As the elected body tasked to advocate on behalf of all 6,800+ graduate students at MIT, the General Council of the Graduate Student Council (GSC) has annually renewed a statement affirming its strong belief in open access to the published results of the intellectual labors of any graduate student at MIT.

In many cases, scholarly articles published by MIT graduate students are covered under the existing Open Access Policy of the MIT Faculty. In cases where students publish single-author work (as is common in, but not unique to, fields of humanities and social sciences), with non-MIT research advisors (such as for students chiefly based at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution), or as part of internships or external collaborations, resulting scholarly publications do not fall under the purview of the MIT Faculty Open Access Policy.

On behalf of the entire graduate student community at MIT, as authorized by the statement passed by the GSC General Council in Resolution 62.gsc.7.1, I enthusiastically support the development of an Open Access Policy for MIT graduate students that would lead to an opt-in license similar to the license currently available to members of the MIT Faculty.

The leadership of the GSC looks forward to the opportunity to work with the Committee on Intellectual Property and the Office of General Counsel in order to further develop this policy, to craft a communication strategy to reach the entire graduate student community, and to further advance the broader discussion on the role of open access in scientific research.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the GSC General Council,

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