

## **External Affairs**

### **Board**

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## **Subcommittees**

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)



# **Graduate Student Council**

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## **GSC External Affairs Board 2017 Annual Report**

Prepared by the members of the External Affairs Board  
July 14th, 2017

Contact the authors at:  
EAB 16-17 Members <[eab-members-17@mit.edu](mailto:eab-members-17@mit.edu)>

## **Executive Summary**

The External Affairs Board (EAB, or “the Board”) coordinates the external affairs and activities of the GSC, including relationships with organizations outside MIT; political advocacy at all levels of government; community outreach, education, and service; and statements of the positions of the GSC or the graduate student body on issues of significance to the welfare of graduate students at MIT.

Five subcommittees carry out this work under the management and oversight of the Board:

- **Federal Affairs**
- **State and Local Affairs**
- **External Affairs Events**
- **University Liaison**
- **Public Outreach**

The 2016-2017 term was the first full year of operation of the External Affairs Board, which was created by passage of Resolution 62.gsc.7.2 in March 2016. The Board inherited the advocacy portfolio of the Legislative Action Subcommittee (LASC), which was primarily directed toward the U.S. federal government, and established several subcommittees early in the term to expand GSC external advocacy activities.

The Board successfully expanded GSC external advocacy in several ways this year, including:

- Recruitment of new contributors.
- Expansion of the portfolio of topics covered.
- Expansion of the GSC Position Statement collection.
- Two GSC Policy Platform updates.
- Record levels of external advocacy activity by several measures.

## **External Affairs**

### **Board**

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## **Subcommittees**

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)

77 Massachusetts Ave  
Room 50-220  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Phone: 617-253-2195  
<http://asc.mit.edu>



# **Graduate Student Council**

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

The Board itself demonstrated a great deal of knowledgeability, thoughtfulness, and responsiveness this year in its role to coordinate the external affairs and activities of the GSC, develop advocacy messages and strategies, and oversee the operations of the subcommittees. All 5 subcommittees clearly demonstrated the capacity to independently develop plans of action and execute activities in their area of responsibility successfully, and highly qualified nominees have been selected for 7 out of 9 subcommittee chair positions for the 2017-2018 term.

Although the structure and operating procedures of the Board are relatively complex by GSC standards and there is room for improvement in the coming years, the Board has attracted a very high-performing team of contributors that are up to the challenge. The Board has demonstrated itself to be sustainable, useful, interesting, and effective, and has represented the graduate students of MIT extremely well during its first year of operation.

## **Contents**

Major Accomplishments by GSC External Affairs in the 2016-2017 Term .....	3
Timeline of Major Activities and Developments, March 2016 through May 2017 .....	7
Major Accomplishments by Friends and Allies of GSC External Affairs in the 2016-2017 Term .....	9
Selected Recommendations for the 2017-2018 Board .....	11
Federal Affairs .....	16
State and Local Affairs .....	18
External Affairs Events .....	19
University Liaison .....	20
Public Outreach .....	25

## **External Affairs**

### **Board**

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## **Subcommittees**

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)

77 Massachusetts Ave  
Room 50-220  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Phone: 617-253-2195  
<http://asc.mit.edu>



# **Graduate Student Council**

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## **Major Accomplishments by GSC External Affairs in the 2016-2017 Term**

### ***Extremely successful recruitment***

The creation of the External Affairs Board and its first four subcommittees established a total of 15 Board positions that needed to be filled early in the 2016-2017 term. 12 of those positions were filled by June, including 5 out of 7 subcommittee chairs and 2 of the 3 at-large positions. Most of these Board members were veterans of either the GSC Legislative Action Subcommittee (LASC), the GSC Executive Committee (ExComm), or the Science Policy Initiative (SPI). In the assessment of the Chair, it is actually beneficial to have an at-large position open most of the time, providing the option to bring in a new leader during the year if a new project idea arises or a new perspective needs to be represented on the Board. Overall, early efforts to fill the Board with a skillful and experienced set of advocates were highly successful.

The Board was represented at several events focused on advertising and recruitment in late summer and early fall of 2016, including Graduate Orientation events. Several active contributors in spring 2017 first became aware of the Board and its activities at these events.

Interest in discussing and solving policy problems had already been increasing at MIT for many years before 2016. This had ensured a slow but steady stream of new contributors for LASC and increasing trip applications for our friends at SPI in recent years. The result of the 2016 US Presidential Election caused a pronounced increase in interest in politics and policy issues across our campus. This has had several interesting results, including the creation of several new student activist groups, a further uptick in applications for SPI's spring 2017 Congressional Visit Days (CVD), several new contributors across all External Affairs activities, and the creation of the External Affairs Board Subcommittee on Public Outreach (which had sufficiently many contributors on day 1 to investigate several options for outreach activities and promptly begin work).

In total, the Chair estimates that GSC External Affairs had over 30 contributors across all of our activities during the 2016-2017 term.

### ***Major expansion of the portfolio of topics covered***

LASC had focused almost entirely on United States federal legislation before 2015 and had particularly focused on student visa policy, federal research funding, open access, and international student entrepreneurship. In its final year of operations in 2015-2016, LASC started new advocacy efforts directed toward the Massachusetts

## External Affairs

### Board

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## Subcommittees

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)

77 Massachusetts Ave  
Room 50-220  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Phone: 617-253-2195  
<http://asc.mit.edu>



# Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

state government (Statehouse Visit Days, SVD), local government (Somerville zoning), and development of federal regulations (the STEM OPT Extension for F-1 visas).

