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Graduate Student Council of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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A Resolution

Authorizing the Officers and Committees of GSC To Advocate for Increased Availability of Graduate Student Housing and Other Benefits In Conjunction with the Redevelopment of the Volpe Site

Abigail Regitsky, Daniel Curtis, Sarah Goodman

Whereas, MIT was selected in 2016 as the Exchange Partner for the Volpe Project, which will allow the MIT Investment Management Corporation (MITIMCo) to redevelop 14 acres of land adjacent to Kendall Square where the John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center is located (“the Volpe Site”);

Whereas, President Reif has stated that the Volpe Site offers a “unique opportunity to work with the City and our Cambridge neighbors to help shape the future of the Kendall Square neighborhood, so that it would serve both MIT and the broader community”;

Whereas, the Graduate Student Council (GSC) firmly supports policies and developments that increase access to affordable, quality housing, accessible from MIT, for all members of graduate student households;

Whereas, the GSC firmly supports policies and developments that increase the availability, quality, and affordability of transportation services and infrastructure used by students;

Whereas, there are 1925 units of single housing and 408 units of family housing available to MIT graduate students on campus (with 250 new units of single housing under construction), which will only be sufficient to house 38% of MIT graduate students;

Whereas, MIT graduate students compete for housing in the Cambridge area, negatively impacting the availability and cost of housing in the area, thus displacing other members of the community; and

Whereas, the External Affairs Board and other GSC contributors have found that other Cambridge-area community stakeholders^{1,2} support increasing the availability of MIT

1. City Councilor Denis Carlone (<http://cambridge.wickedlocal.com/news/20170512/guest-column-expanding-affordable-housing-in-cambridge>)
2. Friends of the Grand Junction Path (<https://www.facebook.com/GrandJunctionPath/>)



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graduate student housing on campus and the availability of transportation options near Kendall Square and the MIT campus, including bike and pedestrian paths; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the General Council authorizes the Officers and Committees of GSC to pursue opportunities to advocate for benefits for the MIT graduate student body in conjunction with the redevelopment of the Volpe Site, including the following:

1. Increased availability of both single and family graduate student housing on campus at MIT.
2. Increased availability and quality of transportation options in the vicinity of Kendall Square and the MIT campus; including, but not limited to, completion of the Grand Junction Community Path.
3. Commercial centers at the Volpe Site that will increase quality of life in the area.

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