Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 2016

MIT Graduate Student Council

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Welcome!

- Introduction of new faces
- Quorum check
- Approval of November GCM Minutes
- Spring GCM dates/locations are set (see agenda)

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Academics, Research, and Careers (ARC)

Andrew Fiore and Erik Tillman

gsc-arc@mit.edu

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

What's coming up?

Next ARC meeting:
Wed, 12/14 @ 6pm in 50-220

- Government/non-profit career panel: Monday, Jan 30th, 4-5:30
- "Destress your dissertation" (formerly dissertation bootcamp): M-F Jan 9-13th, 9-5 in Barker (snacks, coffee, writing tips, mental health resources…)
- 12 departments implemented X.ThG surveys this semester!
- Advising push with ODGE coming in the spring
- Co-sponsoring Patent Law workshop: Fri 1/20 or Sat 1/21, 2-6pm

gsc-arc@mit.edu

What do you (and your constituencies) want?

- Panels?
- Networking events?
- Skills workshops?

Next ARC meeting:
Wed, 12/14 @ 6pm in 50-220

Activities Committee (AC)

Sami Khan and Saurabh Gandhi

gsc-ac@mit.edu

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

Taste of Egypt

Free Authentic Egyptian Food

Live Dance Show: MIT Belly Dancing Club

Tuesday, Dec 13th 2016

6 - 8 PM

Morss Hall

Event Sponsored By:

Graduate Student Council

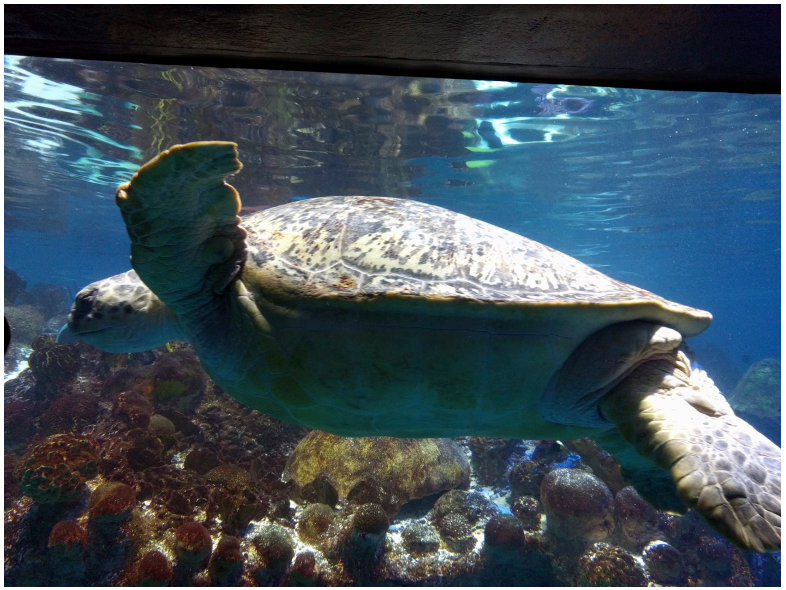
Egyptian Student Association

MIT Alumni Association

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Grad Gala at the Aquarium!!!



Save the date:

April 15, 2017

8pm – 12am

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

More Collaborations with PDA!

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Battle of the Bands
March

Monthly Board Games Night

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Next AC Meeting in the New Year!

gsc-ac@mit.edu

External Affairs Board Report December 2016

Peter Su, EAB Vice Chair
gsc-eab@mit.edu

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Recent Events

- NAGPS National Conference (Nov 3-6)
  - Successfully stopped NAGPS from contracting with lobbying firm
  - Connected very strongly with several other NAGPS member schools, resulting in significant information sharing
- Election Debrief Panel (Nov 18)
  - Gave students debrief of what happened and what they can do moving forward
- Public Outreach Subcommittee startup meeting (Dec 1)
  - Potentially forming new subcommittee focused on communicating with voters and the public, especially those outside the normal MIT universe
  - Contact gsc-eab-public@mit.edu for more information!

Statements and Publications in progress

- Sexual harassment and assault on university campuses
  - Several related statements on several different bills
  - Preparing for extensive use at both federal and state levels during new sessions in spring
- Infrastructure Research Funding
  - Proposal for additional infrastructure research funding related to President-elect's infrastructure plans
  - Come help draft language at Federal Affairs meeting tomorrow!

Travel Opportunities next Spring

- Visit the Statehouse in Boston to meet state legislators!
  - Contact State and Local Affairs gsc-eab-state@mit.edu
- Go to DC for NAGPS Legislative Action Days!
  - Generally held in mid March – dates TBA
  - Contact Federal Affairs gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu
- Spend a day visiting local congressional offices!
  - Contact Federal Affairs gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu
- Represent MIT at the NAGPS Regional Conference!
  - Generally held in mid April – dates TBA
  - Contact University Liaison gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu!

Open Board Positions

- University Liaison:
  - GSC's ambassador to other universities and GSAs/GSCs
  - Lead the GSC delegation to NAGPS Regional Conference
  - Contact gsc-eab-liaison@mit.edu
- Events Subcommittee Co-Chair
  - Draft, plan, and execute events to inform and engage fellow grad students about policy, advocacy, and politics
  - Contact gsc-eab-events@mit.edu
  - Send us any event ideas you have!

