



Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

August General Council Meeting Minutes

3 August 2016, 5:30pm

Minutes: Sarah Shapiro, Arolyn Conwill, Orpheus Chatzivasileiou

1. Introduction, Dinner, and New Faces
 - a. Quorum check: 46, meets quorum
 - b. Approval of July GCM Minutes: approved by placard vote
2. Committee Updates
 - a. ARC
 - i. Panels upcoming: next one is 1 week from today
 - ii. Working with ODGE to circulate best practices in graduate advising
 - iii. Working with MIT-Gordon leadership program to organize leadership workshops
 - b. AC
 - i. Biweekly coffee hours and community service programs start next month
 - ii. Ski trip will be at Smuggler's Launch?
 - iii. Next trip: Six Flags on Sat. August 20th
 - iv. Next meeting: Aug. 24 at 6
 - c. HCA
 - i. New chair!! Sarah Shapiro!
 - ii. Paid parental leave policy updates
 1. Stalled because the administration now wants to consider parental leave policies for grad students AND employees
 - iii. Costco shuttles: starting in September, hopefully!
 - d. EAB
 - i. Updates from Kathleen, Chemistry rep and EAB Events Chair filling in for Daniel
 - ii. Equal pay bill passed in MA legislature
 - iii. Daniel and Peter are coming back from NAGPS
 - iv. Updates to legislative platform (quality of life and government transparency)
 - v. Want to do voter registration and recruitment
 - vi. Legislative action days September 10-13
 - vii. Ivy+ conference Sept. 30-Oct. 2
 - viii. NAGPS National conference also coming up
 - e. Muddy Charles
 - i. Updates from Arolyn, filling in for Zsigi
 - ii. Muddy orientation week in September (9/12-16)

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gsc-officers@mit.edu

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gsc-vp@mit.edu

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gsc-secretary@mit.edu

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Sunandini Chopra

Erik Tillman

gsc-arc@mit.edu

Activities (AC)

Saurabh Gandhi

Ina Kundu

gsc-ac@mit.edu

Assoc. of Student Activities (ASA)

Nichole Clarke

gsc-asa@mit.edu

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gsc-eab@mit.edu

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gsc-hca@mit.edu

Muddy Charles Pub

Zsigmond Varga

gsc-muddy-

chair@mit.edu

Orientation (OC)

Sarah Goodman

James Kaczmarek

gsc-oc@mit.edu

Staff

Administrative

Lauren McLean

Elizabeth (Betsy) Granese

gsc-admin@mit.edu

GSC Office

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- iii. New board of advisors coming
 - iv. Working to make a Muddy endowment
 - v. Board is still recruiting (graduate students, postdocs, and faculty are all eligible)
- f. Orientation
- i. Aug 29-Sept. 14
 - ii. Made sure all event coordinators are on track with logistics at last meeting
 - iii. Gifts have been ordered
 - iv. Volunteer day will be postponed until after orientation
 - 1. No coordinator signed up
 - 2. Historically low attendance
 - 3. Event will still be happening, just later
 - v. Final stages of event planning!
 - vi. Still need help (coordinator positions are mostly filled, but need people to talk up GSC during departmental orientation sessions)
 - vii. Want more people to be involved in GSC
 - viii. Invite people to GSC open house
 - ix. Email coordinators if interested in talking at departmental orientation
 - x. Good opportunity to talk about the things GSC does outside of orientation
 - xi. ISO events need more volunteers
 - xii. Question from Orpheus: how many people are interested in speaking at department orientation? 4-5 raised hands
3. Breakout sessions for rep feedback
- a. Graduate student spaces on campus
 - i. Need for social spaces
 - 1. Some departments have lounges, but others do not
 - 2. Even though Muddy/Thirsty exist, they are pubs and attract a certain crowd. Perhaps more varied options are required.
 - ii. Need for quieter spaces
 - 1. Places to take a phone call
 - a. E.g. for an interview
 - 2. Places to have lunch with a friend
 - b. Five schools collaboration
 - i. Breakout session notes (Sarah)
 - 1. Have events at Sloan- easier for sloan people to get to
 - 2. 2 departments at a time, make it more personalized
 - 3. Mech e muddy, similar to this



