student advocacy.
        - l. Q: What's your strategy for dealing with issues that the administration doesn't want to support?
          - i. A: We need to develop and consensus to push the administration. Involving the administration from the very beginning.
          - ii. Q: Specifically about getting a faculty dean for ODGE?
          - iii. A: We need to push about things that need

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#### **Secretary**

Orpheus Chatzivasileiou

#### **Publications & Publicity Board**

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#### **Treasurer**

Lisa Guay

#### **Funding Board**

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Erik Tillman

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#### **Housing & Community Affairs (HCA)**

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Sarah Shapiro

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#### **Muddy Charles Pub**

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

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James Kaczmarek

gsc-oc@mit.edu

### Staff

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- to happen.
- iv. Q: Mental health and diversity. POC have been experiencing issues with mental health. What would you do to remedy the situation. How would you handle the apparent issue with underrepresented minorities feeling like they don't have a home at MIT?
  - v. A: There's so many things we can do. There's a couple of angles that we could take, make sure that the GSC is representative of everyone. Great if we had people come to GCMs come to us to talk about those things. Solicit feedback from Council.
  - vi. Q: Are you saying there is not much the GSC can do about this?
  - vii. A: GSC will voice our opinions to Medical. We can help get rid of some of the myths surrounding visits to Medical. Need to destigmatize mental illnesses. Something to work on as a community. Come talk to us.
  - viii. Q: So, is this going to be on a case-by-case basis, or do you need to go centrally?
  - ix. A: We need testimonials. It looks like we are moving in the right direction.
  - x. Discussion to extend? Majority votes to continue for 2 minutes.
  - xi. A: Very happy to make this a priority.
  - xii. Q: Not a really new problem. It takes a lot of work to make changes.
  - xiii. Voting:
  - xiv. She is elected as President

## ii. Vice President

1. Lisa vs Anthony

2. Lisa Guay

- a. Motivated about fixing things, care about advising issues. Served on the Ashdown House Executive



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Committee. Served on HCA working with dorm issues. Organized trips to DC. President of SPI, now VP. As Treasurer she had the pleasure of managing the budget. Make sure that funding resources are more easily publicized. Is the ASA representative. Why VP? People listen to us, need to maintain momentum. Need to talk more to Institute Committees. Focus on the goals and needs of people here.

### 3. Anthony Marchreau

- a. "We are the change that we see". Has life experience and drive to create progress on issues.
- b. Issues: Grad programs have serious diversity issues. We are doing worse than the national average.
- c. 3 step solution: Strategize, Evaluate, Support
- d. Are we reaching out to diverse populations? Make sure accessibility is increased.
- e. Evaluate the admissions policies. Make sure harmful language is not propagated.
- f. Support existing minorities. General student wellness needs to become a great priority.
- g. Need to establish programs and promote diversity.
- h. Graduate stipends need to be increased.

### 4. Q&A

- a. What makes the role of VP ideal for achieving your goals?
  - i. L: Really excited to use resources to work on diversity, mental health issues.
  - ii. A: As VP you have the voice to represent all grad students. Try to talk to administration, make plans.
- b. Q: As VP you also manage internal affairs. There can be some conflict. How do you deal with conflicts?
  - i. A: Be able to compromise. When 2 people disagree on something, you need to be able to compromise on a solution that's



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best for both.

- ii. L: Listen to everyone, acknowledge the concern, where's the most important, maybe compromise, be flexible, develop consensus.
- c. Q: Plan to increase diversity, but it's decentralized. How do you do that?
  - i. L: Decisions are decentralized, get support for people to be sensitized. Get the data to justify your position.
  - ii. A: Scary thing: I have no idea how they pick their students. Sometimes faculty people pick people they like. Every department needs to have a diversity leader.
- d. Q: Elections. Any thoughts on how we can improve the process to elect for GSC?
  - i. A: A lot of students do not know how things are done. Recruit people who are passionate and are willing to stay and make things happen. Enforce awareness.
  - ii. L: I think that the changes that we recently made make the Bylaws more flexible. We can do better in other areas.
- e. Q: Challenging issues with many things. Sustained effort involved, try to get people to stay on.
  - i. L: You need to talk to a lot of different people to build coalitions, need to work with departments.
  - ii. A: Find passionate people. Bring awareness to other issues. Talk to people, bring people on board.
- f. Candidates leave
- g. Orpheus: Lisa is great.
- h. Kyle: Anthony is too focused on a specific thing. Maybe he should lead a diversity taskforce.
- i. Ty: Anthony brought me here because of his drive for diversity.
- j. Chris: I don't know Anthony. He mentioned both



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diversity and mental health. The VP can be a way of elevating particular issues. It's something for us to consider.

k. Arolyn: It's often a good position to take on new projects. Lisa's gone above and beyond in her position as Treasurer, issues that affect graduate families, etc, can have a follow-through in these issues.