In the 2016-2017 term, External Affairs continued work on issues spanning the full LASC portfolio and began work in several new areas, including:

- Policies regarding sexual violence on campus (state and federal legislation).
- Climate change and related research (federal legislation).
- The International Entrepreneur Rule (federal regulation).
- Federal funding for infrastructure (federal legislation).
- Bike safety (state legislation).
- Privacy rights (state legislation).
- Scientific integrity (federal legislation).

### ***Major expansion of the GSC Position Statement collection***

LASC developed detailed position statements relatively rarely before 2016. It has become standard practice for External Affairs to develop at least one detailed position statement on each issue or government action of interest to GSC. LASC developed 7 detailed position statements in the 2015-2016 term, all of which have been approved by the External Affairs Board and continue as the official positions of the GSC. The Massachusetts SVD of March 2016 played an important role in establishing the development of detailed position statements as a standard practice.

External Affairs developed 15 new position statements during the 2016-2017 term covering a wide range of topics (including each of the new topics indicated above). Most of these statements were developed in early 2017 to support two campaigns of meetings in DC in March and SVD in April.

### ***Several records set by level of external advocacy activity in Spring 2017***

External Affairs set records for GSC external advocacy activity in several areas in the spring semester of 2017 (defined here as Jan 1 through May 3). Each of these records represents a great deal of work by many contributors.

- Number of policymaker meetings: **61**.
  - 48 federal, 12 Massachusetts, 1 Cambridge.
- Number of meetings with legislators present: **7**.
  - 1 federal, 5 Massachusetts, 1 Cambridge.
- Number of new Position Statements and Letters developed: **14**.
- Number of travelers supported: **10**.

## **External Affairs**

### **Board**

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## **Subcommittees**

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)

77 Massachusetts Ave  
Room 50-220  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Phone: 617-253-2195  
<http://asc.mit.edu>



# **Graduate Student Council**

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## ***Two GSC Policy Platform Updates***

Responsibility for maintaining the GSC Legislative Platform was transferred to the External Affairs Board when LASC ended operations in May 2016. LASC had previously maintained the platform and had carried out no more than one major update per year between 2010 and 2016. LASC organized Policy Platform Open House events to consider updates in January of 2015 and 2016.

External Affairs continued the LASC practice to typically begin the platform update process with a widely advertised Open House event; this was done in January 2017 for the regular 2017 update. This update resulted in the addition of 6 new platform items and changes to 5 other items.

A special update was also carried out, starting in June 2016, to expand the coverage of local quality-of-life issues on our platform and consider the option to develop two separate platform documents. This special update cycle resulted in the addition of 7 new platform items, changes to 5 other items, a decision to maintain a single platform document, and renaming the document "Policy Platform of the Graduate Student Council".

## ***External Affairs developed a valuable collaboration with the GEIR Best Practices Community***

LASC began advocating in favor of continued funding for the Massachusetts Global Entrepreneur in Residence (GEIR) program in early 2016. The beginning of this effort featured several meetings with outside organizations, including the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MassTech) and Global EIR Coalition.

These LASC efforts seem to have been noticed by the right people, because External Affairs leaders were invited to join the GEIR Best Practices Community in Boston in July 2016. This community now has quarterly meetings to discuss changes in GEIR programs (including new programs), data on GEIR programs and results, legal concerns, and success stories from GEIR participants. Our participation has provided us with regular updates on GEIR data, legal insights into the operation of GEIR programs, and opportunities to share information about GEIR programs with MIT administrators.

## **External Affairs**

### **Board**

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## **Subcommittees**

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)



# **Graduate Student Council**

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

***The International Students Office is highly responsive to GSC inquiries and concerns***

GSC advocacy on international student issues is energetic, visible, and effective, and has been for many years. Advocacy in favor of domestic renewal of student visas was an important early issue for LASC, and policies to support international student entrepreneurship were the focus of multiple publications and events by LASC between 2013 and 2016. External Affairs has continued these efforts, in part through new statements during this term and ongoing collaboration with the leadership of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS).

The results of the 2016 US Presidential Election caused substantial concerns that US policies governing international student visas, work, and entrepreneurship could become more restrictive, and important existing opportunities might be entirely removed from US visa policy. The MIT International Students Office (ISO) increased their frequency of communications and meetings with international students after the election to help address these concerns, and they made it a standard practice in early 2017 to include GSC leaders in most of these communications and meetings. This includes email broadcasts on important visa policy updates, international student social gatherings, and meetings of the International Council.

The ISO has been appropriately responsive during this term when they have been contacted by GSC leaders about specific issues. Due to our experience advocating to improve visa policy, External Affairs Board members have regularly been included in GSC meetings and communications with the ISO and have contributed to the generally effective handling of international student issues this year. To help maintain a positive working relationship between the GSC and the ISO, External Affairs has made it a standard practice this year to share summary reports on our advocacy efforts with the ISO.

## External Affairs

### Board

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## Subcommittees

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)

77 Massachusetts Ave  
Room 50-220  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Phone: 617-253-2195  
<http://asc.mit.edu>



# Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## Timeline of Major Activities and Developments, March 2016 through May 2017

### March 2016

- The regular 2016 Legislative Platform update was adopted in the March General Council Meeting (GCM) through passage of Resolution 62.gsc.7.1. A further update concerning undocumented students was adopted by passage of 62.gsc.7.3.
- **The External Affairs Board was created** by passage of Resolution 62.gsc.7.2.

### April 2016

- **Daniel Curtis was elected as the 1st External Affairs Chair** at the April GCM. Daniel began operating as Acting External Affairs Chair immediately.
- Legislative Action Chair Yuqing Cui announced that LASC would cease operations at the end of the 2015-2016 term and that its portfolio of activities and responsibilities would be transferred to the External Affairs Board.