December Meetings!

- Federal Affairs
  - **TOMORROW**, Thursday, December 8th at 6:00pm
  - **GSC Office** 50-220
- External Affairs Board
  - Tuesday, December 13th at 5:30pm
  - **GSC Office** 50-220

GSC External Affairs Primary Contact

gsc-eab@mit.edu

Housing and Community Affairs (HCA)

Sarah Shapiro, Ryan and Marcy Gillis
gsc-hca@mit.edu

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

MIT Fire Relief Effort

Peter Bourne, http://www.cbsnews.com/news/cambridge-massachusetts-10-alarm-fire-miraculous-outcome/

- Last Saturday a massive fire burned 11 buildings about 0.5 miles north of campus
- 9 MIT graduate students and their families (including at least one child) were displaced by the fire
- They have all found temporary housing but they have lost almost everything
- We want to extend an opportunity for community members to come together and help them in this difficult time

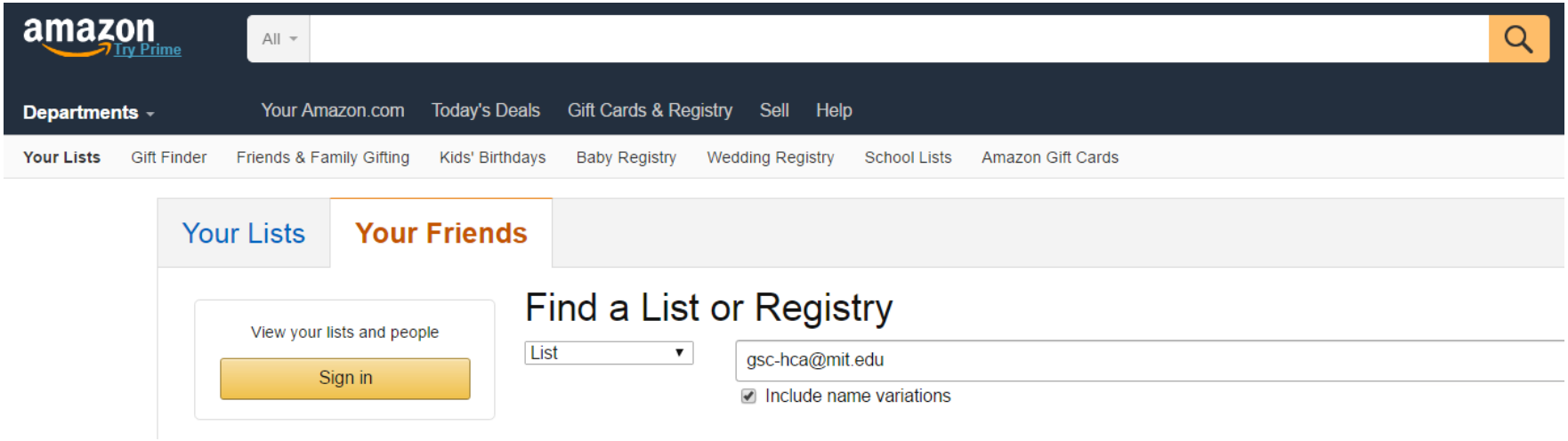
Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

MIT Fire Relief Effort Details

- We have created an Amazon registry that the affected students are filling with items that they fill will be most useful to them.

- This registry can be found by searching gsc-hca@mit.edu or GSC HCA



Cost of Living/Stipend Update Committee

- Every Spring, HCA prepares a presentation for the Dean's group detailing our recommendation for stipend changes for the coming year.
- Although ostensibly covering only Cost of Living changes, the presentation actually provides recommendations based on many other factors (competitiveness to peer institutions, etc.)

If you have an interested in raising your stipend and want to volunteer contact me!

- gsc-hca@mit.edu

Next HCA Meeting

Many other issues and initiatives to get involved with…

- Childcare
- Parental Leave
- Family subcommittee chair
- New Transportation subcommittee

Come to the next HCA meeting on Monday, December 12th at 5:30 pm (50-220)

Graduate Women at MIT (GWAMIT)

Mandy Kedaigle
Executive Co-Chair of GWAMIT
mandyjoy@mit.edu

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Graduate Student Childcare Scholarship

Past:

- Been attempted in previous years
- 9 out of 13 peer universities have some assistance program
- Old MIT program only allowed for TCC

Now:

- GWAMIT/GCA/HCA
- Developing need-based portable scholarship plan
- Specifically attending to international students
- Looking to get faculty support, lots of current involvement from ODGE, Chancellor, Work-Life Center
- Contact gwamit-exec@mit.edu if you want to get involved!

Muddy Charles Pub

Zsigi Varga
gsc-muddy-chair@mit.edu

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

Come and explore the Muddy

The Muddy wants your culture

Jazz Brunches will be back soon!

Host a cultural event with us (Muddy Mondays)

What would you like to see in the Muddy? Share your ideas

Join and Run a small company!

