General Council Meeting
July 12, 2017

Sarah Goodman
Lisa Guay
Orpheus Chatzivasileiou
Krithika Ramchander

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New Faces

- Welcome to General Council!

Quorum check

Approve June Minutes

- Found on GSC website and GCM announcement email

70 Amherst St.

70 Amherst St.

- The undergraduate dorm formerly known as Senior House will become a graduate dorm for this upcoming academic year.
  - Timeline for how long it will remain a grad dorm is uncertain.
- Chancellor Cindy Barnhart and Vice President for Student Life Suzy Nelson recognize that the addition of 70 Amherst will not suffice to meet the current need for graduate housing.
  - They will be working with the graduate community to support students moving into 70 Amherst and to expand grad student housing stock

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Decision making process

- Letter to undergraduate student body from the Chancellor
  - "Unfortunately, …it became clear this spring that the turnaround had failed. We learned that dangerous behavior …was taking place in the house and … that the community knew about the behavior, but was neither stopping that behavior on its own, nor turning to us for help in stopping it."
  - "To our great regret, the [turnaround] plan was also met with intensive efforts to perpetuate and reimpose Senior House, thus undermining any chance for a new community to succeed.
  - We reluctantly came to the conclusion that the only path left to us was for the building to house graduate students.
- The GSC was not involved in the decision to turn Senior House into grad housing

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Moving to 70 Amherst

- Listed on graduate housing website
- Housing lottery extended to Thursday to give grad students the opportunity to rank 70 Amherst as their preference.
- Students who have already been placed in the lottery can request to move to 70 Amherst.
- Students already living on- or off-campus can request to move to 70 Amherst.
- Assignments in 70 Amherst will be made through a lottery.

70 Amherst Street

Structure of 70 Amherst

- All single rooms - no shared rooms
- Air conditioning
- Smoke-free, pet-free
- 128 single rooms, with community bathroom and kitchen in hallway
  - Ratio of 4.3 students per toilet.
- 5 single apartments with private bathroom, living room, and kitchen
- Rooms are furnished

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What happens to the undergrads?

- Undergrad dorms already crowded because of New House renovation
- Some undergraduates will be placed in graduate dorms
  - Most likely less than 60
- Undergrads are being offered $3000 credit or a 10 meal per week meal-plan as an incentive to move to grad housing
- Undergrads will participate in the lottery system - they rank their preferences, and may or may not get a spot

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What happens to the undergrads?

- Undergrads who are placed in grad housing and who continue at MIT for grad school will be offered a spot in grad housing their first year of grad school.
  - Precedent set in 90's when the decision was made to house all freshmen on campus
- The GSC was not involved in the decision to place undergrads in graduate housing or offering this incentive structure.

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Moving Forward

- Housing update will be going out to all grad students in a few days

- Ad-hoc working group on Graduate Communities
  - Proposed membership:
    - GSC Officers
    - HCA Co-Chairs
    - Grad dorm presidents or representatives
    - Incoming residents of 70 Amherst (continuing grad students)
    - At-large grad student members
    - Kristen Covino, Associate Head of House
    - Naomi Carton, Associate Dean for Residential Life and Dining

Professional Development Intitative

Graduate Professional Development

- One of Vice Chancellor Ian Waitz's top priorities for the year is developing a plan to improve grad student professional development
- Will build upon the Graduate Professional Development Working Group that was restarted this spring
  - ODGE, GECD, GSC

Tentative Plan of Attack

- Stage 1: Information Gathering
  - Timeline: Summer-Fall 2017
  - Goals:
    - Understand what is already available to students at MIT
    - Identify gaps in resources
    - Gather best practices from departments, other schools
  - Actions:
    - Catalog current offerings: Institute-wide, departmental, student groups
    - Collect information about effective programs/offerings at other schools
    - Perform comprehensive analysis of existing data relating to professional development (with MIT Institute Research)
    - Conduct student focus groups

- Stage 2: Develop roadmap and begin implementation
  - Timeline: Fall 2017 - Spring 2018+
  - Goals:
    - Fill gaps in offerings
    - Improve awareness of available resources
  - Actions:
    - Create well-publicized resource repository
    - Share best practices across departments
    - Identify and expand successful models
    - Develop and pilot new programs to fill gaps

Background

- 2012-2013 - ODGE convened Task Force on Graduate Student Professional Development (TFPRO)
  - Charge:
    - To collect, review and summarize desirable skillsets, both discipline-specific and transferable, for MIT graduates in various disciplines and employment sectors (e.g. through alumni surveys, focus groups, current literature, etc.) and to **identify core competency areas**
    - To **map current MIT professional development offerings to identified skillsets and core competency areas**
    - To **identify best practices** within and outside of MIT in the area of professional development
    - To **provide recommendations for formulating a comprehensive coherent set of offerings** by building on best practices, exploring synergies, addressing gap areas, allowing for a balance between discipline-specific versus transferable activities, etc.
    - To **propose options for supporting and collaborating with graduate programs** and connecting professional development activities to curricula
    - To report on potential opportunities to leverage online platforms to provide professional development content and enhance in-person professional development activities

  - Report: https://mit.edu/odge/mitonly/TFPRO%20Report%20Final.pdf
    - Certificates required to access