### May 2016

- The 63rd General Council and 1st External Affairs Board began on May 4th, 2016.
- The first meeting of the External Affairs Board was held on May 5th, 2016.

### June 2016

- The External Affairs Board Subcommittees on Federal Affairs, State and Local Affairs, Events, and University Liaison were created at the June meeting of the External Affairs Board.

### August 2016

- Chair Daniel Curtis and Vice-Chair Peter Su attended the NAGPS Leadership Summit at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, AR, August 1st through 3rd, 2016.

### September 2016

- Chair Daniel Curtis and Federal Affairs Subcommittee Member Jack Reid attended the NAGPS Legislative Action Days in Washington, D.C., September 10th through 13th, 2016.
- The Advocating for Science Symposium and Workshop was held on campus at MIT, September 16th and 17th, 2016.
- President Arolyn Conwill led a team of 5 to attend the Ivy+ Summit at Brown University in Providence, RI, September 30th through October 2nd, 2016.

### October 2016

- A special Legislative Platform update was adopted in the October GCM through passage of Resolution 63.gsc.4.

### November 2016

- President Arolyn Conwill led a team of 5 to attend the NAGPS National Conference at Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, NY, November 3rd through 6th, 2016.

## External Affairs

### Board

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## Subcommittees

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)



# Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

### December 2016

- The External Affairs Board Subcommittee on Public Outreach was created at the December Meeting of the External Affairs Board.
- Chair Daniel Curtis and Vice-Chair Peter Su represented MIT GSC in a special NAGPS member meeting to consider the NAGPS 2017 Budget.

### February 2017

- Chair Daniel Curtis led a team of 4 to attend the AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, February 15th through 20th, 2017.

### March 2017

- President Arolyn Conwill led a team of 4 on a campaign of 22 meetings with federal legislative offices in Washington, D.C. on March 7th and 8th, 2017.
- Federal Affairs Chairs Aaron Dy and Daniel Franke led a team of 5 to attend the NAGPS Legislative Action Days in Washington, D.C., March 11th through 14th, 2017. This event included a campaign of 19 meetings with federal legislative offices in Washington, D.C.

### April 2017

- Federal Affairs Subcommittee Member Katie Shulenberg attended the Catalyzing Advocacy in Science and Engineering (CASE) Workshop in Washington, D.C., April 2nd and 3rd, 2017. This event included a campaign of 7 meetings with federal legislative offices in Washington, D.C.
- **Peter Su was elected as the 2nd External Affairs Chair** at the April GCM.
- The regular 2017 Policy Platform update was adopted in the April GCM through passage of Resolution 63.gsc.15.
- Chair Daniel Curtis and Secretary Orpheus Chatzivasileiou attended the NAGPS Northeastern Regional Conference at Columbia University in New York, NY, April 7th through 9th, 2017.
- State Affairs Chair Brittany Huhmann led a team of 6 on a campaign of 12 meetings with Massachusetts legislative offices in Boston, MA on April 12th, 2017.

### May 2017

- The Panel on the Future of Manufacturing, the Workforce, and Society was held on campus at MIT on May 3rd, 2017.
- The 63rd General Council and 1st External Affairs Board ended on May 3rd, 2017.



## External Affairs

### Board

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## Subcommittees

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)

77 Massachusetts Ave  
Room 50-220  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Phone: 617-253-2195  
<http://asc.mit.edu>



# Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## Major Accomplishments by Friends and Allies of GSC External Affairs in the 2016-2017 Term

**The University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA) created an External Affairs Committee.** UPenn GAPSA President Gaurav Shukla specifically cited the MIT GSC External Affairs Board as part of his motivation to attempt the reform to create the UPenn committee and reviewed the MIT GSC Bylaws for insights into our organizational structure. UPenn GAPSA elected their first External Affairs Chair, Brenda Salantes, in March 2017.

**The Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) created a Legislative Platform in spring 2017.** CMU GSA had previously endorsed the NAGPS Legislative Platform and used it as the basis for all of their government advocacy efforts. The creation of an independent legislative platform was the signature project this year of Vice-President for External Affairs Nicole Rafidi, will make it easier for CMU GSA to expand their portfolio of advocacy activities, and may motivate increased interest in their external advocacy activities.

**The Budget of NAGPS has been improved.** The External Affairs team learned several unfortunate things about the NAGPS financial situation in fall 2016: (1) NAGPS had budget deficits in 2015 and 2016; (2) it was a common practice in 2015 and 2016 for the NAGPS Board to override the budget and allow additional expenses; and (3) the NAGPS Board was not prepared to provide an accurate financial report to members at the National Conference in November 2016. As a result, additional meetings after the National Conference were necessary to secure an appropriate financial report and make improvements to the NAGPS 2017 budget. External Affairs contributed to this work and made multiple proposals to improve NAGPS financial practices in 2017. We believe NAGPS is in much better financial condition this year.

**NAGPS fired the lobbying firm Shaw, Bransford, and Roth (SBR).** LASC and External Affairs contributors were consistently unimpressed by the quality of presentations and contributions by SBR toward NAGPS work in 2016. After formation of the Board and review of NAGPS business during the summer and fall of 2016, the External Affairs team became generally skeptical that contract lobbying is a worthy use of NAGPS resources in the near future and took the position that any resources NAGPS might direct toward contract lobbying would be better used by directly supporting the advocacy activities of member universities (by funding travel to DC for Legislative Action Days, as one example). As a result, the External Affairs team developed a proposal in fall 2016 to forbid funding for contract lobbying services in the NAGPS 2017 budget. This proposal was introduced as a resolution at the National Conference and passed. The External Affairs team assembled a coalition of supporters in the week leading up to the National Conference to help

## **External Affairs**

### **Board**

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## **Subcommittees**

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)



# **Graduate Student Council**

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

ensure the passage of this resolution. This coalition generally supported External Affairs efforts to improve the NAGPS budget throughout November and December 2016.