l. Anthony did not take up any leadership roles yet.

m. Vote: Lisa 46-Anthony 8

### iii. Secretary

1. Orpheus Chatzivasileiou

2. He's great. He won.

### iv. Treasurer

1. Krithika

a. Has been in leadership positions. Is interested in funding, elaboration between different student groups. Synchronization of different funding cycles.

b. Q&A

i. Chris: Various cultural groups complained about current policy to get funding for speakers.

ii. A: It depends on the number of event. That's something that we could reconsider.

iii. Kyle: What's the treasurer's role in oversight of committee finances.

iv. A: Committee should have control of their finances but I should have broad oversight.

c. Q: Does she know what she's doing? Lisa: Yes

d. Q: I don't believe she's going to balk

e. Q: She is a quick learner and will bring initiative.

2. Votes: 48 in favor

### b. External Affairs Board Chair (10 min)

i. Peter Su

1. Has been Vice-Chair for EAB, will go to NAGPS. Got great overview on how things work and how they fit together.

2. Q&A:

a. Q: What are some things that you feel that the



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GSC can improve on?

- b. A: Do things more on the local level. We have a bigger voice in local affairs than in federal ones. Reach out to improve things to state level.
  - c. Q: How do you feel about expanding your influence in other states?
  - d. A: Connected to NAGPS, talk to other schools.
  - e. Q: The EAB did create the public outreach subcommittee, they're kinda addressing this.
  - f. Q: How do you interface with govt. relations?
3. Candidate left.
    - a. Daniel: He's a great second in command.
  3. Old Business (30 min; 6:35pm-7:05pm)
    - a. Legislative process review (5 min)
      - i. We're already behind.
      - ii. We motion to move 63.gsc.16 up. It is to be considered before 63.gsc.16
    - b. 63.gsc.16 Resolution to Amend the Bylaws (10 min)
      - i. So that we can table issues if we did not have enough
        1. Q: Would you be opposed to adding a limit to how many times it should be tabled.
        2. A: To pass it it needs 50%, so if you have 50% maybe you would have killed it.
        3. Q: I think we removed the way to table legislation because there was a way to keep amendments going on forever.
        4. Q: No need to do the tabling. One month is enough. We can provide for a venue for further discussion.
    - c. 63.gsc.15 Resolution to Update the Policy Platform (15 min)
      - i. They want to update platform. Updates to
      - ii. Q: What is a platform document?
      - iii. A: To represent our policy on issues. Authorizes the EAB to act on them.
      - iv. Motion to amend.
        1. To include the phrase "immigration status" to item 2. Coming from student feedback.
        2. Chris: I heartily endorse it.
        3. Someone else agrees with this amendment.
        4. Q: What's the status of this amendment to Daniel's



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resolution?

5. A: We're voting on whether to include this to the policy platform.

6. It's incorporated.

v. Motion to amend

1. To add the language "and their families" to item 27.

2. Voting to include.

3. It's incorporated.

vi. Motion to amend

1. To add the language "non-automotive commuting capacity"

2. Q-Arolyn: Ambiguity or breadth should be sought

3. Q: What does non-automotive mean?

4. Chris: I think it should be more specific

5. Daniel: We can have latitude

6. Q: I think accessible is stronger than "non-automotive commuting capacity"

7. EAB: When we were considering, we were following a foll

8. Vote: In favor: 1, Against: Everyone else.

vii. Move to extend discussion by 5 mins

1. Yes: 18 in favor, 20 against.

viii. Vote on the whole issue.

1. Yes: 45

2. No: 2

4. Meeting adjourned

## Upcoming GSC Meetings

Academics, Research, and Careers (ARC)	Wed. 4/12 @ 6:00pm
Activities Committee (AC)	Tues. 4/11 @ 6:00pm
External Affairs Board (EAB)	Thurs. 4/13 @ 5:30pm
Events Subcommittee	TBA
Federal Affairs Subcommittee	Thurs. 4/6 @ 6:00pm
Public Outreach Subcommittee	TBA
State and Local Affairs Subcommittee	Thurs. 4/6 @ 3:00pm
University Liaison	Tues. 4/11 @ 5:00pm
Housing and Community Affairs (HCA)	Mon. 4/10 @ 5:30pm
Off-campus Subcommittee	Fri. 4/28 @ 12:30pm



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Sustainability Subcommittee	Mon. 4/4 @ 5:00pm
Transportation Subcommittee	TBA
Muddy Charles Pub	Tues. 4/18 @ 6:00pm
Orientation Committee (OC)	Wed. 4/19 @ 6:00pm
Executive Committee (ExComm)	Wed. 4/26 @ 6:30pm
May General Council Meeting	Wed. 5/3 @ 5:30pm in 32-141

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