



# Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## General Council Meeting Minutes

March 7th, 2017, 5:30pm-7:30pm in 32-141

### 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**

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#### **Treasurer**

Krithika Ramchander

#### **Funding Board**

gsc-treasurer@mit.edu

### Committees

gsc-excomm@mit.edu

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

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

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

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

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#### **Muddy Charles Pub**

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

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German Parada

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#### **Administrative**

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Room 50-220

Cambridge, MA 02139

Phone: 617-253-2195

<http://gsc.mit.edu>

1. Introduction, Dinner, New Faces (5:35-5:40)
  - a. Quorum Check 36 here, 11 not here
  - b. Approval of February GCM Minutes
2. Executive Vice President and Treasurer Israel Ruiz (5:40-6:10)
  - a. Overview of Institute Finances
    - i. Scheduled it all the way back in November
    - ii. Arrived in 1999
    - iii. Was in Sloan
    - iv. MIT has changed a lot since then
    - v. \$19 billion
    - vi. Operating results of MIT have been rising since the 1990
      1. For the last 10 years they have been positive
      2. Before that, MIT had been losing money.
    - vii. I want to share how MIT operates
    - viii. The only funds that are increasing are the restricted, designated funds.
      1. Some of this money is trapped money because we can't use
    - ix. MIT essentially has unrestricted resources of \$1 billion
    - x. What matters is the Net Assets/Operating Expenses ratio.
    - xi. 2 reasons why it increased above 2x in the 2000s
      1. .dom
      2. First capital campaign
    - xii. At that time, MIT was at a very risky position (investment wise)
    - xiii. In the 40s MIT was almost fully federally funded, not everything was getting reimbursed, MIT never had the luxury of having money to invest
    - xiv. Now we run a diversified portfolio/revenue mix (\$2.55M)
      1. Investment returns & gifts are highly volatile-dependent on market
      2. Net tuition is ~14%
      3. We're trying to diversify so that we can be resilient concerning market trends



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- xv. Out of our endowment, the unrestricted is \$1B, we can only spend ~5%
- xvi. We can use this money for anything that we don't have restricted money for
- xvii. Challenge: Constrained Federal Funding
  - 1. Volatility
  - 2. Long Term Planning
- xviii. Investment outlook
  - 1. Endowment returns typically follow macroeconomic trends
  - 2. This is something that we care about when we're trying to run a long-term plan for the university.
  - 3. We've been able to save money so that we're more resilient vs
- xix. We need to maintain competitiveness
  - 1. We have \$2B of deferred maintenance
  - 2. We have had issues, we needed to make serious investments on facilities
- xx. We've had a cumulative growth in revenues & expenses
- xxi. 2000-2010
  - 1. First time MIT had money
  - 2. People were cramped
  - 3. Era of expansion – not about renewal
  - 4. Everything got financed through borrowing
- xxii. 2010-2017
  - 1. Era of renewal
  - 2. We have to rely on borrowing
- xxiii. Debt
  - 1. We've been able to issue 3x100-year bonds at 3.5%
  - 2. Able to leverage against our endowment
  - 3. We needed to fundraise \$1B, we've only been able to raise \$150M
- xxiv. I wanted to give you a historical perspective of the MIT
- xxv. Q&A:
  - 1. Q: You show that net tuition is 14%. What would that look like if student aid was nonexistent?
  - 2. A: About double



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3. Q: In the 2000's you had development. Some of the blds were expensive to design. Comments.
4. A: Not in table when decisions were made. MIT has a tradition of supporting architecture. But now we have a greater sense of financial rationality. E.g. for dorms we have financial metrics that have to be fulfilled
5. Q: Do you have a breakdown of costs?
6. A: 50% personnel, 25% research & consumables, 25%: 1/3 depreciation, 1/3 services, 1/3 research agreements
7. Q: What is the perspective on using the Metropolitan Warehouse?
8. A: We acquired it in 1958. We've had 10 studies on what to do with the bldg. None were implemented. 3 years ago, we took a shot at converting it to UG dorm. Didn't work out. At such time Dean Sarkis proposed to move Architecture and others there. We're on a focused fundraising effort
9. Q: Concerning the leveraging ratio.
10. A: Not a specific target. It is important for credit rating agencies. We're better leveraged vs other universities
11. Q: Given MIT's better finances, are we accelerating?
12. A: We are, MIT Nano, no touch of campus left untouched. We could accelerate more, but we could paralyze campus.
13. Q: Do you know what the financial metrics were when your predecessors decided to defer maintenance?
14. A: Issue of prioritization. E.g. UG financial aid was uncompetitive, grad support needed to be increased. When you don't have money, survival, when you first get the money, you'd put it on people first, rather than buildings.
15. Q: Effect of endowment tax?