**The University of Chicago Graduate Council will be invited to the 2017 Ivy+ Summit.** The proposal to add the University of Chicago Graduate Council as a new official member of Ivy+ was the main item of business considered at the 2016 Ivy+ Summit. Since Ivy+ has no governing documents, ad-hoc rules of order had to be developed and adopted at the meeting. It is the position of the MIT GSC that this proposal was approved under duly agreed-to rules of order. However, these rules of order and the resulting decision were later disputed by a collection of Ivy+ members, and the issue does not appear to be permanently resolved at the time of this writing.

## External Affairs

### Board

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## Subcommittees

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)

77 Massachusetts Ave  
Room 50-220  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Phone: 617-253-2195  
<http://asc.mit.edu>



# Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## Selected Recommendations for the 2017-2018 Board

### *Maximize sharing of advocacy material with friends and allies.*

In Spring 2017, we set a record of 48 total federal legislative meetings across three DC events. These meetings were our most important venue for federal advocacy this year and were the most important venue for federal advocacy under the Legislative Action Subcommittee (LASC) since its beginnings. In the future, if we were to combine 2 standard DC events (2 day trip, team of 4) with a campaign of local congressional district office visits, we might be able to hold just over 50 federal meetings in a single semester. To exceed that level would likely require an overhaul of our strategy and methodology (and probably our budget).

Awareness of our federal advocacy has grown rapidly over the last 2 years among our friends and allies in the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS). Our extremely high overall activity level and our high number of scheduled meetings at Legislative Action Days (LAD) events has been noticed by representatives of many other universities. We have already motivated significant reforms and increased activity at some allied student governments, and some have demonstrated direct and specific interest in our methods and materials.

Together, these factors provide strong motivation to **focus on sharing our methods and material with other universities through NAGPS to maximize the volume, visibility, and cohesion of our federal advocacy.** The external affairs teams at many other universities have a lot of room to grow. Relatively few maintain their own policy platforms or prepare significant numbers of letters or statements, and most of them schedule only 3 to 6 meetings at a typical LAD. We should take every opportunity next year, and should create as many opportunities as we can, to motivate the external affairs teams at other universities to increase their activity, and we should provide them with any support, advice, and material we can to help them do that.

We have also found that there is interest in Massachusetts state government advocacy at some other Massachusetts universities. State and Local Affairs Chair Brittany Huhmann observed that groups from several other Massachusetts universities delivered testimony in an April 13th hearing of the Joint Committee on Higher Education of the Massachusetts General Court.

Because the Massachusetts State House is located so close to MIT, we likely have much more room to increase our number of state legislator meetings per semester. However, the visibility and impact of our state advocacy efforts could still grow much more quickly if we began coordinating in some way with the external affairs teams of other Massachusetts universities.

## External Affairs

### Board

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## Subcommittees

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)

77 Massachusetts Ave  
Room 50-220  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Phone: 617-253-2195  
<http://asc.mit.edu>



# Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**We recommend** that the incoming State and Local Affairs team and University Liaison **start reaching out immediately** to determine if convening a gathering of Massachusetts universities to coordinate state advocacy efforts is feasible next year.

### ***Inform MIT grad students about the Cambridge City elections.***

Cambridge will hold city government elections in November 2017. Nine councilors and six School Committee members are elected at large by Proportional Representation (PR) for a two year term. After members of the Council take the oath of office in January, they elect one of the nine to serve as Mayor.

Cambridge city elections have had seen [turnout below 30% of registered voters since 2005](#). About 18,000 voters participated in the Cambridge city elections of 2013. A concerted effort could result in an ambitious upper bound of about 3,000 MIT graduate students registered to vote in Cambridge. Particularly with the ranked-choice voting system in use in Cambridge, MIT students could play a very large role in Cambridge city elections if a large fraction of them turned out to vote.

The State and Local Affairs team should ensure that reminders about voter registration and the city election are broadcast to all MIT graduate students. The External Affairs Events team should conduct voter registration early in the fall semester and as part of Graduate Orientation.

**We recommend** that the incoming Chair, State and Local Affairs team, and External Affairs Events team **start brainstorming and meeting stakeholders immediately** to determine if hosting a city council candidate debate on campus at MIT is feasible. We consider it very likely that hosting such an event would substantially increase student interest in the election and, therefore, increase student turnout. Several concerns might need to be addressed, including fair scheduling of the event for both the candidates and the audience and fair opportunity for all candidates to participate and speak. If the State and Local Affairs team decides that they would like to pursue this opportunity, the full External Affairs Board should deliberate on the general approach to this type of event and, particularly, the extent to which a non-partisan and/or neutral stance must be displayed by the GSC. This deliberation should include consideration of possible partnerships with MIT Democrats, MIT College Republicans, and other potentially interested groups.

## **External Affairs**

### **Board**

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## **Subcommittees**

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)

77 Massachusetts Ave  
Room 50-220  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Phone: 617-253-2195  
<http://asc.mit.edu>



# **Graduate Student Council**

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

***Maintain the discipline and independence of our methods for government meeting preparation.***

Many other NAGPS members are surprised that our Federal Affairs teams carry out the entire process of government meeting preparation, including scheduling all of their own meetings, with minimal direct input by the MIT administration. Although our preparation methodology requires substantial legwork in advance of each campaign of meetings, it also confers substantial benefits for the team, the GSC, and the MIT graduate student body.

