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Sarah Goodman

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**Vice-President**

Lisa Guay

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**Secretary**

Orpheus Chatzivasileiou

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**Treasurer**

Krithika Ramchander

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<http://gsc.mit.edu>



# Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## General Council Meeting Agenda

September 13th, 2017, 5:30pm-7:35pm in 6-120

1. Introduction, Dinner, and New Faces (5:35-5:40)
  - a. Quorum check
    - i. No quorum. However, there's no need to vote on anything.
  - b. Approval of August GCM Minutes
2. Structuring the Office of the Vice Chancellor (5:40-6:10)
  - a. Mary Markel Murphy – Office of the Vice Chancellor
  - b. Office used to have Dean for Grad & Dean for Undergrad
  - c. Ian Waitz leading organization
  - d. Why was OVC created?
    - i. Respond to evolving needs of students
    - ii. Meet the Charge of the Chancellor
    - iii. Meet Reif's priority to make us a magnet for education
  - e. What's happened since the VC was instituted
    - i. 2 all-hands meetings
      1. GSC Officers were there
      2. 25+ different structures imagined
      3. Gathered data/pre-work/homework
        - a. Identified existing & potential collaborations
    4. Wrote new values statement, will work on vision statement
    5. Values Statement
      - a. Student centeredness
      - b. Integrity
      - c. Community
      - d. Diversity
      - e. Collaboration
      - f. Innovation
  6. Charge from Chancellor



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- a. Organizational review to better merge OUE/OGE to have better services for students
    - i. We want to get your feedback to do it.
  - b. Implementing innovations (Task force on Future of MIT education)
  - c. Enhance 1<sup>st</sup> year experience (UG)
7. I want to hear from you:
- a. What works/doesn't work
  - b. What are pain points?
  - c. What do you want to make sure that the VC knows?
8. Chart displayed with current resources that students may interact with.
9. Q&A:
- a. Q1: A lot of us spend time in the lab, we can't look for resources, we don't know they exist. Make sure that resources exist, we know about them.
    - i. Raise awareness by talking to the department
  - b. Q2: Can we have someone coming to students (reaching to students) instead of getting students to come. Reach out to advisors to get them to become better.
    - i. We'll need to have advisors become trained. Although many advisors don't have to get trained/change it?
  - c. Q3: Issues with residency/fellowships. Clarify policies, disseminate relevant information/help students get fellowships.



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- i. Maybe have some general liaison/concierge
- d. Q4: Diversity department reps: Have OGE to work with GSC?
- e. Q5: Very few people with whom to talk for advising issues. Appointments needs to be scheduled way in advance (e.g. 1 month)
  - i. Increase staff in OGE
- f. Q6: Professional development (job talks, presentations, seminars). MIT has a lot of resources, but you need to do a lot of digging
  - i. Use targeted workshops for this, but also to raise awareness of resources
- g. Q7: Perception: Many of the career-development resources are there only for undergrads
  - i. It is a misperception, we need to clear it up
- h. Q8: Mental health, interactions with advisor. However, if there are problems, we need extra advisors/early detection. E.g. one research & academic advisor.
- i. Q9: Many resources are peer to peer, but that's not useful, we need someone more powerful to step in the situation
  - i. We need to train faculty to be good managers
- j. Q10: Advisor review process?
  - i. In some few cases, but generally, no
  - ii. Consider advisory review process

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- k. Q11: Supporting conferences. Travel grants in some departments. GSC gives out travel grants, but even that is not sufficient.
    - i. Perhaps directive to advisors  
"Support 1 conference per year"
  - l. Q12: Diversity & Inclusion: Are there any top-down directives with regards to admission?
    - i. No real formal structure. Maybe there will need to be a unified Institute-wide policy.
    - ii. Institute-wide diversity training. There are committees that engage with faculty.
    - iii. We need to do better. Maybe we do need to centralize a bit more.
    - iv. Make sure that departments live up to their diversity statement, maybe we need to have an Institute-wide system for checks & balances.
      - 1. Audit, visiting committee?
      - 2. Name & shame?
  - m. Q13: How do we reach grad women? We need to have more resources for women students.
    - i. Support GWAMIT
    - ii. Maybe Institute-wide standards
3. Representatives for Institute Committees (6:10-6:20)
- a. We have a couple additional openings
  - b. Council on Family & Work
    - i. Slight preference for 1 female PhD, but need
    - ii. Monthly meetings
  - c. Committee on Discipline