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16.A: \$10-20M is our best estimate. We don't have the exact wording for it. It's going to be a hit to our budget, especially the unrestricted part. We're working on adapting, prioritization.

17.Q: Loans on 100-year bonds. Buildings are not meant to last as long.

18.A: We essentially have to pay 100-year old debt. Building depreciation lasts 40 years. Essentially, you're moving the debt from buildings to real debt.

3. Updates from Future of Diversity and Inclusion Working Group (6:10-6:25)
  - a. We've been working on issues on diversity.
  - b. We realized that there's a lot that GSC lacked with respect to the diversity support.
  - c. We want to make sure the GSC is well equipped to handle issues
  - d. We met with people who had some stake in issues concerning diversity & inclusion
  - e. We formed the WG, we presented to all of you in February
  - f. We've identified some issues, we've had some preliminary ideas
  - g. Over next month we'll be gathering feedback, working on this issue
  - h. Preliminary Recommendation Themes
    - i. D&I Representation on the Executive Committee
    - ii. D&I representation on Council
      1. Improvement to the at-large process, difficult implementation
    - iii. Better alignment across GSC Committees & Boards
      1. Outreach/D&I Liaisons to Committees and Boards
    - iv. Statements on D&I/Community Values
      1. Alignment with parallel ExComm discussions on statements
      2. D&I Platform and value statement to inform advocacy properties
    - v. More outreach to student groups
      1. E.g. conduit assembly
      2. Amplification of student voices to administration
    - vi. Cooperation with larger institute initiatives



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1. Nominations Board can help get grad students in decision-making
- vii. GSC Internal Structure
  1. What is the best structure for D&I initiatives as a subcommittee of HCA
  2. What would a new Standing Committee/Board look like?
- viii. Deliverables
  1. March GCM
    - a. Open call for ideas to be included in a D&I Platform
    - b. Introduction of resolution to add D&I representation to the Executive Committee
  2. April GCM
    - a. Final WG recommendations & report
    - b. Preliminary values statement/D&I Platform Points
- ix. Open house Monday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2pm-4pm in 50-220 (GSC Office)
- x. We've got a lot of information out there.
- xi. Diversity & Inclusion Platform Ideas
  1. <https://goo.gl/forms/EqwQkKVjbgkeJuCk1>
- xii. Q&A:
  1. No questions
4. 64.gsc.6 Resolution to Update the Policy Platform (6:25-6:40)
  - a. We had a bunch of discussions on what should be there
  - b. These statements were approved by the GSC External Affairs Board
  - c. We are dealing with issues on Rights & Diversity, Quality of Life, Civic Engagement & Voting Rights, Higher Education Funding, R&D Funding, International Student Issues, Promoting Research, Climate Change
  - d. Motion to end discussion passed.
  - e. Vote 47-4-0 it passes
5. Introduction of 64.gsc.7 Resolution for Diversity and Inclusion Position on ExComm (6:40-6:50)
  - a. Ty Austin presenting



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- b. One of the things that we are trying to do is get a voice on ExComm.
- c. We're trying to work with other committees. We're trying to collaborate.
- d. 3 main points why it is important to have someone on excomm.
- e. Michael
  - i. As president I tried to bring all the relevant viewpoints
  - ii. Will create a better link with DIS and other parts of the GSC
  - iii. Ensure that the GSC continues to foster inclusion and equity on campus
- f. ExComm consists of Officers, Committee Members, other people appointed by Council
- g. Q: Why are we doing it this way and not making DIS a fill Committee
  - i. A: The common denominator is someone who is in ExComm to help make these decisions. We want to make sure that someone is in ExComm retreat to help form the decisions.
  - ii. Q: Why is this faster than making DIS into a full committee?
  - iii. A: What we need to figure out first is what the long term structure look like. Common denominator is someone on ExComm.
- h. Q: ExComm meetings are open. Has DIS attended ExComm meetings in the past?
  - i. A: DIS has attended meetings,
- j. Q: We want DIS person on ExComm to increase representation. How does the committee propose to represent all minorities?
- k. A: We'll give presentation later. It is not reasonable to expect someone to
- l. Q: This committee has only existed for a year. Why such a big rush.
- m. A: We want to make sure that there's someone on ExComm retreats. It seems that no matter what the other options are, we may need
- n. Q: You mentioned that you have been attending meetings, but you have not had power. Why do you need the power?