- Confident, knowledgeable, and independent policy advocates can better handle unexpected questions and commentary in meetings and unexpected changes in the conditions or context of their meetings. As a result, it is likely that MIT GSC is represented *much* more effectively in government meetings than many other student organizations that carry out such advocacy efforts.
- Our independent methodology provides the option that the GSC could respond quickly, strongly, and effectively to sudden political developments. In the assessment of the Chair, very few all-student, all-volunteer organizations have this capability.
- Team members learn about sources of information on government offices and activities in great detail.
- Team members gain a great deal of practical policy communications experience.
- During the preparation for a standard campaign of government meetings, the team will update several detailed elements of our methodology. Team members, future advocates, and the GSC benefit from the extensive documentation created during this process and from continuous improvement of our methods. Our state advocacy efforts have seen particularly significant improvements in methodology over the last 2 years.

**We recommend** that all incoming Board Members continue improving our preparation methodology for government meetings, continue adding to our general-purpose documentation, create opportunities to present our methodology to other organizations at MIT or to students at-large, and create opportunities to present our methodology to external affairs teams at allied universities.

***Reach out more frequently to issue-focused advocacy organizations.***

Collaboration with issue-focused advocacy organizations (IAOs), or organizations created and operated for the explicit purpose of advocacy in favor of a certain outcome on a certain issue or set of issues, has previously played a very limited role in our preparation methodology for government meetings. IAOs have typically

## External Affairs

### Board

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## Subcommittees

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)

77 Massachusetts Ave  
Room 50-220  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Phone: 617-253-2195  
<http://asc.mit.edu>



# Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

served primarily as a source of background information for position statements and letters.

So far, our most successful IAO collaboration, by a wide margin, has been our work with the GEIR Best Practices Community. This collaboration has provided us with much more accurate and up-to-date information about GEIR programs at Massachusetts universities, legal insights into the operations of GEIR programs, and partners who can help us expand our advocacy on this topic and might support us in advocacy on other topics in the future. This community has, further, provided MIT administrators with information on GEIR programs.

**We recommend** that leaders of our future government meeting teams reach out to IAOs concerned with our advocacy topics as a standard part of our meeting preparation methodology.

***Inform MIT graduate students about our policy positions, methodology, and accomplishments.***

In the assessment of the Chair, MIT GSC External Affairs is one of the largest and most capable all-student, all-volunteer government relations organizations in the country. However, it is also the assessment of the Chair that a majority of MIT graduate students don't know we exist.

This is part of a broader problem shared by many units of GSC - most of our constituents know very little about our operations. It is likely that even some GSC General Council members have relatively little detailed knowledge about GSC operations. There are a lot of things the GSC constitutional officers, Executive Committee (ExComm), and Publications and Publicity Board (P&P) can and should do to address this problem. **There are some specific steps the 2nd External Affairs Board can also take to help address this problem.**

- **Meet people and do things.** (And hand out business cards along the way!) Personal connections between External Affairs contributors and other MIT graduate students are likely to be the most effective method for building general understanding of our operations, gaining useful input and feedback, and recruiting new contributors.
- **Participate in Graduate Orientation.** Many current External Affairs contributors joined the team after meeting External Affairs or LASC leaders at Graduate Orientation in recent years.
- **Hold events often.** Although not all events will include discussion of our specific advocacy topics or operations, all of them provide opportunities to meet people (see point #1). Our events should also generally share information with attendees about policy problems, advocacy opportunities, or both, which should generally increase interest in our work.

## External Affairs

### Board

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## Subcommittees

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)



# Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- **Ensure that Policy Platform Open House events are advertised widely and thoroughly.** Advertising for Open House events can also provide an opportunity to share other information about our work.

### ***Hold regular External Affairs Discussion-focused Events.***

This could support several of the other recommendations and provide an additional channel for MIT graduate students to communicate with GSC leadership. There are a lot of potential ways this could be implemented, and frequency of events could range from a small number per semester to weekly (depending on interest and on the logistical intensity of the implementation). These events could be mostly unstructured, or they could be structured around discussion of a variety of different types of topics:

- A particular policy topic for each event.
- Recent political news.
- The political landscape in general.
- Particular upcoming elections or other major political events.
- GSC advocacy topics, strategies, and priorities.
- Specific GSC letters, position statements, meetings, or advocacy actions.

If this type of activity were organized by the External Affairs Events subcommittee, it would result in a higher level of sustained activity throughout the term. This could result in substantially higher recruitment for the Events subcommittee and for other External Affairs efforts. A range of other potential benefits are possible, although they would depend heavily on the implementation details.

## External Affairs

### Board

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## Subcommittees

### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)

77 Massachusetts Ave  
Room 50-220  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Phone: 617-253-2195  
<http://asc.mit.edu>



# Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## Federal Affairs

The Subcommittee on Federal Affairs monitors legislation, policy changes, and other activities of the United States federal government, develops any statements or activities we need to respond to those changes, and manages our trips to DC to meet with federal government officials each semester. This section summarizes the major activities of the Subcommittee during the 2016-2017 term.

### **Fall Legislative Action Days 2016**

- Trip participants: Daniel Curtis, Jack Reid
- National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS) Advocacy Summit, September 10th and 11th.
- Meetings with legislative offices and other organizations, September 12th and 13th.
  - Senate Offices (1R, 2D), House Offices (3R, 2D)
  - NAFSA: Association of International Educators
  - Small Business Administration
  - Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Student & Exchange Visitor Program
- Advocacy topics
  - Continued work on student visa renewal and supported the International Entrepreneur Rule.
  - Alerted several offices to possible issues with student health insurance plans under ACA.
  - Opposed Scientific Research in the National Interest Act (based on NAGPS letter).
  - Supported FASTR.