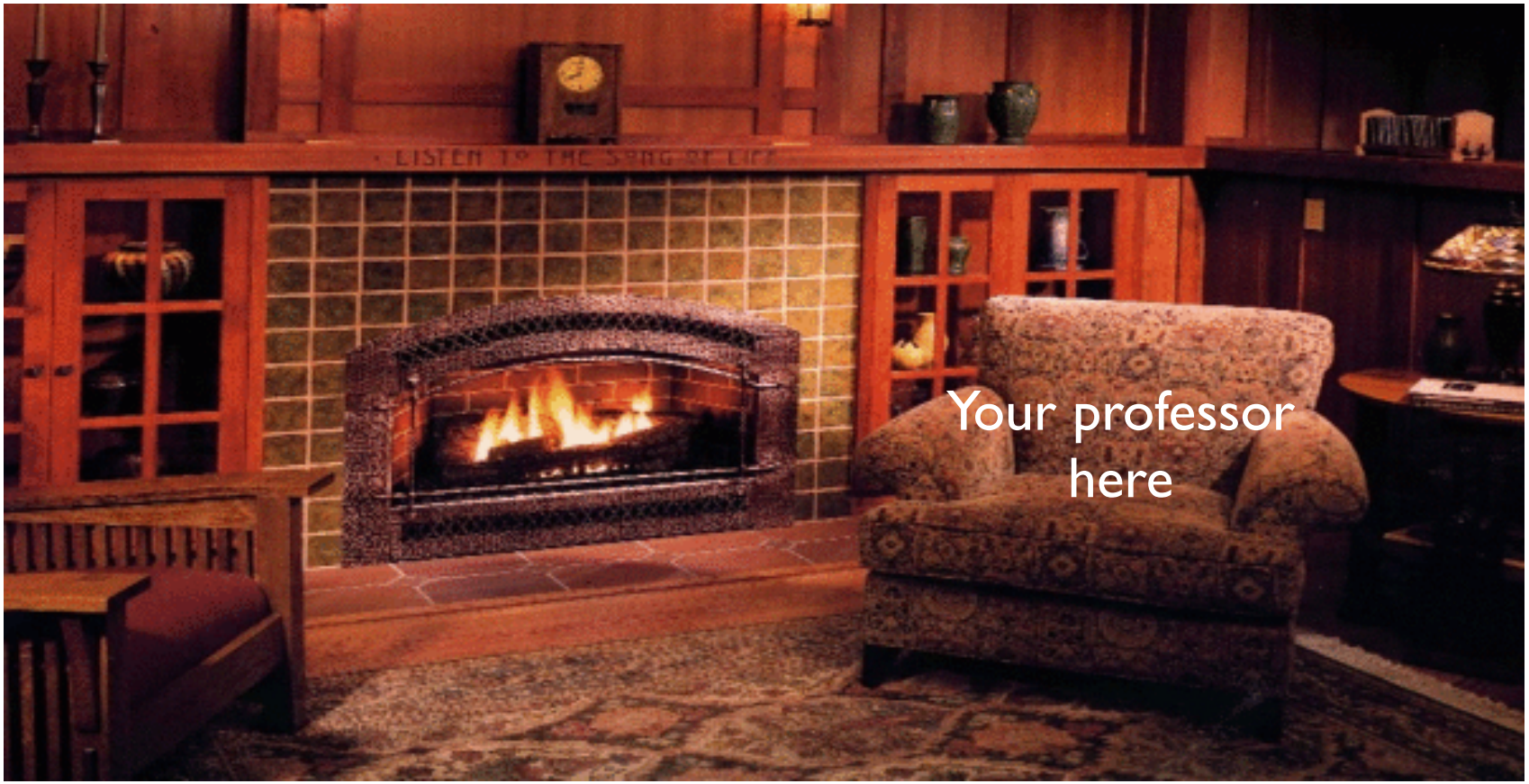
Please email: gsc-muddy-chair@mit.edu

Closed over IAP

Graduate Student Council of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Fireside talk with your professors



