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Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

64.gsc.5: A Resolution authorizing the Officers to appear as co-signatories to an email by the Dean for Student Life

Author: Orpheus Chatzivasileiou

Whereas the Vice President and Dean for Student Life (VPSL), Suzy Nelson, contacted the Officers of the GSC, the UA and Dormcon on Oct. 31st to share a letter she would like to send to all students about some concerning incidents that have occurred in our dorms and on campus; and

Whereas VPSL indicated that having the contacted parties be co-signatories to this letter and attend the event referenced therein; and

Whereas the GSC feels that in light of recent and previous events on campus and combined with goings on in other colleges, now is a good opportunity to say what MIT stands for and what we stand against; now; and

Whereas the GSC feels that the VPSL and the Division of Student Life should be supported in their effort; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the GSC Officers are authorized to appear as co-signatories to the email the VPSL will send to all students (included in Appendix I) or any derivatives of it,

Resolved, that the GSC Officers are authorized to represent the GSC at the event specified in said email.

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APPENDIX I

To: All students

From: Suzy, DormCon, UA and GSC

Subject: Standing up for One MIT: 11/3 @ 11 a.m. in Lobby 7

Dear students,

Please join us on Friday, November 3, in Lobby 7 at 11 a.m. to talk about ways we can ensure our residence halls, classrooms, and community spaces are places that celebrate kindness, understanding, and respect.

The event will include leaders from MIT offices that focus on student support, wellbeing, religious life as well as student leaders from X, Y, Z. Snacks, takeaways, and service dogs from Puppy Lab will be on hand for some nourishment, education, and stress relief.

We organized this gathering as a positive response to last week's discovery of an anti-Semitic message in one of our undergraduate residence halls. Similar incidents have occurred in other dormitories in recent years, and a student group has reported having its posters defaced. Coupled with events that have transpired on college campuses across the country, we believe this is the right moment to listen and learn from one another and to take a stand against prejudice and bigotry.

Last December, President Reif reminded us that, "At MIT, when our community is at its best, bigotry and discrimination are out of bounds, period. Diminishing or excluding others on the basis of their identity – whether race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, social class, nationality or any other aspect – would be unthinkable...Such behavior is simply beneath us – because we value each other as members of our community and respect each other as fellow human beings."

In every moment, we are faced with choices as individuals and as an Institute. In this moment, let us come together as one MIT to stand up for living the values of respect, empathy, and understanding every day.

We hope to see you on Friday. In the meantime, if you need support now, please do not hesitate to contact the offices below. Their teams stand ready to help.

Sincerely,

Suzy Nelson, Dean for Student Life

UA leadership

GSC leadership

Dormcon leadership

Insert support resources information