### **Spring Legislative Action Days 2017**

- Trip participants: Daniel Franke, Aaron Dy, Skylar Deckoff-Jones, Gregory Dreifus, Huma Gupta
- National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS) Conference 3/11- 3/12
- Meetings with the House and Senate 3/13 - 3/14
  - Senate Offices (6R, 5D), House Offices (3R, 6D):
  - Advocated for strong and sustained science funding for both basic and applied research.
  - Advocated for policies that help scientists and federal agencies to maintain scientific integrity and independence from political influences.
  - Position Statements: [Science Funding](#), [Arts and Humanities Funding](#), [Infrastructure Research Funding](#), [Climate Change Research Funding](#)



## External Affairs

### Board

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## Subcommittees

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)



# Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

### ***International Women's Day 2017***

- New program started this fiscal year
- Trip participants: Arolyn Conwill, Kathleen White, Angela Crews, Sarah Goodman
- Meetings with the House and Senate 3/7 - 3/8
  - Senate Offices (4R, 8D), House Offices (2R, 7D), David Shahoulian (Democratic Chief Counsel, Subcommittee on Immigration, U.S. House Judiciary Committee)
  - Spoke out in support of a range of issues focused on retaining U.S.-educated international talent in the United States
  - Discussed several pieces of legislation regarding sexual misconduct.
  - Position Statements: [Retaining U.S.-Educated International Talent in the U.S.](#), [Prevention of Sexual Assault and Harassment](#), [Support of LGBT Students](#), [Gender Equality](#)

### ***AAAS Catalyzing Advocacy in Science and Engineering 2017***

- Trip participants: Katherine Shulenberger, Michelle MacLeod (SPI)
- CASE Workshop 4/2 - 4/4
- Meetings with the House and Senate 4/5
  - Senate Offices (5D), House Offices (1R,1D)
  - Advocated for a reliable funding of fundamental and applied science. Pointed out that the narrative that all applied sciences could acquire funding from VC is inaccurate. Along these lines, pushed for the passage of the FY17 appropriations bills.
  - Enforced that cutting all overhead from an agency is not only impossible, but also potentially damaging to the scientific work being done. Proposed an alternative of extending grants to five years from three to cut some overhead cuts at the agency level and improve efficiency at the research lab level.
  - **Leave-behind:** [Science Funding AAAS CASE](#)

### [Summary of 2017 Spring DC Advocacy Trips](#)

## **External Affairs**

### **Board**

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## **Subcommittees**

### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)

77 Massachusetts Ave  
Room 50-220  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Phone: 617-253-2195  
<http://asc.mit.edu>



# **Graduate Student Council**

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## **State and Local Affairs**

The Subcommittee on State and Local Affairs monitors legislation, policy changes, and other activities of the Massachusetts state government and relevant local governments, develops any statements or activities we need to respond to those changes, and manages our meetings with state and local government officials. This section summarizes the major activities of the Subcommittee during the 2016-2017 term.

### ***Statehouse Visit Day Spring 2017***

- Trip Participants: Brittany Huhmann, Abigail Regitsky, Daniel Curtis, Peter Su, Michael Davidson, John Hardin
- Meetings with Massachusetts State Legislators, April 12th, 2017
  - 12 meetings total (all Democrats\*)
  - 5 meetings with legislators present
- Issues Covered:
  - Sexual Violence on Higher Education Campuses – H.632/S.706
  - Preventing Bicyclist Fatalities and Making Streets Safer – H.2877/S.1905
  - An Act automatically registering eligible voters and enhancing safeguards against fraud – H.2091/S.373
  - An Act establishing election day registration – S.371
  - An Act relative to social media privacy protection – H.158/S.991
  - Global Entrepreneur in Residence (GEIR) Pilot Program – Budget Line 7002-1509
- Methodology improvements:
  - Assign issues/bills to specific participants on SVD so they can do a deeper dive into the bill and its context
  - Contact lead sponsors of bills we're advocating for before visiting to get a sense of how we could help them more successfully move the bill forward
  - Track and attend relevant hearings

\* More than 80% of both Representatives and Senators in the Massachusetts General Court in 2017 are Democrats.

### ***Local Activities***

- Meeting with Cambridge City Councilor Nadeem Mazen, December 8th, 2016.
- Cambridge City Budget Meeting, January 18th, 2017
- Kendall Square Association Annual Meeting, March 26th, 2017
  - The Chair recommends that we keep attending this meeting in future years.
- Methodology improvements:
  - The Vice-Chair recommends that we start doing stuff and meeting with people at the local level.

## **External Affairs**

### **Board**

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## **Subcommittees**

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)



# **Graduate Student Council**

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## **External Affairs Events**

The Subcommittee on External Affairs Events puts on events on campus at MIT to provide information about policy developments, venues for discussion and debate, and opportunities to develop analytical and communications skills. This section summarizes the major activities of the Subcommittee during the 2016-2017 term.

### ***Advocating for Science Symposium***

The Advocating for Science Symposium was a 1.5-day event held on campus at MIT on September 16th and 17th, 2016. The event was jointly organized by MIT GSC, Academics for the Future of Science (AFS), and Future of Research (FoR).

The first evening of this event featured a panel and keynote addressing ways to effectively promote science and advocate for strong and sustained growth in science funding. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Rush Holt, former member of Congress and current CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

The second day featured a set of 4 workshops on publicity and advocacy methods. There were at least 100 attendees during the first evening session; attendance for the second day workshops was capped at 50.

