



# Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## General Council Minutes

October 4th, 2017, 5:30pm-7:30pm in 32-155

1. Introduction, Dinner, and New Faces (5:35-5:40) (8 new faces welcome!)
  - a. Quorum check
    - i) Quorum passed: 41 members present
  - b. Approval of September GCM Minutes
    - i) Approved by majority
2. Graduate Housing Working Group (5:40-5:55)
  - a. Updates – Abigail Regitsky:
    - i) look at cost accounting of housing with various facilities as well as the neighboring housing market in Cambridge and Boston to determine its impact on students
    - ii) conduct conjoint analysis to understand the students' needs/wants and the cost of building these houses, and make sure it's financially responsible to MIT. We need as much data as possible
    - iii) benchmark our housing policies against those of the peer institutions
3. Sharing Departmental Best Practices (5:55-6:20)
  - a. Break up into groups of 3-4 to talk about the offerings of each department
  - b. Identify the best practices that can be brought to each department
  - c. Topics include
    - i) Academic support and advising. This includes supports in every area of student's academic, professional, and personal life.
    - ii) Departmental climate: Responsiveness, accessibility, student government, and social events.
    - iii) A Google Form is filled out

### Officers

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#### **Vice-President**

Lisa Guay

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#### **Treasurer**

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#### **Funding Board**

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4. Overview of legislative process (6:20-6:25)
  - a. How we decide to vote
    - i) Decide to vote
    - ii) Discussion
      - ➔ Motion to end discussion
      - ➔ Motion to extend discussion
      - ➔ Motion to table legislation for next
      - ➔ Motion to amend legislation (specify exact text)
    - iii) Vote
  - b. How we vote:
    - i) author introduces the bill
    - ii) Q & A (5 min) + speaking period (1min): can be motioned to suspend and vote in this session
    - iii) Vote in the next GCM
  - c. Any motion needs to be specific and seconded, and requires simple majority to pass
  - d. Voting outcome
    - i) Yes > no and Yes+No > 1/2 quorum: pass
    - ii) Yes < No and Yes+no < quorum: dies
    - iii) Yes > No + Yes+no < quorum: tabled for next GCM
    - iv) Yes < No+Yes and Yes+no < 1/2 quorum: dies
5. 64.gsc.3: Resolution to Support the Renaming of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day at MIT (6:25-6:45)
  - a. 40 cities in the US have voted to rename the day as "Indigenous Peoples' Day"
  - b. The GSC wants the GCM to decide on whether to support the change. The change of name will affect how the holiday is called the MIT Media Publication: ie. On the MIT calendar, it would say Indigenous Peoples' Day
  - c. UA has done it in their general assembly
  - d. Erik motioned to accelerate to vote in this GCM, while Kyle objected

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- e. Motion to accelerate the vote was passed: 41 in favor, 2 in objection, and 2 in abstinence
  - f. The vote to rename Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day at MIT was passed: 40 in favor, 3 in objection, 2 in abstinence
6. Officer Updates (6:45-6:55)
- a. Career Fair
    - i) Directors estimate profit will be similar to last year
    - ii) Survey to be completed
    - iii) Career Fair Working Group: chaired by Ian Waitz, CF Directors, GSC, UA, Senior Class, and SWE
    - iv) equal number of undergrads and grads
  - b. Reminder about Rep Funding
    - i. 250/rep/term is available to all council members
    - ii. Why are reps not using funding?!
      - ➔ Most people forget about the funding, don't know how to apply, or don't know what events to organize
      - ➔ Deadline: Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, which will be extended to the end of October. February is the second deadline
      - ➔ Restrictions include any external spending, for example prizes for speakers. The money has to be spent within the constituency.
      - ➔ Institute Committee Open: Student Affiliate Health Insurance Advisory Committee (SAHIAC)
7. Committee Updates (6:55-7:05)
- a. Activity
    - i) Taste of Israel last week and Taste of Iran this week
    - ii) Coffee Hour
    - iii) Art night: Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> (Friday or Saturday), free
    - iv) Ski Trip Updates: \$300+50 and free lag tags for the first 2009 sign-ups
    - v) Grad Gala: Museum of Science, Cruise, or Intercontinental Hotel

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### b. ARC

i) Growing Up In Science: good turnout (~40)

ii) Career Panel for PhD students: (~100 turnout)

iii) Further collaboration with the MIT-Gordon Leadership Institute

### c) ASA

ii) Improving database

iii) Free lunches on Tuesday

### d) External Affairs Board

i) Legislative Actions Days: DC over the weekend and talked about research funding and immigration

ii) City Council Election: Voter Liaison mixture/training

iii) Panel Discussion on local politics with Nadeem Mazen and Leland Cheung. It will be attended by Election candidates

iv) Voter registration tables in Lobby 10

v) Statehouse visit on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>. Potential topics: sexual violence, voter registration, carbon tax, and road safety

vi) Public outreach: hometown heroes, open access MIT Research Slides, and Faces and Stories of Incoming Grad Students

vii) Ivy+ Summit and NAGPS National Conference

viii) Sustainability policy survey of grad students opinions

### e) Housing and Community Affairs

i) Grad Housing Working Group

ii) 70 Amherst: positive feedback so far

iii) Division and inclusion subcommittee: first meeting

iv) Family subcommittee: 3-month maternity leave (GW@MIT)

v) iREFS: conflict management

### f) Muddy

i) Survey

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- ii) Successful Muddy Orientation event
- iii) Host a cultural event at the Muddy
- iv) Enjoy wings and vegetarian options on weekly Wednesdays

8. Housing Survey (7:05-7:25)

9. Open Floor (7:25-7:30)

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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