Send your suggestions to muddy-activities@mit.edu

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

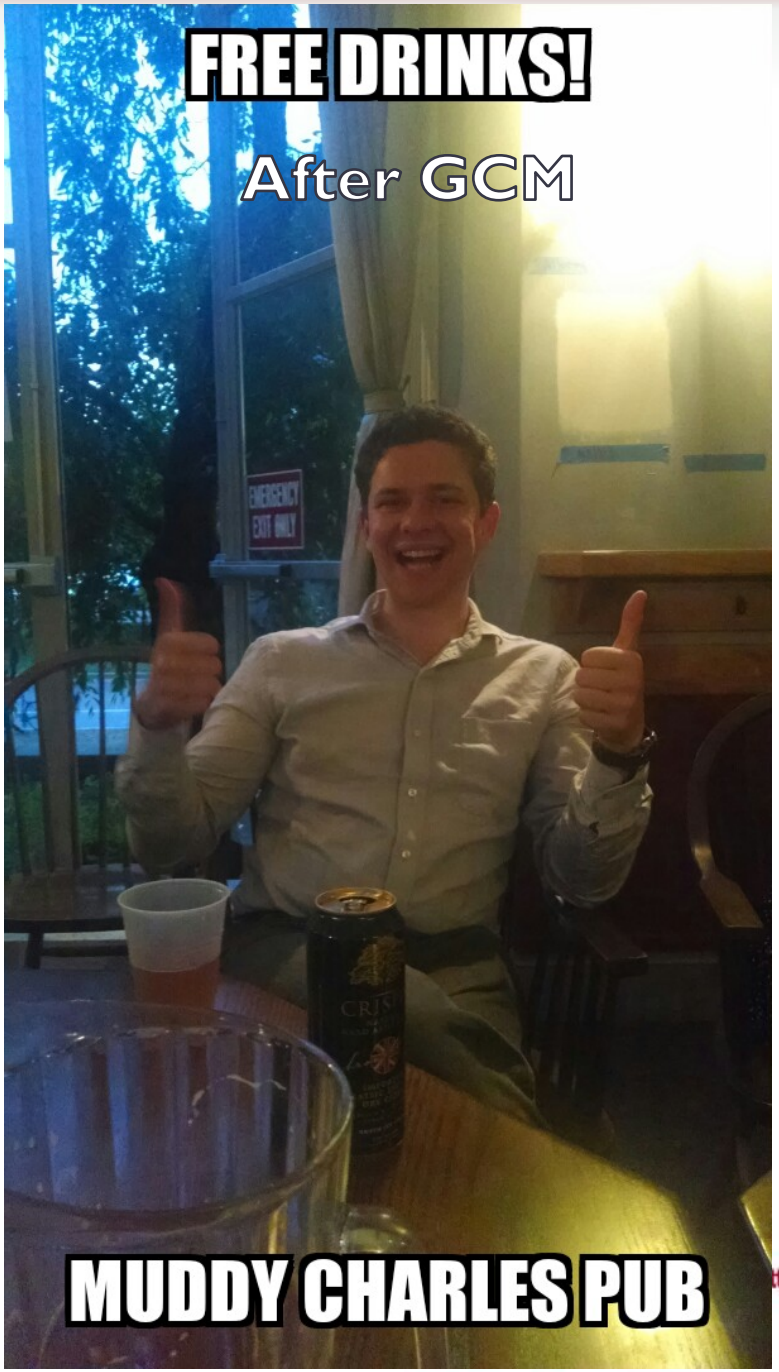
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

After the GCM

- **Board is always looking for new members**

  Please email: gsc-muddy-chair@mit.edu

- **Come hang out at the Muddy!!**



Orientation Committee (OC)

Jimmy Kaczmarek and Sarah Goodman
gsc-oc@mit.edu

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

Orientation 2.0!

- Taking place during IAP (Jan. 25th – Feb. 6th)
- Purpose:
  - Provide orientation events for students arriving in Spring
  - Allow all students, especially first years, to get a refresher on campus resources
- Events:
  - Welcome Event (format TBD) – Jan. 25th
  - Gordon Engineering Leadership Program Leadership Seminars – Jan. 19th, 24th, 26th, 2nd (tentatively)
  - Joint event with ISO and MIT Diversity Initiatives (format/date TBD)
  - Graduate Resource Fair – Feb. 6th

Some Details

- Gordon Leadership Seminars
  - 4 four hours modules (don't need to attend all)
  - Potential topics
    - Forming and Leading New Teams
    - Motivating and Developing Others
    - Mastering Constructive Conflict
    - Discovering and Developing your Leadership Strengths
- Graduate Resource Fair
  - Booths set up in Walker Memorial
  - Different campus resources and student groups share information
  - Many will probably give away free stuff!

Feedback!

- What kind of format would you like to see for a welcome event?
- What would be a good/useful event for our partnership with ISO and Diversity Initiatives?
- Anything else you think belongs in Orientation 2.0?

Have more ideas/want to volunteer? Contact us!