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- o. A: It makes sense that you should have a vote on all things that are being discussed. It is emotionally draining that I am disenfranchised. We are looking into promoting equity.
- p. A: There needs to be some responsibility on ExComm to have someone
- q. Q: I agree that we need to give time to give time to represent everyone.
- r. A: We have an adequate structure to represent everyone. We have a growth plan.
- s. Q: What is the process to add a new committee?
- t. A: We would need to amend the bylaws, would require 2/3 to go ahead and do this. We don't have the exact text to being before you. What we're presenting you is a proposal to get someone on ExComm. We're open to
- u. Q: What is the long term plan?
- v. A: We get someone on ExComm, then we get to create a committee. We don't want an explicit sunset/timeline. We don't want to repeat the mistakes of the past.
- w. Q: What is the parent committee to DIS? Shouldn't HCA also be promoting diversity? Why do you need two?
- x. A: That's why we're going down this third part. "Does council think that we should have someone on ExComm?" We have included HCA chairs in conversation. It goes back to the point that we want to collaborations.
- y. Q: Is there a precedent?
- z. A: No
- aa. Q: What is your timeframe for becoming an actual committee?
- bb. A: No timeframe, we're thinking that the next leadership, new HCA can from that point embark on what they can do next.
- cc. Q: Can you give us an example of DIS not having enough intersectionality.
- dd. A: Some of the groups that DIS is not getting to interface with other underrepresented groups. Build support structure. Cornell event took a lot of coordination, we had to raise a lot of money.
- ee. Q: Since a lot of questions seem to be around representation around this
- ff. A: There's no guarantee that there's going to be representative



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gg.Q: In the bylaws, it's stated that there need to be election procedures for the

hh.A: The DIS has bylaws on how elections happen. Elections need to happen this year, most people were appointed for this year.

ii. Q: I understand that there are different procedures that Committee/Subcommittee

jj. A: There's so much power in having a vote when setting the budget. However we have more flexibility.

kk.Q: ExComm position seems like a half-measure. Why not take time to discuss it fully and then set it up.

ll. A: Full process of amending bylaws is very involved. We may need to have someone involved in discussions. We feel that putting someone on ExComm is appropriate.

## 6. Nominations! (6:50-7:00)

- a. Ian Tracy – President & Treasurer
- b. Orpheus Chatzivasileiou – President
- c. Richard Zhang – Secretary
- d. Peter Su – President

## 7. Officer Updates (7:00-7:15)

- a. GSC Statement Approval Process
- b. Graduate Housing Implementation Team
- c. Food Insecurity
  - i. Naomi Carton is in charge of that. Please talk to her.
- d. Council Rep Funding
  - i. Thank you for using all your money.
  - ii. Here are the rules for everyone who is new. You can double it if you collaborate with others.

## 8. Committee Updates (7:15-7:30)

- a. AC
  - i. Taste of Event
  - ii. Grad Gala
    1. Tickets running out
  - iii. Battle of the Bands
    1. Please spread the word
- b. ARC
  - i. Profs on tap
    1. March 13<sup>th</sup>
  - ii. VISTA





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1. Brought on as subcommittee
2. They've been doing a lot of great stuff
- iii. Academic interview panel
- iv. Crowdfunding campaign (MITAA)
- v. Prof. Devpt. WG
  1. Please sign up for the survey
- c. ASA
  - i. In process of going through group applications
- d. DIS
  - i. DIS in a nutshell. Events/initiatives run by DIS
  - ii. We have structure run.
  - iii. Conduits across departments. Have conveners at head of each school.
  - iv. How do we keep ourselves accountable?
  - v. Some departments are not talking about diversity.
  - vi. We're looking for more adequate access to ExComm, independent platform for diversity.
- e. EAB
  - i. Prep for DC Trips
  - ii. Prep for MA Statehouse Visit
  - iii. Sexual Misconduct Advocacy with GWAMIT
  - iv. Upcoming meetings
  - v. Next EAB Meeting: Thursday March 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - vi. Are you tracking the non-compete legislation on statehouse?
    1. If you want to do something about it, please work with us.
  - vii. HCA
    1. Stipend recommendations out
  - viii. Muddy
9. Open Floor (7:30)



# Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**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**

Krithika Ramchander

**Funding Board**

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**Committees**

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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 |