



# Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## General Council Meeting Minutes

February 7th, 2017, 5:30pm-7:30pm in 6-120

### Officers

gsc-officers@mit.edu

#### **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**

gsc-secretary@mit.edu

#### **Treasurer**

Krithika Ramchander

#### **Funding Board**

gsc-treasurer@mit.edu

### Committees

gsc-excomm@mit.edu

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

Patrick O' Shea

Richard Zhang

gsc-arc@mit.edu

#### **Activities (AC)**

Karthik Akkiraju

Yijin Wei

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

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#### **External Affairs (EAB)**

Peter Su

gsc-eab@mit.edu

#### **Housing & Community Affairs (HCA)**

Malvika Verma

Nicholas Triantafillou

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#### **Muddy Charles Pub**

Alex Genshaft

gsc-muddy-chair@mit.edu

#### **Orientation (OC)**

Akshata Krishnamurthy

German Parada

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### Staff

#### **Administrative**

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Elizabeth (Betsy) Granese

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### GSC Office

77 Massachusetts Avenue

Room 50-220

Cambridge, MA 02139

Phone: 617-253-2195

<http://gsc.mit.edu>

1. Introduction, Dinner, New Faces
  - a. Quorum Check
    - i. 44 present
  - b. Approval of November GCM Minutes
    - i. Approved
2. Karen Singleton – Director of Mental Health and Counseling
  - a. At MIT a lot of discussion about Mental Health
  - b. I like to focus on things that a bit granular, we want to be transparent, we want to be open
  - c. We are a typical university counseling service in some respects, but unique in others
    - i. We have many people specialized in mental health (28 clinicians)
    - ii. We have a variety of specialties
    - iii. We also have weekend staff members
      1. You can call or meet with people during the weekend
    - iv. Approved to hire 2 new people
      1. Community outreach & engagement
      2. ACCESS: Available to consult (all day, phone: 2532916) with students for people who are concerned about peers, etc.
  - d. Have an active group program
    - i. Social anxiety
    - ii. 1<sup>st</sup> year students
    - iii. Women
    - iv. Etc...
  - e. Some of my observations (MIT vs other universities)
    - i. Went on listening tour and talked to students
    - ii. Made changes based on feedback
    - iii. Top complaint about website, we're redesigning it, based on student committee.
    - iv. We have teams that specialize in certain concerns (e.g. LGBT, Women,...) can look
      1. Can look at our website and pick your right fit



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- v. We are trying to transition to a community-style service
- f. Always have people who can talk to you, you can walk in
- g. Have utilization rate of 22%
- h. We want to accommodate everyone
- i. Historically we referred out grad students, now we only refer on a case-by-case basis
- j. We have no session limits
- k. We create an individualized session plan for you
- l. Stigma
  - i. We need everyone's help to change notion of not wanting to seek help. Let people know that students (22%) seek help. Help-seeking is a sign of strength
  - ii. Let people know that we have a diverse staff, we have many ways in which you can engage with us, even if you are concerned with other people. Come in in a preventative way
- m. Your issue is not too big/too small to come in. We are trying to be as flexible/nimble in helping you.
- n. Q&A
  - i. Q: Question on hours. Many grad students work after 6pm. What do we do then? Are we doing something to open in walk-in hours for later in the day (e.g. 7-9pm)?
  - ii. A: Slightly more complicated than it appears. When we did surveys, the times people said they wanted to come in, they were really varied. We're thinking of creating a new satellite office in West Campus.
  - iii. Q: How are you balancing this outreach program with the limited number of clinicians you have?
  - iv. A: Every service is struggling with the balance between outreach, clinical prevention, training... Many different things at work, complicating factors. For some reason, when you add new clinicians, it doesn't really reduce the wait time. We are looking to create a strategic plan. A big issue is with outreach (e.g. meeting with individuals vs going out to a student group). We'd need additional staff, but not generalists. We have to look at different models. We're trying to adopt best practices (e.g. from Canada).



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- v. Q: I'm a first-year student. What is the best way to get involved in the community of mental health, advocacy?
1. A: One of the ways is that we have not had successful peer programs.
  2. We have an online program, but it's not working as well.
  3. We have Peer Ears. We reach out and connect.
  4. Pleasure (sex-positive group)
  5. MedLinks
  6. REFS
- vi. Q: You quoted 22%. How does the figure break down in grad/undergrad, how do grad students get funneled.
- vii. A: Last year we had more grads vs undergrads (as opposed to last year). We see more 1<sup>st</sup> years. We're still referring more grad students vs undergraduates. A lot of students are coming from OGE, GPS. We also do work with the departments.
- viii. Q: What kind of outreach are you doing with the faculty?
- ix. A: It depends on the department. Some departments are willing to cooperate (e.g. Physics), others not. We're looking for allies/champions (e.g. MindHandHeart). We (students) should advocate for that, the chair of the faculty will be open to listening. Also go to dept. administrators.
- x. Q: Is MedLinks going to be extended to grad dorms?
- xi. A: Greg Baker is running it. Talk to him.
- xii. Q: Stigma on mental health; part of the stigma might be the 22% (it's high). Have you thought about a survey during orientation in order to identify people with mental health issues
- xiii. A: We try to do it on a case-by-case basis. We're looking for neutral ways to reach out to people, we don't want to make people feel targeted. Increased utilization also has to do with more resources available.
3. David Nino – Gordon Engineering Leadership Program, Senior Lecturer
- a. Thank you for inviting me. I came to MIT to try to build professional skills/leadership skills. It's one of the Vice-Chancellor's priorities.



