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Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

General Council Meeting Agenda

August 9th, 2017, 5:30pm-7:35pm in 32-155

1. Introduction, Dinner, and New Faces (5:35-5:40)
 - a. Quorum check
 - i. 45 present, 4 not present
 - b. Approval of July GCM Minutes
 - i. Approved
2. Guest speakers
 - a. Vice President for Student Life Suzy Nelson (5:40-6:10)
 - i. 1 year at MIT
 - ii. When I arrived I didn't know as much as about the grad student issues
 - iii. 70 Amherst St.
 1. Won't go about all the background
 2. All decisions can be flawed
 3. Looking back, I question some things, especially about communication
 4. Difficult situation
 5. There's an FAQ explaining everything, we're written updates.
 6. I really want to hear feedback from you.
 7. We heard about you concerning communication & transparency. Things we could have done differently.
 8. We were communicating a lot with smaller groups of students.
 9. Senior team decided to move forward to make SH a grad dorm. Have a reset.
 10. We needed these beds, so we decided to have 65 UGs to grad dorms, 100 grads to 70 Amherst St.



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11. We consulted a little bit with the house teams and with the GSC officers
12. We're trying to find a mature population to live in grad dorms
13. We've hired GRTs in those 5 dorms with many students
14. Some dorms have liaisons to work with UGs
15. We got petition about Murals, photographed them, will be archiving, took a tour.
16. We reviewed murals, wrote to residents with pictures of murals
17. In private residence, if people didn't want murals, we covered them.
18. We covered objectionable murals in common spaces.
19. The rest will be painted off, there's going to be a working group to decide their fate.
20. I want to apologize for not communicating as clearly.
21. Grad student population has grown very rapidly. Resources have not kept up with needs. We need to address that. We need to understand what the need. We helped the GSC do a survey, it will
22. We will form another working group to figure out the needs for graduate student housing, we'll put a plan in place to put these projects in the queue.
23. We have \$350-million project in Site 4 (New Eastgate).
24. Student quality of life: We're not satisfied with dining options, especially for later. We'll

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open Pritchett dining for later in the night (until 2AM) for light dining.

25. Looked at putting new furniture and creating a lounge outside the GSC Office, we're doing a graduate student house.

26. We've created the care team, more focused in grad students.

27. We already planned for some students to move to Tang.

iv. Q&A:

1. Q: What's the process of GRT hiring? In some cases, the GRTs were hired without ever meeting the UGs.

2. A: We worked with houses specifically. We don't have the time we need for the particular housing. Many people were chosen from their own communities. It's going to be very difficult to get them to meet these students. We had to rely in the knowledge of the houses themselves. They will be expected to go through the GRT training. I feel good about the GRTs selected.

3. Q: What if it doesn't work out?

4. A: We will let them know

5. Q: About the murals. Did you think about shuffling students to conserve the murals?

6. A: Insufficient time. Also people complained because we initially said that we'd paint over everything.

7. Q: You could have opened a lottery?

8. A: We initially said that we'd repaint and refresh room. Students had already signed contracts for the rooms they wanted to live in. So, we backtracked over painting over anything, but



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first painted over. Now, we've got a task over figuring out the future of the murals.

9. Q: Why was it necessary to have this petition to save the murals. What guarantee do we have that it's not going to happen to their community?
10. A: I was well aware of the murals. Concerning the administration's philosophy. I think it's the most unusual circumstance. It's not the way I'd want it to happen before. Students at MIT are very invested in dorms. With that kind of freedom, comes responsibility.
11. Q: What guarantees will you make, what communication?
12. A: The guarantee I can make is what I believe in. This was a singular, unusual event. If we partner together, this should not happen again.
13. Q: What are your top accomplishments?
14. A: Secured funding for hardship grants. Students with families with serious needs. We're working on a loan with MITFCU, around notion of hardship between need. We listened to students about what spaces we need. We're working on housing, dining. We got 3 people to work for grad students.

b. Vice Chancellor Ian Waitz (6:10-6:40)

- i. I am the Vice-Chancellor
- ii. 5 weeks in the job
- iii. I want to tell you
 1. Why I am the VC
 2. Answer about the background about why the VC position was created.
 3. Why I think you're underrepresented



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4. Shout-out to Cindy, Suzy, GSC Officers
5. Things that are already changing
6. Updates on reorganizing ODGE/DUE

iv. History

1. Been at MIT for 25 years, got 2 daughters. Got involved in leadership in AeroAstro. Strong passion for education. Dept. head, Dean for Engineering.

v. Why VC?

