



Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

General Council Meeting Agenda

November 1st, 2017, 5:30pm-7:00pm in 32-155

Officers

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President

Sarah Goodman

Executive Committee

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Vice-President

Lisa Guay

Nominations Board

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Secretary

Orpheus Chatzivasileiou

Publications & Publicity Board

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Treasurer

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Cambridge, MA 02139

Phone: 617-253-2195

<http://gsc.mit.edu>

1. Introduction, Dinner, and New Faces (5:35-5:40)
 - a. Quorum check
 - i. 46 people present
 - b. Approval of October GCM Minutes
 - i. Approved
2. Fostering a culture of community service (5:40-6:05)
 - a. Introduction by Activities Committee
 - i. We wanted to see what's happening in the local community.
 - b. Alison Hynd, Priscilla King Gray Public Service Center
 - i. How many of you have done public service programs?
 - ii. Listed some of the direct service volunteer opportunities that students have done.
 - iii. What should public service look like at MIT?
 - iv. What pathways are available at MIT?
 - v. You earn skills that are useful to you, can use them in professional life.
 - vi. Tremendous wealth of entrepreneurial resources.
 - vii. Many alums go to serve at Boards of Nonprofits.
 - viii. We want to help you supplement your skills. More than just classroom based.
 - ix. You need to be operating at a higher level.
 - x. Some of the opportunities.
 - xi. We heard from students that they didn't feel welcomed.
 - xii. We are seeing a lot of people, but from a small fraction of the population
 - xiii. Categories:
 1. Community building, learning together
 2. Team-based
 3. With individuals
 - xiv. We have a medical-linked program
 - xv. We have a learning-based spring break program (in NJ)
 - xvi. We have Ideas-Global Challenge (Entrepreneurial, focused on solving challenges in community)



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- xvii. We have fellowships, study programs. Opportunities for students to engage with communities.
- xviii. We had a student from ChemE who brought her ideas.
- xix. We had a student from Sloan who went to Georgia.
- xx. We had ideas about addiction, or undergrad who developed drone for humanitarian purposes.
- xxi. Tell us, what's missing?
- xxii. Q&A:
- xxiii. Q: I feel that some of your activities are skewed towards certain departments. In some departments it's difficult to convince students that what they're doing is immediately relevant to public service. Maybe developing ones nonprofit startup or interacting with policymakers.
- xxiv. A: We're trying to figure out how to integrate with your research.
- xxv. Q: Make it clear to departments that connecting to public service is more beneficial. It's important to get the graduate committees in certain departments to be on board with this. Maybe call it "broader impacts"?
- xxvi. Q: Do you serve intl. grad students?
- xxvii. A: Yes, the issue sometimes is if you're doing a project in the US with financial considerations. We will certainly explore all avenues
- xxviii. Q: One of the challenges is visibility. Make sure you're known. You need buy-in from departments.
- xxix. PKG: I'm interested in the "broader impacts" aspect. Maybe that's an entry point.
- xxx. Q: It's figuring out a way to make sure that "broader impacts" happen through you?
- xxxi. Q: Maybe help with us figuring out language to put in the "broader impacts"
- xxxii. Q: Idea: If it came with good publicity for the department, people would be more open to working with you. "Research advisors"
3. Refresher on GSC legislative process (6:05-6:10)
4. 64.gsc.5: A Resolution authorizing the Officers to appear as co-signatories to an email by the Dean for Student Life
- a. Passed on an accelerated schedule



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b. 42-3-2

5. 64.gsc.4: Policy Platform Updates (6:10-6:20)

a. What is the policy Platform?

- i. It tells us what things the GSC cares about, it reflects the GSC's policies.
- ii. We want to be succinct, we don't want to have a giant manifest
- iii. We have 6 sections.
- iv. It lists the things that the GSC supports.
- v. It doesn't mention specific laws/politicians/parties.

b. We now want to add new things to the policy platform.

- i. Civic Engagement & voting rights.
- ii. We have some grandfathered stuff from the old legislative platform, we want to have policies be better expressed.
- iii. We don't have a basis to work on broader things
- iv. Q&A
 1. We want to be general enough to be able to advocate for all civic engagement issues, it gives us a range of options (local/state/national)
 - a. We want to promote voting rights of students
 2. Q: How do you maximize access to polls for intl students?
 - a. A: We don't have specific ideas. Open to suggestions.