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- i. Need 1 nominee
  - ii. Very important role-but long commitment
4. Graduate Housing Working Group (6:20-6:40)
  - a. Updates – Abigail Regitsky
  - b. 6 grad/6 faculty & admin
  - c. Ian Waitz is chairing
  - d. Working group charge
    - i. Reassessment & update Clay report, figure out demand for specific types of housing & price sensitivity
    - ii. We'll get an interim report by October 13<sup>th</sup>
    - iii. Process for periodic reviews
    - iv. Interim report by October 13<sup>th</sup>, admin to consider options by Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>
      1. Really accelerated schedule
      2. Conjoint study
      3. How does demand change with different types of housing
      4. What types of housing should MIT build next to satisfy the greatest demand at a management cost.
    - v. We're doing focus groups, please please sign up for this, we really need people to have people.
5. Officer Updates (6:40-6:50)
  - a. Volunteer for Career Fair
    - i. Coming up on 29<sup>th</sup>. 400+ companies
    - ii. Go even if you're not looking for a job. Can see people, can print your nametag, can submit resume
    - iii. 60+ Infosessions
    - iv. Interview day December 30<sup>th</sup>
    - v. CF is 2/3 of our funding, we want it to be successful. Sign up to volunteer.
      1. It doesn't prevent you from attending CF, you get to go there earlier

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2. Make personal connections
- b. 70 Amherst St.
  - i. 2 working groups instead of the one we initially said
  - ii. 70 Amherst St.
    1. Dorm govt, dorm events, help with setting up events for the residents
    - 2.
- c. GSC Newsletter
  - i. New way of communicating with students
6. Committee Updates (6:50-7:05)
  - a. AC
    - i. Six Flags Trip
    - ii. Spirit of AC
    - iii. Volleyball with PDA
    - iv. Taste of...
      1. Israel coming up
      2. Free food, free stuff
      3. MISTI supporting us
      4. AA, Grad Rat too!
      5. Iran after Israel
    - v. Coffee Hour
    - vi. Grad Gala meeting
    - vii. Ski Trip on schedule
  - b. ARC
    - i. Summer series panel, finding a good postdoc
      1. Had a good discussion
      2. We got to use our AV equipment
    - ii. Summer series panel
      1. Finding a good postdoc
      2. Beyond Academics: PhD Career Options
    - iii. Growing up in science
      1. Professors struggle too, come hear about their non-linear path to science

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- iv. Lerman Travel Grant
  - 1. To supplement the Travel Grants
  - 2. Want to try and do fundraising
- v. Prof. development questions, thank you for helping us do stuff.
- c. ASA
  - i. New Student Group Applications
- d. EAB
  - i. Federal Affairs
    - 1. Trip to DC
    - 2. Writing statements, scheduling meetings
    - 3. Focusing on Research Funding, Visa Issues,...
  - ii. State & Local Affairs
    - 1. Sustainability policy survey of grad student options
    - 2. City Council Voter Registration push
    - 3. Supporting the Graduate Housing Working Group
  - iii. Public Outreach
    - 1. Hometown heroes
    - 2. Open Access MIT Research Slides
    - 3. Faces and Stories of Incoming Grad Students
  - iv. Upcoming Events
    - 1. Voter Registration Liaison Training
    - 2. NAGPS National Conference
  - v. HCA
    - 1. Housing
      - a. Orientation went on for dorms
    - 2. Costco shuttle
      - a. Has been delayed, we'll start in in 2 weeks
    - 3. Off-campus
      - a. To have 3/month events
    - 4. Want people to talk Family



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5. We want people for the Food Insecurity Meeting
6. Diversity & Inclusion
  - a. Black Lives Matter
  - b. Talking to Chancellor's office

#### vi. Muddy

1. Fill out the muddy survey
2. Promote the Muddy Orientation: Food & Beer Pairing to all first years!
3. Muddy Mondays

#### vii. Orientation Events

1. Orientation went well
2. Financial closure
3. Planning for next year
4. Thanks to Lauren, Betsy, OGE, Everyone

#### 7. Open Floor (7:05-7:10)

- a. Sloan: Lecture on Systems Thinking, Friday, 3PM-4PM (4-6PM)



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### Upcoming GSC Meetings

Academics, Research, and Careers (ARC)	Wednesday 9/20, 6:30 pm
Activities Committee (AC)	TBD
External Affairs Board (EAB)	Monday 9/18, 4:30 pm
Events Subcommittee	TBD
Federal Affairs Subcommittee	TBD
Public Outreach Subcommittee	Monday 9/25, 7 pm
State and Local Affairs Subcommittee	Wednesday 9/20, 5:00 pm
Development Subcommittee	Thursday 9/21, 5:30 pm
Housing and Community Affairs (HCA)	Monday 9/25, 5:30 pm
Off-campus Subcommittee	TBD
Sustainability Subcommittee	Tuesday 9/26, 4:30 pm
Transportation Subcommittee	TBD
Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee	Thursday 10/5, 6:30 pm
Muddy Charles Pub	Tuesday 9/26, 6:00 pm
Orientation Committee (OC)	TBD
Executive Committee (ExComm)	Wednesday 9/27, 6:30 pm

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

### Upcoming General Council Meetings (GCMs)

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

October General Council Meeting	Wednesday 10/4, 32-155
November General Council Meeting	Wednesday 11/1, 32-155