1. I made a decision in late fall that I was going to step down in July 1. It wasn't until later that I spoke to Cindy.
2. Cindy didn't know that I was stepping down. I shared it with her shortly before I announced it. I'm the reason Cindy wasn't taking any more input. Cindy said: would you have an interest in VC?
3. My plan was to take a year-long sabbatical. I was asked to consider a number of significant roles within and outside MIT. There were some that I wanted to see through.
4. Pool of candidates was rather small.
5. I hung her up for 2 months before deciding for VC.
6. I got the job because I like Cindy.
7. The longer the conversation went, the more difficult the projects became.
8. I had a long discussion with Cindy and she convinced me to take that role.
9. As soon as I let her know, she quickly made an announcement.

vi. Why I think you are underrepresented.



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1. Hold me to as high a standard as you held Christine or higher.
 2. You really are underrepresented
 3. OGE is essentially too small to give you what you need. It's easier for me to make that assertion than the person whose job it is to lobby for you.
 4. You don't have a visiting committee that represents you to the corporation. Now you have 2. Both in the DSL and the DUE (which is now going to be both UG and G).
 5. Then you've got situations that bubble up that create a lot of mistrust.
- vii. Shout-out to Cindy, Suzy, GSC Officers
1. Cindy: she's exceptional
 2. Suzy: she's exceptional
 3. GSC Officers: I keep meeting with them incessantly.
 4. You've got leaders who really want to work on your behalf.
 5. There's no real need to be adversarial
- viii. Things that are changing
1. Working on professional development, Career Fair.
 2. For UG alumni we do a survey every 5 years.
 3. It only was once in the past. Now it's going to be regularly every 5 years.
 4. Develop a grad student initiative: e.g. families in stress, best practices in advising, professional development
- ix. Updates on reorganizing ODGE/DUE
1. Most important near-term problem I have had to solve was staff dissatisfaction. There's a 15% that are really worried about losing their jobs. My job



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1 is to have a really inclusive process with the staff.

2. We had an 8hour meeting Monday, we're redesigning the structure. In retrospect, it would have been even better to have students on each table.
3. How can we get feedback from all the students?
4. I hope to get through the difficult job.

x. Q&A

1. Q: I look forward to meeting with you. Especially in diversity.
2. A: We need clarity on that issue, we'd really want to hear from the grad side.
3. Q: One of the biggest focuses: 1st year UG students. Has there been a focus in 1st grad students?
4. A: Starting this week, yes. I think this is a good idea.
5. Q: Resources for grad students. We need connections for mental health resources
6. A: It's more a thing for Suzy. However, we need to get more coordination between the limited resources for OGE/DSL/everywhere else.
7. A: S³ for undergrads. We need an equivalent for grad students. We need to expand beyond having your advisors. You need to get visibility, to get visiting committees. Also, in dept. visiting committees, we need to have leverage, to have more visibility.
8. A: We need to be strategic. Where are the investments needed soonest.
9. Q: Can we get your email?



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10. A: Waitz: iaw@mit.edu,

Nelson: nelsonm@mit.edu

11. Q: Advising and Career Development. Where do they fall on your agenda

12. A: Prof. development for grad students is one of my top priorities. I've learned that there are many students that can't take advantage of some opportunities because they feel their advisor won't like it. It's more than just prof. development. We need to treat them like "whole students". We've got to look at bigger problems.

3. Officer Updates (6:40-7:10)

a. Professional Development

i. Career Fair

1. September 29th

2. Remember to coordinate with recruitment activities

3. July 25th stakeholder meeting

4. Volunteers needed! There will be volunteer incentives.

ii. Professional development working group

1. We had it set up with GECD, OGE.

2. Ian's joined this group

3. We're going to be doing a big data request

4. We're going to update prof. development opportunities resources landscape

a. Please sign up! Contact us at gsc-pd@mit.edu

b. Help us, give us feedback.

b. Graduate Housing Working Group

i. We brought it up to the forefront. The most recent report was in 2014.