gsc-oc@mit.edu

OFFICER UPDATES

President Updates

Arolyn Conwill, GSC President
gsc-president@mit.edu

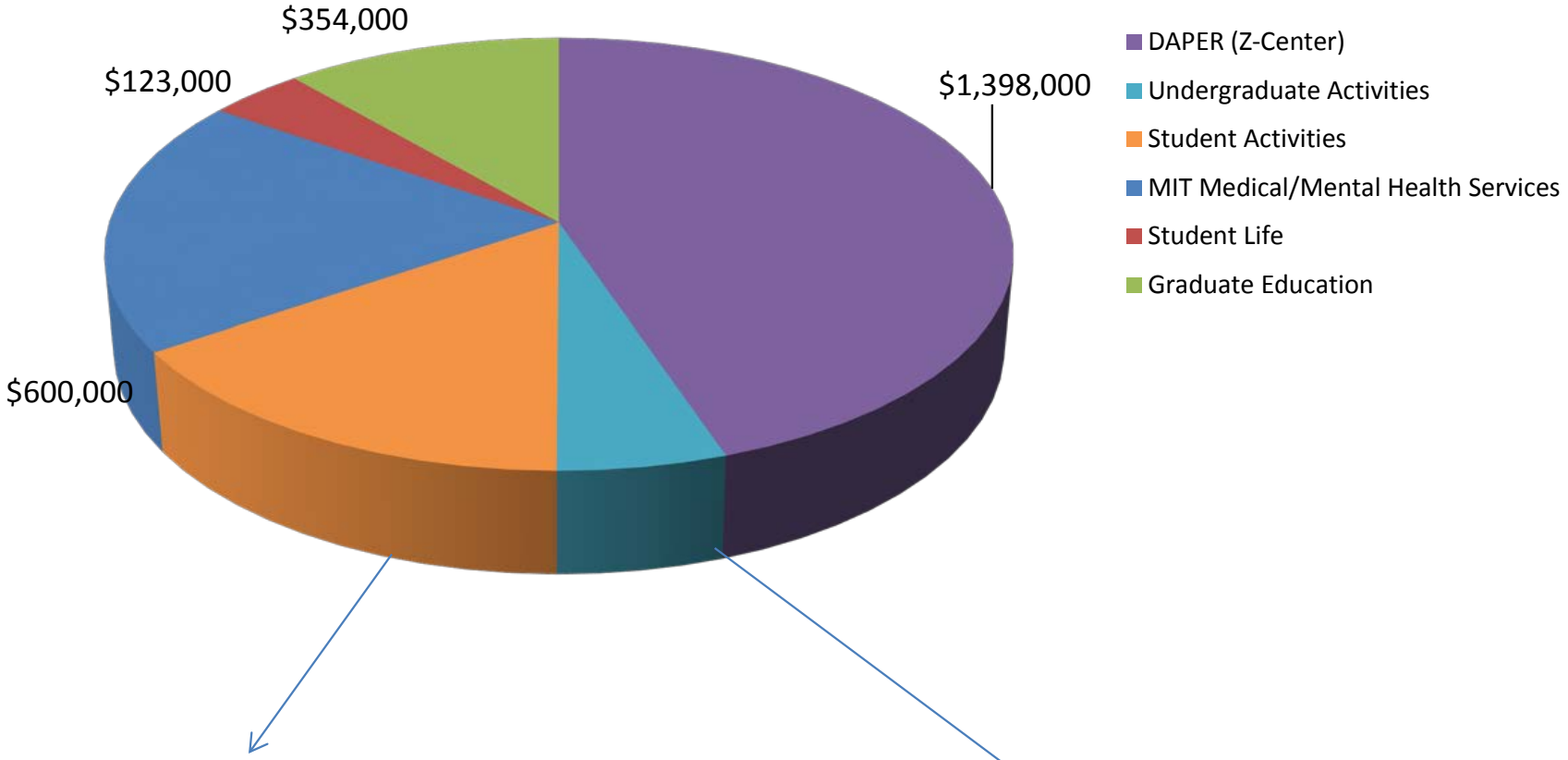
Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

Student Life Fee will not increase next year

- UA proposed raising the student life fee by $7-$8 for all students
  - Purpose: to increase funding for Fin Board (the UA's equivalent of Funding Board)
- The GSC objected to this on the grounds that:
  - 1) We were not consulted in this process.
  - 2) We believe the Student Life Fee already favors undergraduates.
- Result:
  - The Student Life Fee will not increase this year
  - DSL will develop a better process for changing the Student Life Fee in the future

Where does the Student Life Fee go?



Student Activities

Spring Weekend	$	125,000
Large Event Fund		100,000
Club Sports		139,000
ARCADE[1]		50,000
Fall Festival		35,000
ASA Database		16,000
Other Student Organizations		16,000
	$	481,000

1) Assisting Recurring Cultural and Diversity Events;

Total ARCADE budget = $75K/yr. ($50 direct; $25K ODGE)

Undergraduate Activities

Class Councils	$	60,000
Undergraduate Association[2]		104,000
	$	164,000

2) Student Life Fee funds nearly 33% of Undergraduate Association

Remainder funded from MIT General Institute Budget

Unionization FAQs

- The Office of the General Counsel prepared some information on graduate student unionization
  - GSC Executive Committee was asked to provide feedback
  - Relatively speaking, more objective than FAQs posted by other universities…

https://odge.mit.edu/finances/ra-ta/faqs-about-student-unionization/

Vice President Updates

Angie Crews, GSC Vice President
gsc-vp@mit.edu

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Holiday Party!

Open Council Rep positions

- Architecture (1)
- Brain and Cognitive Science (2)
- Chemical Engineering (1)
- Civil and Env. Engineering (1)
- Comparative Media Studies (1)
- EE and Computer Science (3)
- Health Sciences and Tech (1)
- Linguistics and Philosophy (1)
- Management (3)
- Mathematics (1)
- Mathematics (1)
- Media Arts and Sciences (2)
- Operations Research (1)
- Science Writing (1)
- Urban Studies and Planning (2)
- Off-campus (2)
- Minorities (1)
- Graduate Families and Parents (1)

Treasurer Updates

Lisa Guay, GSC Treasurer
gsc-treasurer@mit.edu

Budget Update

- Career Fair
  - Receiving another $54,140.62, bringing total to $378,984.37
  - Expect another <$5,000
  - For reference:
    - FY16 Received $382,959.09
    - FY17 Prediction (3-yr average) $408,030.78

- GSC finances are in great shape!
  - "Uncommitted funds" FY17 ($25,849.53)
  - Reserve/Stabilization Fund
- Should be able to begin rescope process soon

OLD BUSINESS

We follow rules!