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- b. Idea about doctoral minor
- c. Idea of a leadership certificate
- d. How many people are going to academic/industry/government roles?
- e. Such leadership skills are particularly important in government and especially in industry.
- f. Leading Creative Teams: A class meant to build a foundation of leadership skills
  - i. Building self-awareness, personal/interpersonal skills, team skills, can learn how to build a team. Develop a lucid sense of direction, power, influence, etc...
  - ii. Methods: Informed about how professional skills develop.
  - iii. We have assessment (more than 28).
  - iv. We have case analysis, managing ethical dilemmas.
  - v. We also talk to people from industry. E.g. Pixar.
  - vi. Very practice-oriented. Learn how to communicate a vision, practice it.
  - vii. We write autobiographies.
- g. Doctoral minor: Try to find a way to have students take this class and fold it in your minor.
  - i. E.g. used Leading Creative Teams along with 2 more Course 15 classes for a minor in ChemE. My advisor was supportive.
  - ii. E.g. took Leading Creative Teams at the advice of my advisor. I'm planning to do a minor in entrepreneurship (+2 more classes). It's going to be good skills for management & leadership, gives lots of good tools (career planning, autobiographical sketch...)
- h. Sometimes advisors are not as supportive in such minors, but I have talked to some Department Chairs and they are supportive.
- i. Just starting those conversations (~20 so far). I have yet to hear "this is a waste of students' time". Some people actually want to take this class.
- j. Q: For students who are more humanities-focused, is there an impediment? Does it require knowledge of STEM?
  - i. No
  - ii. Also, course just got Course 15 (management) status
- k. For leadership certificate



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- i. Maybe modularize/disaggregate “Leading Creative Teams” and break them up into smaller workshops. Offer them through several years.
  - ii. If we ran a certificate series, not for credit, how many people would be interested?
  - iii. How can we do this, so that it’s successful? How do we align it with grad student needs? Suggestions?
    1. Analogy: GRT program has a core and some electives. Maybe this certificate can have a core and some electives/modules.
    2. Could you not also integrate it with other certificate programs?
      - a. E.g. LGO
    3. Concerning spreading over time. Sometimes we might want some intensive programs during quiet seasons (e.g. IAP)
      1. The best way to learn professional skills would be to practice them.
4. 64.gsc.5 Updates to the Policy Platform Updates
- a. Changes to the sections on Rights & Diversity, Quality of Life, Civic Engagement & Voting Rights, Higher Education & Funding, R&D Funding, International Student Issues, Promoting Research.
  - b. Q&A
    - i. Q: Allowing students at US universities to apply for US citizenship. How realistic is it?
    - ii. A: We are not aiming to have everything be immediately achievable. We can have aspirational goals.
    - iii. Q: Is there any reason we are skipping the permanent status?
    - iv. A: We’re not, it’s still there.
    - v. Q: What’s your philosophy in terms of scope?
    - vi. A: Sometimes we like to be broad, sometimes the language is more specific.
    - vii. Q: Are we voting on it as a package or item by item
    - viii. A: As a package, but we can split it.
5. Updates from Future of Diversity and Inclusion Working Group



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- a. 2 past presidents have been working on the Future of Diversity and Inclusion Working Group
  - b. We have noticed that some of our initiatives have been ad hoc. We need to be a consistent leader in such fields.
  - c. We're trying to think about the next few years.
  - d. What we've done so far:
    - i. We've met with lots of people, we've had soundings. We've had 5 meetings through IAP. We have collected a lot of information. We will distill them over the next month and produce results.
    - ii. We're working on a report.
    - iii. We're going to present you with steps for Council.
    - iv. We'll give a full report to you at the March GCM.
    - v. We have a google drive folder.
  - e. GSC used to have a Diversity Committee back in 2005
6. Officer Updates
- a. Mental health
    - i. What can we do to promote mental health at the dept. level?
    - ii. E.g. listening tours?
    - iii. Q&A:
      1. Individual professors are the key to changing the attitude. Those professors aren't going to come to listening tours without pressure.
      2. Find a way to get more people to talk more openly about mental health.
      3. Try to get more faculty members. Contact faculty members. See who is already receptive, try to get them to influence colleagues.
  - b. Departmental Best Practices
    - i. Strong points vs weaker points of each department. We made a survey, we sent it out, we only got 31 responses.
  - c. Council Rep Funding
    - i. You have Council Rep Funding, this period ends on Feb 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. New Constituencies
    - i. Based on the Y Report
      1. RED