6. Perkins Loans – Update from the External Affairs Board on getting involved in advocacy (6:20-6:25)

a. EAB-Federal

- i. We write statements on issues/bills on Congress
- ii. We get to go to Congress, talk about issues

b. We want to expand on Perkins Loans, student loans

- i. We want to make grad school more affordable
- ii. Perkins Loans were a direct subsidized loan from the Govt, low interest, deferred payments, lender is your university. Last subsidized loan for Federal Students.
- iii. Expired in 2015, no more subsidized loans.

c. Contribution opportunity

- i. Looking for contributors to help
- ii. We want help with crafting a position statement



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- iii. You can contribute to DC trips
- iv. Send us email at gsc-eab-fed
- v. Anyone can join, help us do research

7. Officer Updates (6:25-6:40)

a. MIT administration's commitment to graduate housing

- i. Interim report went out
- ii. We discussed the main findings of the Housing WG
- iii. We discussed the Senior Administration's response
 - 1. Net 250 beds from Site 4, to come online by 2020
 - 2. Another 500 beds in a dorm, to be permitted by end of 2020
 - 3. Another 200 from operating housing stock differently & 70 Amherst
 - 4. Annual reports for 1 year, 3 year general review
- iv. We're still meeting in the WG, we're going to be following through with implementation teams.
- v. If MIT doesn't follow through with the things included in the commitment letter to the City Council (which includes the housing commitment), the whole Volpe zoning amendment is rendered null and void (making the land worthless).

b. Departmental best practices

- i. Thank you for all your responses.
- ii. We catalogued the responses, we'll share the chart with you so that you can identify strengths/weaknesses
- iii. Would you be open to having people from departments that are strong come over and give presentations?
- iv. We could also give out a questionnaire, have it be it fine-grained
- v. Try to work with committees/subcommittees.
- vi. ARC is coordinating this professional development effort.
- vii. Also, how do we work on community?

c. Council Rep funding

- i. A lot of people put events using their events. New cycle open.
 - 1. Nov 1st-Feb 15th
- ii. If you want an extra \$100 please come to graduate tuition models.



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iii. We're still looking for people to use their council funding.

8. Committee Updates (6:40-7:00)

a. AC

i. We did Taste of Iran

ii. We'll do Taste of Spain

iii. Coffee Hour 11/6

iv. Arts Gala on Nov. 17, free

v. Ski Trip \$300 per person

vi. Grad Gala, Museum of Science, Mar 14th date, Tickets \$55

b. ARC

i. Growing up in Science

ii. Profs on Tap

1. 11/07 at 5pm. We need an extra professor

2. We need more Professors for 11/14, suggestions are always welcome

iii. We're meeting with GEL about events on:

1. Taking courses over IAP.

2. Preparation for life after MIT.

c. ASA

i. We have a new Grad Student at large

d. EAB

i. We went to Statehouse

1. We're pushing for the MA Sexual Violence Bill

2. Plan to meet up at 10.30 and go to Statehouse

3. We have a FB event.

ii. Local Affairs

1. MIT Local Politics Panel

2. Voter registration

3. Get out the vote for next Tuesday

4. We're compiling info for all the Cambridge candidates

iii. Public outreach

1. Science gameshow

2. They want help brainstorming ideas about stuff.

iv. Ivy+ last weekend

1. We discussed issues that affect all of us

v. NAGPS National Conference this weekend

e. HCA



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- i. Take cost of living survey
 - ii. Scholars on Tap
 - iii. Pritchett Dining reopening on Nov. 2nd
 - iv. DCI conduit assembly
 - v. Data for Black Lives Conference
 - vi. iREFS: Talk to them, navigate tricky situations
 - vii. Sustainability talking to vendors to get them to get
- f. Muddy
- i. Reached almost 100 responses to our survey
 - ii. We are planning for the 50th anniversary events
 1. We'd really like some additional manpower.
 - iii. Muddy Mondays is taking off, reach out to us 5:1 Matching
 - iv. Weekly Wednesdays
 1. There will be vegetarian dumplings
 2. There's a cider tasting in the Thirsty
9. Open Floor (7:00-7:05)
- a. Quick update on the resolution we voted on last time?
 - i. We'll continue to work with the Chancellor's Office on the matter.
 - b. We just updated the GSC logo.



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Upcoming GSC Meetings

Academics, Research, and Careers (ARC)	Wednesday 11/15 5:30 pm
Activities Committee (AC)	Monday 10/30 6 pm
External Affairs Board (EAB)	TBD
Events Subcommittee	TBD
Federal Affairs Subcommittee	
Public Outreach Subcommittee	
State and Local Affairs Subcommittee	Tuesday 10/31 5:30 pm
Development Subcommittee	Friday 11/3 6 pm
Housing and Community Affairs (HCA)	Monday 11/20 5 pm
Off-campus Subcommittee	TBD
Sustainability Subcommittee	Wednesday 11/1 4:30
Transportation Subcommittee	TBD
Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee	Thursday 11/2 6:30 pm
Muddy Charles Pub	Monday 11/6 6:30 pm
Orientation Committee (OC)	TBD
Executive Committee (ExComm)	Wednesday 11/29 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.

December General Council Meeting	Wednesday 12/6, 32-155
February General Council Meeting	Wednesday 2/7, location TBD