- Discussion occurs for the time allotted on the agenda
  - Motion to amend (be specific!)
  - Motion to extend discussion time
  - Motion to vote before discussion time is over
  - Procedural votes require more Yes votes than No votes
- Voting
  - Chair calls vote at the end of the discussion time (assuming Council does not decide to extend discussion time)
    - No Council "vote to vote" required
  - Council may decide to vote before the discussion time is over
    - Council vote required following motion to vote
  - Bylaws Amendments
    - Require 2/3 approval
    - YES+NO votes do NOT need to meet quorum for Bylaw amendments
      - Abstentions do count towards quorum.
- Chair (President) decides if Council will vote with placards or clickers

63.gsc.6 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning Council Meeting Procedures

Orpheus Chatzivasileiou and Andrew Fiore

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

63.gsc.7 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning Committee functions

Orpheus Chatzivasileiou and Andrew Fiore

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

63.gsc.8 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning Funding and Budgets

Lisa Guay, GSC Treasurer

NEW BUSINESS

63.gsc.9 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning the removal of Committee Chairpersons

Orpheus Chatzivasileiou and Andrew Fiore

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

63.gsc.9

- Let's assume that a Committee Chair is being naughty.
  - How do we deal with this?
  - Current options:
    1. The committee members can vote to remove the chairperson.
       - The Bylaws provide the process for this (Article II.E)
    2. Council can vote to suspend the entire committee (Article II.F).

- With this amendment:
  - Council now has the option to vote to remove the committee chairperson.
    - Process similar to the current one.
  - Committees that elect chairs through their own operating procedures can also establish procedures for removing them.

63.gsc.10 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning Officer Affairs

Orpheus Chatzivasileiou and Andrew Fiore

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

63.gsc.10

1. What happens if there is a tie in an officer election?
   - Currently, the Bylaws (Article V.D.2) do not address the possibility of a tie.
     - *(The voting process) will continue until a candidate receives a majority of the votes.*

- With this amendment:
  - If there is a tie, do a revote amongst the leading (tied) candidates.
  - If after 3 votes, still a deadlock, choose by a fair random method.
    - E.g. flip a coin

63.gsc.10

2. How do you impeach an Officer?
   - Currently, the Constitution says:
     - 3 people sign a petition
     - 2/3 vote to impeach

- With this amendment:
  - Introduce a procedure by which to impeach Officers
    - Modeled after the procedure for removal of Committee Chairs
    - Involves an impeachment hearing session presided by a neutral Council member (appointed by Council)

63.gsc.10

3. What happens when an Officer is gone?
   - Currently, no provisions in the Bylaws concerning:
     - How to replace an Officer (elections happen in April)
     - What happens in the interim

- With this amendment:
  - Introduce a procedure to call for special Officer elections for the empty position
  - Officer duties shared among officers while position is empty
    - VP fills in for President

63.gsc.11 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning Council Meeting Procedures

Orpheus Chatzivasileiou and Lisa Guay

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

63.gsc.11

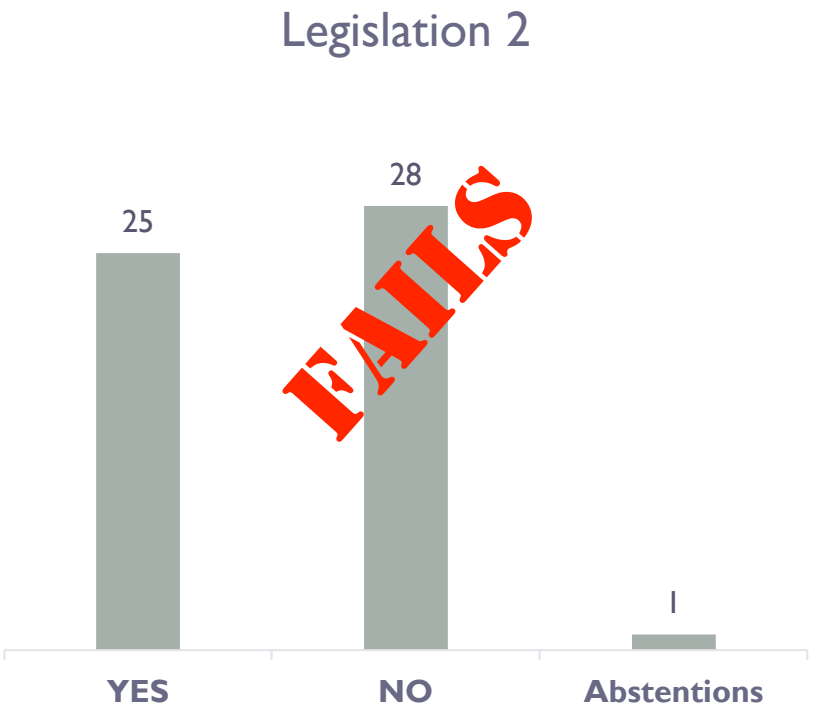
1. Reconsidering legislation
   - Council can reconsider legislation if:
     - Wording or circumstances changed
     - Abstentions in earlier vote could have affected the outcome
     - Current set of officers not in place when earlier vote taken

- With this amendment:
  - Introduce clarifications:
    - To reconsider you need a majority vote
    - If vote outcome positive, legislation is reintroduced to the legislative process.