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- ii. We'll update these numbers, you got a letter from the Chancellor.
- iii. Satisfy the Clay report
- iv. Establish
- v. Membership
 1. Suzy, Ian, David Friedrich, John Alvarez, 50% of the membership is students.
 2. We'll have first meeting in August.
- vi. Housing Town Hall tomorrow
- c. Ad-hoc Working Group on Graduate Communities
 - i. Based on 70 Amherst situation
 - ii. To deal with setting up 70 Amherst
 - iii. Ensure that grad dorms that house UGs have the resources they need.
 - iv. Suzy, Kristen Covino, Naomi Carton, other people.
- d. GSC Newsletter
 - i. Motivation: We have the Anno for sending event announcements, we need more stuff for outreach.
 - ii. Types of content: Short updates from committees, updates for
4. Committee Updates (7:10-7:30)
 - a. Orientation
 - i. Website live this week. VC will also send emails.
 - ii. We want you to volunteer for orientation.
 - iii. We are looking for 20-30 people to help out with all the events.
 - iv. You get free food.
 - b. Activities
 - i. Boston harbor islands trip.
 - ii. 6 flags trip. Already sold out.
 - iii. Volleyball with PDA.
 - iv. Taste of Series
 1. 8 cultural organizations

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c. ARC

- i. First summer panel. 150 people
- ii. Nuts & bolts of an academic job.
- iii. De-stress your dissertation.
- iv. Lerman Grant

d. ASA

- i. New database is up
- ii. There is a user guide online.

e. EAB

- i. Why this election matters
 1. City Council greatly impacts day to day life at MIT.
 2. Graduate students could have a huge impact on who wins.
- ii. We need voter registration liaisons
 1. Help students to register
 2. We provide all the information
 3. We need all the people we can get who can help.
 4. Vote2017.mit.edu up and running.
 5. Mit.turbovote.org (online voter registration system).

iii. Housing town hall

iv. Federal affairs subcommittee meeting

v. NAGPS Fall Legislative Action Days

f. HCA

- i. Advocacy around 70 Amherst
- ii. Housing survey & analysis
- iii. New recycling training course on Atlas
- iv. Diversity & Inclusion Subcommittee
- v. New GRT Subcommittee
- vi. Thinking about future of MIT Housing
- vii. SuCCES Sustainability



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Alex Genshaft

gsc-muddy-chair@mit.edu

Orientation (OC)

Akshata Krishnamurthy

German Parada

gsc-oc@mit.edu

Staff

Administrative

Lauren McLean

Elizabeth (Betsy) Granese

gsc-admin@mit.edu

GSC Office

77 Massachusetts Avenue

Room 50-220

Cambridge, MA 02139

Phone: 617-253-2195

<http://gsc.mit.edu>

viii. Promoting Diversity & Inclusion

ix. Need a point person on Family Issues.

g. Muddy

i. Help shape the Muddy Community Survey

ii. Join the board or a subcommittee and help

iii. Help host a cultural event at the Muddy!

iv. Weekly Wednesdays

5. Open Floor (7:30-7:35)

Officers

gsc-officers@mit.edu

President

Sarah Goodman

Executive Committee

gsc-president@mit.edu

Vice-President

Lisa Guay

Nominations Board

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Secretary

Orpheus Chatzivasileiou

Publications & Publicity Board

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Treasurer

Krithika Ramchander

Funding Board

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Committees

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Academics, Research, &**Careers (ARC)**

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Yijin Wei

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Assoc. of Student**Activities (ASA)**

Sabina Chen

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External Affairs (EAB)

Peter Su

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Housing & Community**Affairs (HCA)**

Malvika Verma

Nicholas Triantafillou

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Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Upcoming General Council Meetings (GCMs)

September General Council Meeting	Wednesday 9/13, 6-120
October General Council Meeting	Wednesday 10/4, 32-155

Note: Dinner starts at 5:00pm and meetings start at 5:30pm.

Upcoming GSC Meetings

Academics, Research, and Careers (ARC)	Monday 8/14, 5:00 pm
Activities Committee (AC)	N/A
External Affairs Board (EAB)	Monday 8/14, 6:00 pm
Events Subcommittee	TBD
Federal Affairs Subcommittee	TBD
Public Outreach Subcommittee	TBD
State and Local Affairs Subcommittee	TBD
University Liaison	TBD
Housing and Community Affairs (HCA)	Monday 8/28, 5:30 pm
Off-campus Subcommittee	TBD
Sustainability Subcommittee	Tuesday 9/5, 4:30 pm
Transportation Subcommittee	TBD
Diversity Subcommittee	Wednesday 8/16, 6:30 pm
Muddy Charles Pub	Tuesday 8/29, 6:00 pm
Orientation Committee (OC)	Thursday 8/10, 5:15 pm
Executive Committee (ExComm)	Wednesday 8/30, 6 pm

*Unless otherwise indicated, all meetings are in the GSC Office (50-220)