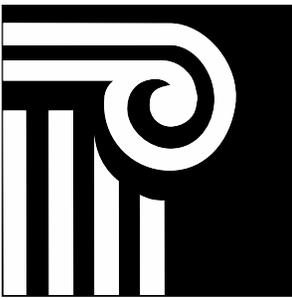


MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL
PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Appendices to the Report on Options to Improve the Conduct of GSC External Affairs

Report of the Presidential Task Force on External Affairs to the
General Council of the
Graduate Student Council of the
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

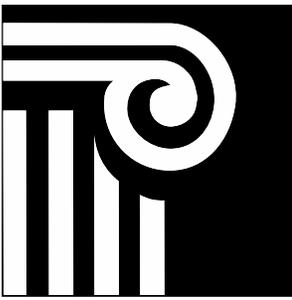
Presented to the General Council on
December 2nd, 2015



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL
PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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APPENDIX A: Formation and Methodology of the External Affairs Task Force

The Task Force was created by GSC General Council Resolution 62.gsc.2.1: Resolution for Presidential Task Force on External Affairs. From that resolution:

Motivation

In the 61st Council (2014-2015) of the GSC, legislature to create a new External Affairs standing committee by amending the GSC Bylaws was defeated. The debate immediately preceding the vote, however, showed that there was broad support for increasing the amount of engagement between graduate students and initiatives and organizations outside the Institute.

Purpose

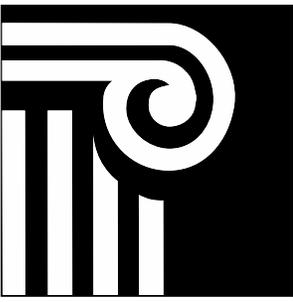
This Presidential Task Force on External Affairs shall assess the manners in which the GSC currently interfaces with governments and external programs, and shall recommend changes to the way the GSC handles its external affairs to the GSC President and to the General Council.

Report

The exact format of the report shall be determined by the Task Force Chair. All potential forms of action that receive support from at least one-half of the committee shall be included as options, regardless of whether these options partially or completely conflict with each other.

Members of the Task Force

Daniel Curtis, Course 22 PhD Candidate; Task Force Chair; djcurtis@mit.edu
Boris Braverman, Course 8 PhD Candidate
Arolyn Conwill, Course 8 PhD Candidate
Brittany Huhmann, Course 1 PhD Candidate
Michael McClellan, Course 12 PhD Candidate; GSC President
Mark Molaro, Course 10 PhD Candidate



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Methodology taken

The work of this task force consisted of:

- A series of approximately 10 internal meetings spanning September, October, and November, where the task force discussed:
 - The relationship between MIT graduate students and the world outside MIT (see the definition of “external affairs”).
 - The relevance and importance of this relationship to the central mission of the GSC.
 - Current efforts undertaken by MIT graduate student organizations in the realm of external affairs.
 - Potential changes to the GSC’s operations and structure that would improve external relationships and partnerships and make external affairs efforts more efficient
- Soliciting feedback from GSC ExComm members, GSC General Council Representatives (through direct email communication), and graduate students at large (by publicizing our work in the GSC Anno), through email, an online form, and availability for one-on-one meetings with interested students.
- Conducting a survey of student leaders from other institutions regarding their approach to external affairs.
 - We received responses from 11 institutions.
 - All but one of these institutions reported having a “student-led, centralized effort for graduate student activities external to the university” that is also “directly affiliated with the GSC” rather than “operating as a standalone organization”.
 - Interfacing with administration-based advocacy arms was the most common activity for these organizations, followed by state/local advocacy, followed by federal advocacy and volunteering/community outreach.



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APPENDIX B: Operations of the GSC

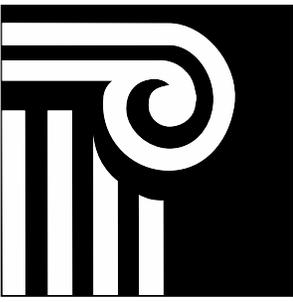
According to the GSC Constitution, the purposes of the Graduate Student Council shall include the following four items:

- To represent the graduate students on all matters pertaining to their general welfare as graduate students
- To provide for and promote graduate student extra-curricular activities
- To provide for the welcoming and orientation of new graduate students
- To provide a formal means of communication among graduate students

The GSC represents the graduate student body in general, and the GSC leadership ultimately answers to the Council Representatives (as representatives of all graduate students) in all decisions. These relationships are discussed in the GSC Constitution and Bylaws.

The GSC works to make the graduate student experience at MIT better, alongside many partners in the MIT administration, including:

- The Office of the Dean for Graduate Education, which provides funding and staff support for the GSC Operations in addition to personal student support.
- The Division of Student Life, which provides programming, funding to student groups and initiatives, and services to students living in graduate housing.
- The Office of the President (and other upper administration), which is advised by the GSC Officers and the Presidential Advisory Cabinet (PAC, with four graduate student members).
- The MIT Corporation, which is advised by the three graduate student members on the Corporation Joint Advisory Committee on Institute-Wide Affairs (CJAC, with the GSC President serving in an ex officio capacity).
- MIT Faculty members and School Deans, who partner with the GSC on academic issues pertaining to graduate students, including research and advising.
- Other MIT offices, divisions, and departments who can connect the GSC to initiatives, committees, resources, and more (e.g. Priscilla King Gray Public Service Center).



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APPENDIX C: Examples of possible implementation text for a selection of Organizational Change options

In examples where the majority of the text is unchanged with respect to a current governing document, the modified text is underlined and highlighted red. In some examples where the proposed text is incomplete, the Task Force has provided comments explaining the omission or some other placeholder in [[double brackets]].