63.gsc.11

Assume QUORUM=50

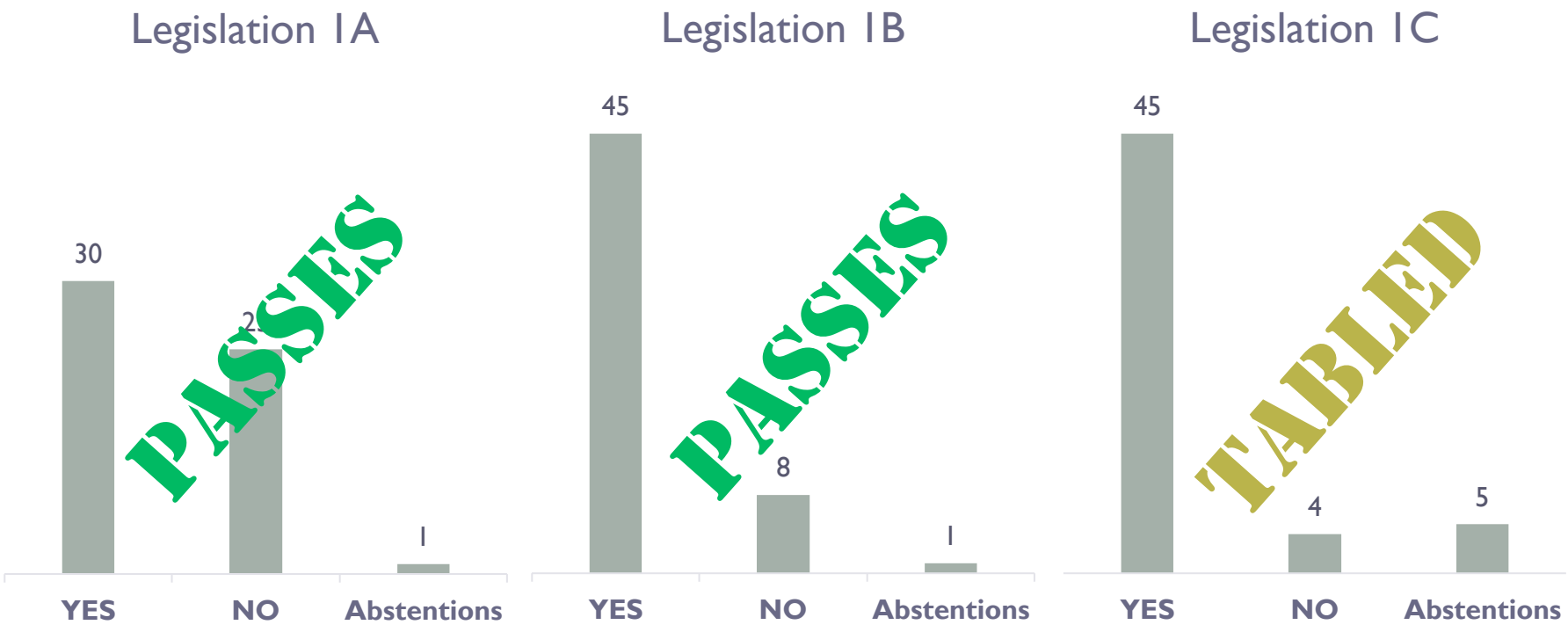
2. A voting peculiarity



63.gsc.11

Assume QUORUM=50

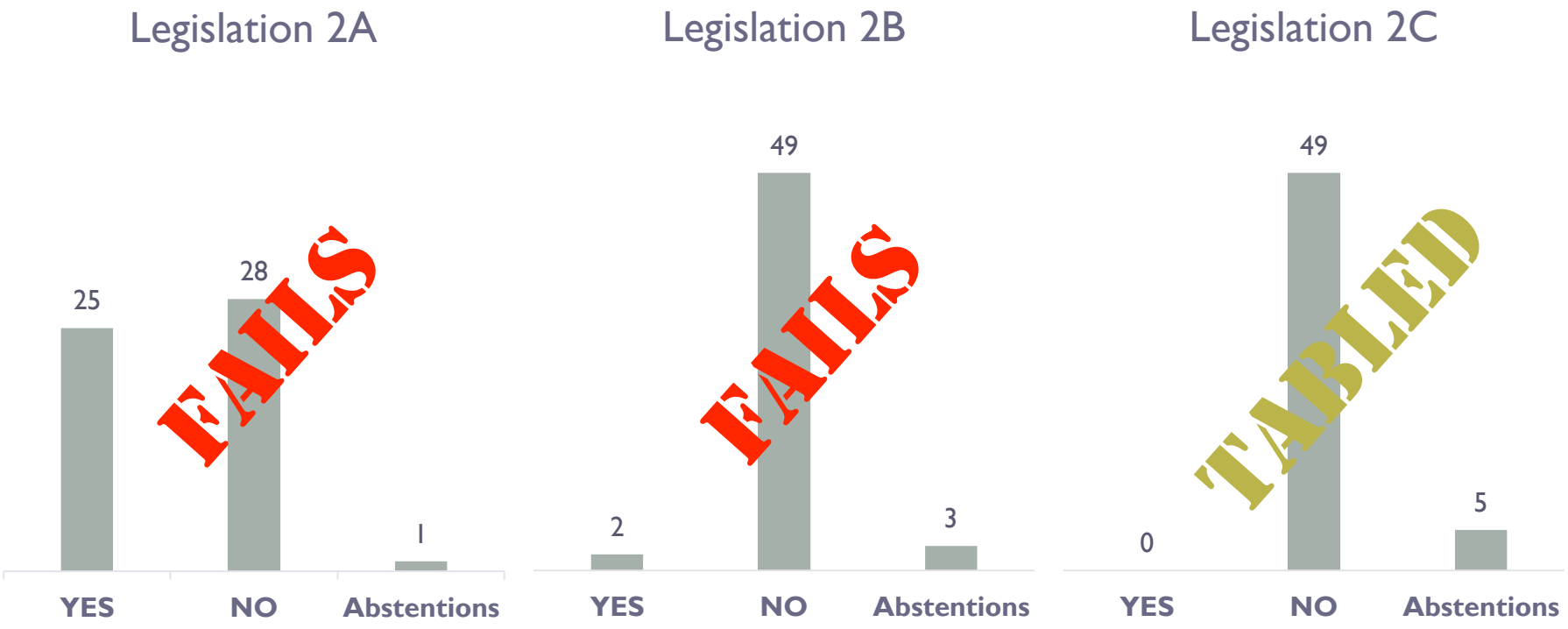
2. A voting peculiarity



63.gsc.11

Assume QUORUM=50

2.A voting peculiarity



63.gsc.11

2. Why all the weirdness?
   - Currently we have 2 thresholds
     - For a vote to occur: Quorum must exist
     - For a vote on legislation to have effect: **YES>NO** & **YES + NO ≥ Quorum**
       - If not, table and reconsider next session.
       - Effectively turns the “”abstention” into a “super-NO”.
     - An abstention <u>should have no effect</u>

- With this amendment:
  - Retain only the YES>NO part
    - Gets rid of the YES + NO ≥ Quorum

63.gsc.12 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning the Election of Council Representatives

Orpheus Chatzivasileiou and Andrew Fiore

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

63.gsc.12

- Current Council Rep. election procedures have certain peculiarities
  - If incumbent representative for at-large or constituency without governing organization
    - Written confirmation to the VP to continue serving (Sept 15th)
  - For constituencies without governing organizations
    - Have to receive applications between Sept. 15th and Oct. 8th.
    - If fewer applicants than positions → Appointment.
      - Has to be confirmed by Council.
    - Otherwise → elections
      - Election season ends on Oct. 23rd, but the Constitution says that terms begin on the 15th.

63.gsc.12

- With this amendment:
  - Remove need for written confirmation to the VP.
  - Can receive Council Rep. applications at any time and get appointed to empty seats.
    - Council does not have to approve appointments.
    - If at the beginning of October, more applicants than positions, then call for elections
      - Align election deadlines (push 1 week back) to end on the 15th.
  - Council will only vote if elections for at-large positions without a constituency are called.
    - Will not need to confirm any other appointments.

63.gsc.13 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning Finances and Spending

Orpheus Chatzivasileiou and Lisa Guay