### ***Other Events***

- Panel on the Massachusetts Clean Energy Bill
  - June 29th, 2016
- Voter Registration throughout Fall 2016
- 2016 Presidential Election Debates
- 2017 Call Congress Day
  - February 6th, 2017
  - We opposed the travel ban executive order.
- First 100 Days Panel
  - April 28th, 2017
- Future of Work/Manufacturing Panel
  - May 3rd, 2017

## **External Affairs**

### **Board**

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## **Subcommittees**

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)

77 Massachusetts Ave  
Room 50-220  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Phone: 617-253-2195  
<http://asc.mit.edu>



# **Graduate Student Council**

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## **University Liaison**

The University Liaison serves as our ambassador to other universities and manages a subcommittee that represents us at national and regional association meetings. This section summarizes the major activities of the Subcommittee during the 2016-2017 term.

### ***NAGPS Leadership Summit***

- Held at the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville, AR)
- August 1st through 3rd, 2016
- Trip Participants: Daniel Curtis, Peter Su

The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) holds a Leadership Summit each summer, generally on campus at a member university. The Summit includes formal presentation sessions and informal networking opportunities.

The presentations at the 2016 Summit were not typically worthwhile, continuing a trend established over the past few years. The presentation content generally featured vague leadership or team-building advice.

The informal networking opportunities, however, were quite useful. The working relationship developed at this summit between MIT External Affairs Chair Daniel Curtis and CMU Vice-President for External Affairs Nicole Rafidi was extremely valuable throughout the year. This relationship helped solidify an alliance between MIT and CMU on nearly all NAGPS business throughout the rest of the year. In general, at least one GSC constitutional officer should try to attend in order for new faces to get introduced to the NAGPS leadership.

The 2017 Summit was held at Cleveland State University, June 28th through 30th.

### ***Ivy+ Summit***

- Held at Brown University (Providence, RI)
- September 30th through October 2nd, 2016
- Trip Participants: Arolyn Conwill, Angie Crews, Shahd Labib, Daniel Curtis, Zsigmond Varga

The Ivy+ Summit is an annual meeting, generally held in October or November, between the graduate student governments of the Ivy League universities (Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Princeton, Yale, University of Pennsylvania) and MIT. One of the member universities hosts the summit each year on a rotating basis.

## **External Affairs**

### **Board**

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## **Subcommittees**

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)

77 Massachusetts Ave  
Room 50-220  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Phone: 617-253-2195  
<http://asc.mit.edu>



# **Graduate Student Council**

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

There was extensive discussion about pro-union movements at many member schools during the summit. The External Affairs team found that graduate student governments have consistently avoided direct participation in union-related organizing on campus and have generally declared explicit neutrality on the issue of union formation when the issue has arisen.

The possibility of formally expanding the membership of Ivy+ had been discussed at the 2015 Summit, with a specific focus on potentially adding the University of Chicago Graduate Council, but no final decisions were reached. Instead, UChicago was invited as a special guest member to the 2016 Summit. The question about formally adding them as a member was the only substantive business item discussed in the last session of the Summit.

Since there are no Ivy+ governing documents or structure, special rules of order were established and verbally agreed to during this session. Each university would have one vote, and decisions would be made by simple majority. It was not clear if abstentions were valid.

By a vote of 5-3-1 (5-4 if abstentions were not allowed), UChicago was added to the group.

- In favor: Brown, Columbia, Harvard, MIT, UPenn
- Opposed: Cornell, Dartmouth, Princeton, Yale

After the meeting, the dissenting 4 schools wrote a memo indicating their unwillingness to follow the vote, which led to a conference call of Ivy+ member schools after the fact. Additional cost was cited as a reason to vote “no” and to object to the decision. Cost-sharing principles for hosting the summit and managing travel costs were discussed, but no agreement has yet been reached as of this writing. Typically, the host pays for entire conference and each attending delegation pays for its own travel costs, but the addition of a new member would change the rotation and potentially change the long-term average travel cost. Harvard University (the next host for Ivy+) has invited UChicago to attend the 2017 Summit.

The 2017 Summit will be held at Harvard University, time TBD (likely late October or early November).

## **External Affairs**

### **Board**

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## **Subcommittees**

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)

77 Massachusetts Ave  
Room 50-220  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Phone: 617-253-2195  
<http://asc.mit.edu>



# **Graduate Student Council**

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## ***NAGPS National Conference***

- Held at Stony Brook University (Long Island, NY)
- November 3rd through 6th, 2016
- Trip Participants: Michael McClellan, Peter Su, Daniel Curtis, Arolyn Conwill, Lisa Guay

The NAGPS National Conference is the primary gathering of NAGPS members each year and is typically held on campus at a member university. Generally, all business for the year which must be conducted by the members is presented at this meeting. The delegations from member universities may also give presentations at the conference on essentially any aspect of the activities of their graduate student government.

Starting several weeks before the conference, the External Affairs team prepared a "Resolution on Guidance for the NAGPS 2017 Budget," which would forbid NAGPS from budgeting for contract lobbying services in the 2017 budget. The primary goal of this effort was to require the NAGPS Board to end its contract with the lobbying firm Shaw, Bransford, and Roth (SBR), and ensure that they could not be promptly replaced. A secondary goal was to free up budget resources to more directly support NAGPS members in their advocacy efforts (by funding travel to DC for Legislative Action Days, as one example). During the week before the conference, the team reached out to counterparts at other universities to secure wider support. The resolution was submitted with 5 co-sponsors and easily passed; the co-sponsors were:

- MIT Graduate Student Council
- Carnegie Mellon University Graduate Student Assembly
- Syracuse University Graduate Student Organization
- University of Arizona Graduate & Professional Student Council
- University of Pennsylvania Graduate and Professional Student Assembly.