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2. SCM

3. SDM&IDM

4. Microbiology (maybe)

e. Commencement Updates

i. We had commencement focus groups

ii. Time and space issues were brought up.

iii. Commencement committee formed 4 possible suggestions (back in December/January)

iv. There was some discussion, we wanted to have focus groups to get feedback.

v. Please, if you have additional feedback email Gayle Gallagher ([gayle@mit.edu](mailto:gayle@mit.edu))

f. Newsletter

i. What works for you, what doesn't?

ii. Starting in March, will open submissions to the whole Council.

g. Graduate Housing Implementation Team

i. Talked to grad dorms, will move ahead and start talking about pilots.

ii. Q: Concerning feedback for pilot programs, will the feedback given by individual dorms be weighed against feedback by the general student body when making decisions?

iii. A: As of now, we're not planning on forcing dorms to participate pilots that they are not interested in.

h. Logo Policy

i. ExComm passed new policy. Read it in full in the Agenda & Minutes page

i. Leadership Social

7. Committee Updates

a. AC

i. Taste of China

1. More than 500 people showed up

2. Fast track for people who bring their own utensils

ii. Coffee hour 2/12

iii. Grad Gala happening on March 24<sup>th</sup>, ticket sales on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>

iv. Ski Trip



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### v. Upcoming Events

1. Battle of the Bands
2. Casino Night
3. Escape the Room

### b. ARC

#### i. Profs on Tap

1. Last event was overbooked

#### ii. Distress your dissertation rate

1. 90% satisfaction rate
2. Collaborated with writing center

#### iii. Leadership minor

### c. ASA

#### i. LEF-ARCADE funding

1. GSC will help with some of the issues

#### ii. ASA database issues

### d. EAB

#### i. IAP workshop Advocacy 101

#### ii. Spring Legislative Action dates

#### iii. NAGPS Northeast Regional

#### iv. Upcoming meetings

#### v. Next meeting Feb 8<sup>th</sup> at 5pm (GSC Office)

### e. HCA

#### i. Star Market (Green Street) closed

1. Talking to DSL, they've been proactive about it, looking to bump shuttle services, LaVerdes discounts

#### ii. CostCo shuttle program continuing. Please come and help us

#### iii. New late night dining in Walker Memorial

#### iv. Stipend Recommendation – Soon!

1. GSC Presentation key factor in stipends (Feb. 27)
2. 3.8% average increase over last 4 years
3. Email gsc-hca with ideas

### f. Muddy

#### i. 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Muddy

#### ii. We're kicking out with a Jazz Brunch 2/23@Noon

#### iii. Next Meeting 2/26!

### 8. Open Floor





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### **External Affairs (EAB)**

Peter Su

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### **Housing & Community Affairs (HCA)**

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### **Muddy Charles Pub**

Alex Genshaft

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### **Orientation (OC)**

Akshata Krishnamurthy

German Parada

[gsc-oc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-oc@mit.edu)

## Staff

### **Administrative**

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## GSC Office

77 Massachusetts Avenue

Room 50-220

Cambridge, MA 02139

Phone: 617-253-2195

<http://gsc.mit.edu>

- a. Q: Is the Exploratory Committee for Unionization affiliated with the GSC?
  - i. A: No
- b. Q: Have they contacted the GSC?
  - i. A: No



# Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Officers**

gsc-officers@mit.edu

**President**

Sarah Goodman

**Executive Committee**

gsc-president@mit.edu

**Vice-President**

Lisa Guay

**Nominations Board**

gsc-vp@mit.edu

**Secretary**

Orpheus Chatzivasileiou

**Publications & Publicity Board**

gsc-secretary@mit.edu

**Treasurer**

Krithika Ramchander

**Funding Board**

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**Committees**

gsc-excomm@mit.edu

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

**Activities (AC)**

Patrick O' Shea

Richard Zhang

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**Activities (AC)**

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**Upcoming GSC Meetings**

Academics, Research, and Careers (ARC)	Thursday 2/15, 6:15 pm
Activities Committee (AC)	TBD
External Affairs Board (EAB)	Thursday 2/8, 5-7 pm
Events Subcommittee	TBD
Federal Affairs Subcommittee	TBD
Public Outreach Subcommittee	TBD
State and Local Affairs Subcommittee	TBD
Development Subcommittee	Friday 2/9, 6:00 pm
Housing and Community Affairs (HCA)	Monday 2/12, 5:30 pm
Off-campus Subcommittee	TBD
Sustainability Subcommittee	TBD
Transportation Subcommittee	TBD
Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee	Thursday 2/8, 7 pm
Muddy Charles Pub	Monday 2/19, 6:30 pm
Orientation Committee (OC)	TBD
Executive Committee (ExComm)	Wednesday 2/28, 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.

March General Council Meeting	Wednesday 3/7, 32-141
April General Council Meeting	Wednesday 4/4, 32-141