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

63.gsc.13

1. Spending
   - All funds must be assigned to a line item accurately describing purpose of disbursement.
   - Committee chairs can authorize disbursements.

- With this amendment:
  - Introduce safeguards:
    - Against proposed disbursements that may not accurately be described in a line item
      - ExComm can intervene
    - Against proposed disbursements that may violate MIT Spending Policies
      - Treasurer and Financial Admin can intervene

63.gsc.13

2. Stabilization Fund
   - Currently capped at 15% of previous budget outflows
     - However, the majority of our income (Career Fair) can potentially fluctuate a lot.
   - Need to transfer funds in/out by March 31st.
     - But we may not have received all the Career Fair money by then.
   - Currently have a process for special disbursement but no process for special replenishment.

- With this amendment:
  - Raise cap to 35%.
  - Instead of the May 31st deadline:
    - 1 month after receiving all flexible revenue, or end of fiscal year
  - Introduce a special replenishment process
    - Include a special line item in the Budget

63.gsc.13

3. Initiatives Fund
   - It's the only fund specified in the Bylaws
     - No other GSC fund is. Difficult to change if we want to.
   - Some provisions are too strict
     - E.g. Requirement for funds to stay for 2 years.
       - Council shouldn't be constrained in how they do their Budget.

- With this amendment:
  - Remove the description from the Bylaws
    - The fund will continue to exist and be run in a similar fashion.
    - Treasurer will refine how it's run.
    - Will be listed together with all the other funds.

OPEN FLOOR

POST-GCM SOCIAL AT THE MUDDY CHARLES PUB

Follow Zsigi!

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

President Updates

Arolyn Conwill, GSC President
gsc-president@mit.edu

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

Vice President Updates

Angie Crews, GSC Vice President
gsc-vp@mit.edu

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Secretary Updates

Orpheus Chatzivasileiou, GSC Secretary
gsc-secretary@mit.edu

Treasurer Updates

Lisa Guay, GSC Treasurer
gsc-treasurer@mit.edu