Option 1A: New Constitutional Officer

== Amendment to the Constitution ==

Constitution of the MIT Graduate Student Council

...

Article IV. Officers

Council shall elect its officers, who shall be the President, the Vice-President, the Foreign Minister, the Treasurer, and the Secretary. The term of office is one year. No person may hold two offices simultaneously. No person may hold the same office for more than two full years. The officers of the Council shall be voting members.

== Amendment to the Bylaws ==

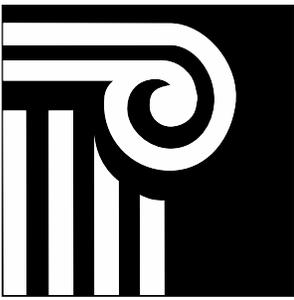
Bylaws

Article I. Duties of the Officers

...

E. Foreign Minister

The Foreign Minister shall serve as the primary spokesperson for the Graduate Student Council to the general public and to all organizations outside the Institute. The Foreign Minister shall develop and maintain all documents and material necessary to guide GSC communications and present the positions of the Council on relevant issues. The Foreign Minister shall... [[have other duties that the Council considers appropriate if the Council chooses to implement this option.]]



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Option 2B: New ExComm Chair manages an EAB with the President

== Amendment to the Bylaws ==

Bylaws

...
Article II. Committees

...
G. The following standing committees are established:

...
11. External Affairs Board

i. Purpose of the Board.

The External Affairs Board shall coordinate all external affairs of the GSC, including relationships with organizations outside MIT; political advocacy at the federal, state, and local levels of government; community outreach, education, and service; and statements of the positions of the council or the graduate student body on issues of significance to the welfare of graduate students at MIT.

ii. Officers of the Board

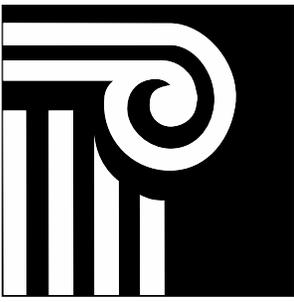
The Board shall be jointly managed by the President of GSC and the External Affairs Chair. The External Affairs Chair shall have a term of one year, shall be nominated by the members of the Board [[NOTE: or the President]], and shall be confirmed by the General Council. The term of the External Affairs Chair begins and ends at the same time as the term of the President. If the External Affairs Chair becomes vacant during the year for any reason, the External Affairs Board shall nominate a replacement and the replacement shall be confirmed by the General Council. The External Affairs Chair shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee and the General Council.

iii. Members of the Board

The two co-chairs of the Committee on Housing and Community Affairs shall be ex-officio voting members of the Board.

Up to two co-chairs of each subcommittee of the Board shall be voting members of the Board.

The Board shall have four At-Large voting positions with a term of two years. The Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer of GSC shall nominate a slate of up to four candidates to fill the two open positions each year. The General Council shall elect two At-Large members to the Board each year following a single transferable vote method during the meeting at which officer elections are carried out. Any graduate student may be nominated to these At-Large positions.



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During the first year of operation of the Board, all four At-Large positions shall be filled from a slate of up to eight candidates following a single transferable vote method. The candidates elected in the third and fourth positions shall have a term of one year.

iv. Subcommittees of the Board

The Board may create subcommittees to carry out work in any area relevant to the Purpose of the Board. The Board shall specify the Purpose of the Subcommittee and the work to be carried out when a subcommittee is created. The General Council shall be informed of the creation of a subcommittee and of the Purpose of the Subcommittee during the next General Body Meeting after the subcommittee is created. Creation of a subcommittee requires the approval of a simple majority of the Board.

In exception to Article II, Section B, subcommittees of the External Affairs Board will continue to operate for a term specified in the Purpose of the Subcommittee. The term of office and manner of election of the chair(s) of a subcommittee shall be specified in the Purpose of the Subcommittee.

v. Meetings of the Board

The President and the External Affairs Chair may each call for a meeting of the Board at any time as long as they provide five days notice to all members of the Board. Any three other members of the Board may call for a meeting of the Board in a similar manner.

The Board shall meet regularly no fewer than four times per year.

Any ten members of the General Council may call for a meeting of the Board with seven days notice.

vi. Quorum

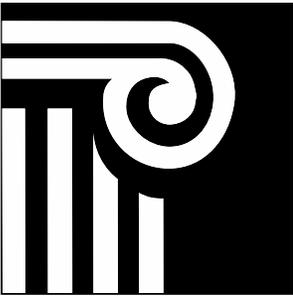
A simple majority of voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum to carry out business. The External Affairs Chair shall verify that a quorum is present at the beginning of each meeting.

vii. Open Meetings and Records of the Board

Meetings of the Board shall be open to any graduate student unless a motion to enter a Closed Session is approved by a simple majority of the Board. The reason to enter a Closed Session shall be recorded and clearly stated to everyone in attendance.

Records of all actions taken by the Board, including actions taken during Closed Sessions, shall be made available to all members of the General Council.

The President and External Affairs Chair may appoint a member of the Board to serve as recordkeeper.



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Option 3A: External Affairs Committee

== Amendment to the Bylaws ==

Bylaws

Article II. Committees

G. The following standing committees are established:

...

11. External Affairs Committee

... federal and state government advocacy, and local advocacy not already undertaken by the Committee on Housing and Community Affairs (HCA) ...

Option 3B: External Affairs Committee

== Amendment to the Bylaws ==

Bylaws

Article II. Committees

G. The following standing committees are established:

...

8. Committee on Housing and Campus Affairs

The Committee on Housing and Campus Affairs is a standing committee concerned with on- and off-campus housing, transportation to and from campus, and safety, health, welfare, and related matters on the MIT campus.

...

11. External Affairs Committee

...