The External Affairs team entered the conference with serious concerns about the transparency of previous NAGPS budgets and the effect of previous decisions and recordkeeping on the 2017 budget. (It happens that the NAGPS fiscal year is the same as the calendar year.) These general concerns contributed to our motivations to forcefully address contract lobbying, which we understood to have taken up about 25% of the 2016 budget.

The 2017 budget was conditionally passed at the meeting, without sufficient information on the financial results from 2016 and 2015 to be fully presented to member schools. The External Affairs team, and counterparts from some other universities, directly communicated our concerns about the lack of information about financial results from past year to the NAGPS Board during the conference.

## **External Affairs**

### **Board**

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## **Subcommittees**

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)

77 Massachusetts Ave  
Room 50-220  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Phone: 617-253-2195  
<http://asc.mit.edu>



# **Graduate Student Council**

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

The conditional passage of the 2017 budget allowed any member university to object and nullify the budget and directed the President (Kristoffersen Culmer) and Director of Finance (Joe Verardo) to provide a full report to members by December 5th, 2016. This report was not delivered on time, so External Affairs Chair Daniel Curtis conveyed the formal objection of the MIT GSC Delegation on December 6th, 2016. A special membership meeting was held in the evening of December 16th, 2016 to develop and approve a 2017 budget; the report on the financial results from 2015 and 2016 was finally delivered earlier that day.

NAGPS elections for the following year are held at each National Conference. Many MIT GSC allies (members of the so-called "Math Caucus" during the conference and special December meeting) were elected to leadership positions, but the Director of Finance (DoF) position remained vacant.

Michael McClellan ran for DoF in a special election conducted by the outgoing NAGPS Board of Directors in late December. Lingering hard feelings regarding the development of the 2017 budget led to election of a different candidate, Damon Chambers of Western Michigan University. Damon initially reached out to the External Affairs team in January 2017 to learn about MIT GSC financial procedures, but ended up missing both of the scheduled meetings for no clear reason.

External Affairs Chair Daniel Curtis and University Liaison Michael McClellan continued to collaborate in early 2017 with new NAGPS President Sam Leiterman and Director of Outreach Alex Howe to propose *ad hoc* committees on governing documents and financial practices to prevent the organization from repeating the negative practices of the previous couple years. NAGPS leaders have not acted to create the proposed committees as of this writing.

The 2018 NAGPS National Conference will be held at Syracuse University.

#### ***NAGPS Northeast Regional Conference***

- Held at Columbia University (New York City)
- April 7th through 9th, 2017
- Trip Participants: Daniel Curtis, Orpheus Chatzivasileiou

NAGPS organizes regional conferences in most of its 5 regions each spring. Like the Leadership Summit, these conferences feature formal presentation sessions and informal networking opportunities. Most of the formal presentations given at the 2017 Northeastern Regional Conference were given by members.

Unfortunately, the organization of the event was sloppy and the session schedule ended up being thrown together at the last minute. External Affairs Chair Daniel Curtis reached out to several NAGPS Board members and conference organizers to offer advice on improving the agenda throughout the week before the

## **External Affairs**

### **Board**

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## **Subcommittees**

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)



# **Graduate Student Council**

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

conference. The MIT and CMU delegations prepared a joint presentation on government advocacy methods, which was well received by conference attendees.

### ***Other University Contacts Developed***

#### ***Trinity College Dublin***

On January 11th, 2017, the External Affairs team met with President Shane Collins and Global Relations Ambassador Gordon Dunn of the Graduate Students' Union at Trinity College on campus at MIT. Shane and Gordon visited several United States universities over a 2 week period to connect with several graduate student governments. The two delegations shared information about the structure and operations of their respective governments during the meeting.

*Student Advocates for Graduate Education (SAGE, <http://www.sagecoalition.net/>)*  
University Liaison Michael McClellan contacted SAGE in summer 2016. SAGE was not interested in working with us because we are a private university.



## **External Affairs**

### **Board**

Primary Contact  
[gsc-eab@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab@mit.edu)

#### **Chair**

Daniel Curtis  
[gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-chair@mit.edu)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Peter Su  
[gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-vc@mit.edu)

#### **President**

Arolyn Conwill  
[gsc-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu)

#### **HCA Chairs**

Ryan Gillis  
Sarah Shapiro  
[gsc-hca@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu)

#### **At-Large**

Huma Gupta  
Lisa Guay

## **Subcommittees**

#### **Federal Affairs**

Aaron Dy  
Daniel Franke  
[gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)

#### **State and Local Affairs**

Brittany Huhmann  
John Hardin  
[gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu)

#### **External Affairs Events**

Kathleen White  
[gsc-eab-events@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-events@mit.edu)

#### **The University Liaison**

Michael McClellan  
[gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu)

#### **Public Outreach**

Conor McClune  
Eric Miller  
[gsc-eab-public@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-public@mit.edu)



# **Graduate Student Council**

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## **Public Outreach**

The Subcommittee on Public Outreach works to communicate the benefits of scientific research to Americans without scientific training, develop new methods the MIT community can use to carry out such communication more effectively, and provide graduate students with material, training, and incentives to reach out to their home communities. The Subcommittee on Public Outreach began operation in December 2016. The primary project of the Subcommittee during spring 2017 was the development of a process to distribute MIT News stories featuring graduate students from the United States to local news outlets near the students' hometowns.