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4. Don't hear about gsc events
 - a. Reminders for events
 - b. Anno- Too much in one email
 - c. Generally read things forwarded by dept admins, more than anno
 - d. Anno- Too many things, too hard to retain
 - e. Reminder email a few days before
 5. People will go to events based on who they know will be there
 6. Networking events? With different department or school
 - a. More likely to go to that than social
 - b. Professional events, more likely to go
 - c. Free food
 7. Mega muddy Monday doesn't really work, a lot of segregation by department
 8. Chem- did a thing where you had to find someone in another dept before you got food
 9. EAPS- joint academic conference between EAPS and Sloan
 10. Events having an interdisciplinary focus. Better than social events where there's no benefit of having 2 departments there
 11. People are busy- they prioritize hanging out with their friends not ppl they don't know
 12. Workshops based around a theme, come to learn a skill ex: Dance
 13. Speakers on diversity issues
 14. Professional development- targets older students closer to graduation
 15. Socials for women across departments
 16. Try and build actual collaborations.
 17. Focused event that brings together 2 departments
 18. Events that encourage same people to come to a series of events
 19. MIT open house was good for collaborations between departments
- ii. Debrief notes (Sarah)
1. People usually go to events because their friends are going to be there
 2. Have specific events targeted at departments
 3. Get specific emails



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- a. Do people pay more attention to the Anno or to department emails?
 4. From discussion, preferable to have pairwise events, rather than events that combine all the schools. May lower barrier to leaving social bubble
 5. Professional and academic events more appealing than social events
 6. How many people prefer academic vs. social events?
 - a. About 2:1 for professional events
 7. Feedback: MIT Open house was a good way to get the different schools to interact with one another
 8. Feedback: Pairwise events could keep from event becoming school of engineering, but pairwise events means that students would only see one another once
- c. Outreach to constituents during Orientation
- i. Breakout session notes (Arolyn)
 1. What would incoming students want from the GSC (big picture?)
 - a. Wall with sticky notes for what to do with budget? Mock Council meeting?
 - b. Also include current grads?
 2. GSC as opportunity to change/vehicle for goals
 3. Not know what GSC does currently
 - a. Anno important
 - b. Communications through department reps
 - c. Reps need to reach out to constituents
 - i. Way for reps to be identified? T-shirt/hat/name tag?
 - d. Reps underutilized
 - i. But concerns about burdening with chores
 - ii. But also passing on information is minimal effort
 - iii. Reminder about Council rep funding (some don't know)
 - e. Quarterly/monthly report of what the GSC did for the grad student body?
 - f. No communication with GSC if program has no rep
 - i. GWAMIT reaches out to grad admins
 - ii. Debrief notes (Sarah)
 1. Question from breakout session: To what end do we



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want to do outreach?

2. We want more and more diverse involvement
 3. Want reps to be a connection between GSC and department
 4. Want more people to get involved in the GSC
 5. Ask people what they would do with a given sum of money, to start people thinking what they would do for the good of graduate students
 - a. Could do with first years or with upper year students (might be more actionable)
 6. How can we make people care? (Not just constituents but also reps)
 - a. As reps you get funding per semester per rep to hold socials for department
 - b. Could do monthly email to department, to let people know who reps are and what is going on in GSC
 7. Could we get magnetic nametags or something to identify ourselves as reps?
 - a. Could consider for next year
 8. Make a list of things that graduate students take for granted that are provided by GSC
 9. Would people read a quarterly GSC update?
 - a. Roughly 5 "yes", about 15 "no"
 10. Poll on people in GSC from each school (dominated by engineering)
4. Officer Updates
- a. VP:
 - i. Institute committees involve faculty and students, all deal with MIT policy on different subjects
 - ii. Nominations board nominates graduate students for institute committees
 1. Interviews candidates and creates short list of candidates
 - iii. Have received applications, interviewed people and ranked applicants
 - iv. Sent out majority of recommendations to committee chairs
 - v. CJAC rankings will be sent out by the end of the week
 - vi. Next up: orientation for committee representatives in September
 - b. Treasurer
 - i. Funding board had first quarter funding awards



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- ii. Awarded \$90,000 to students
- iii. If you have questions about allocations, talk to Lisa
- iv. Apply to the funding board task force!
 - 1. Improve the way GSC distributes funds
 - 2. Deadline is August 8th
- c. From mid-August until October GCM
- 5. Open Floor
 - a. If you are interested in graduate student spaces, go to TEEC meeting in an hour
 - b. If you are interested in changing bylaws, email gsc-secretary@mit.edu
 - c. How do we get reps from departments that don't currently have reps?
 - i. Reach out to individual departments through grad admin or networking (some departments have no communication with GSC other than the Anno)

Upcoming GSC Meetings

Academics, Research, and Careers (ARC)	Wed. August 10 th @ 6:00pm
Activities Committee (AC)	Wed. August 24 th @ 6:00pm
External Affairs Board (EAB)	Thurs. August 11 th @ 5:30pm
Federal Affairs Subcommittee	Thurs. August 4 th @ 6:00pm
Housing and Community Affairs (HCA)	Tues. August 9 th @ 5:30pm
Sustainability Subcommittee	Tues. August 16 th @ 5:00pm
Muddy Charles Pub	Tues. August 23 rd @ 6:00pm
Orientation Committee (OC)	Tues. August 9 th @ 7:00pm
Executive Committee (ExComm)	Wed. August 31 st @ 6:30pm

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