Domain	Goals for our students	Specific outcomes of training, experience, or professional development
Ethics	- Consistently act with professional ethics	- Know professional standards for ethical behavior and academic integrity - Use interpersonal and collaborative practices to enact and defend these ethics
Communication	- Speak and write clearly for varied audiences - Present varied information effectively	- Convey technical matter creatively and efficiently, including via visual formats - Master appropriate forms of scientific writing (e.g., persuasive research proposals) - Provide, elicit, and respond to technical feedback, as in journal and proposal reviews - Explain your work to broad audiences - Develop strategies for effective email writing, informal communication, and social media participation
Teaching, coaching, mentoring	- Skillfully teach, coach, and advise others - Write and interpret effective reference letters	- Understand content and methods for teaching in your field, along with promising innovations - Develop your repertoire of teaching methods and materials - Know your teaching strengths and weaknesses - Know how to developmentally guide others in their work, including when and how to offer advice and direction
Critical thinking	- Creatively draw on relevant inputs to solve problems - Apply logic consistently and rigorously - Recognize and adapt to findings and changes	- Use varied methods to glean, screen, and synthesize new ideas and findings linked to your work - Identify, test, and defend the logic, framing, and assumptions underlying your research or projects - Design creative and practical solutions to challenges in the course of work, on your own and with others - Shift the focus of your activities as warranted by the stage of the project
Personal development	- Build networks of professional relationships - Manage work activities productively - Build a meaningful life and career - Continue to develop professional knowledge and skills	- Develop productive professional relationships across your institution - Expand relationships in academic or industry circles (conferences, online, etc.) - Prioritize your own tasks, manage completion, allocate attention, and follow up to enable personal time management - Master techniques to efficiently handle email, documents, information, and materials - Set and enact reasonable goals for work, personal, and family life by understanding and aligning professional and other roles - Assess job opportunities, seeking and obtaining appropriate new positions - Employ practical strategies to respond positively to critical feedback and to develop personal resilience - Build mentoring relationships to enable your own development - Understand career lifecycles and requirements for advancement in order to manage your own growth (for instance by seeking developmental assignments or pursuing new positions) - Develop practical strategies for continuing to update your knowledge of research, trends, and technologies in your own and related fields
Leading and working with others	- Collaborate and interact effectively in teams - Negotiate skillfully - Enable effective interpersonal interactions - Actively advance diversity in professional domains - Lead others - Start up new things	- Learn frameworks and methods for working with others, including in creative, problem-solving, and implementation modes - Design and manage workflows, accounting for interdependencies and uncertainties, in team projects - Know basic approaches to negotiating and develop requisite practical skills - Learn approaches to conflict resolution, facilitation, difficult conversations, interpersonal feedback, consensus building, and group decision making - Design and run effective meetings - Customize effective performance management methods for supervisees - Manage up to enable support from above - Appreciate different perspectives, backgrounds, disciplines, and frameworks - Adopt and defend professional practices to support diversity in your classroom, office, group, lab, department, institution - Frame meaningful goals for individuals, teams, and organizations - Connect goals to cogent & compelling accounts of your own experience or vision - Understand leadership traits and activities and your own leadership profile to draw on strengths and address gaps - Employ innovative thinking to imagine new possibilities - Develop a toolkit and personal experience base for building new projects, programs, labs, or companies

GSC ARC: Cataloging Current Resources

- Task Force Landscape Survey
  - The 2012-2013 Task Force reached out to all departments to get a comprehensive list of Prof Dev programs available to grad students
  - The information was mostly attained through graduate admins and was limited by the response rate of the departments
  - The data was compiled into a matrix of offerings which was comprised of mostly yes/no responses with limited in-depth information
- By updating the survey, we can get access to both up-to-date and also more in-depth and complete data
  - This is where GSC can help!

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What we need help with

- Looking for department reps to help gather information from departments
  - Looking for general information
    - Does your dep. have resources to help with resumes?
    - Does your dep. have resources for finding careers open to you?
    - Etc.
- Looking for your perspective as a grad student
- Grad Admins can also help fill in information you don't know

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Moving Forward

- Please email GSC-ARC@mit.edu and let us know if you are willing to be a POC for your department
- We will then reach out to you soon with information to collect
  - ➢ This won't be a major time commitment as most of the information you will most likely know off the top of your head and one meeting with a grad admin can fill in the rest
- An email will be coming out to all graduate students soon from the Professional Development Working Group also helping ARC solicit help in gathering this information

Final Note

- Finally, If you are interested in providing input into the types of questions asked or are just interested in Graduate Professional Development in general:
  - Please come to the ARC committee tomorrow, July 13th at 6PM in the GSC Office
  - We would love feedback and help devising questions that will get us the best and most complete picture of graduate professional development at MIT

- Thanks in advance everyone!

Officer Updates

Office of the Vice Chancellor Update

- Name changes
  - ODGE → Office of Graduate Education (OGE)
  - DUE → Office of Undergraduate Education (OUE)
- For time being, no changes to functions or roles
- Developing new structure
  - Vice Chancellor Ian Waitz is convening all-hands retreats this summer and will keep GSC updated as decisions are made
  - Ian is sensitive to staff uncertainty
  - Timeline for structural changes unclear at this point

Committee Updates

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Karthik Akkiraju and Yijin Wei
Co-Chairs
gsc-ac@mit.edu

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Summer Social 5/14

- Experimental Coffee Hour

- Non-Coffee drinks and game

- GSC Games Bundle!

New Coffee Hour Team
gsc-ac@mit.edu

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Upcoming Event

Harbor Island Trip : 7/22

BBQ, Games, Water.

SOLD OUT
THANK YOU!!!

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New Initiative
AC Outreach Sub-Committee

- Community service
- Teaming up with student organization

Next AC Meeting: 13 July, 7-8 PM

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ACADEMICS, RESEARCH, AND CAREERS

Pat O'Shea and Richard Zhang

Co-Chairs

gsc-arc@mit.edu

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July 2017 GCM ARC Updates

- The Nuts and Bolts of an Academic Job (July 19th, 2:30pm-4pm, Rm 34-101)
  - Five panelists (women-majority) have been confirmed
  - Individual departments have the information and have been distributing it
- Finding a PostDoc (August 17th 2:30pm-4pm (planned))
  - Beginning search for panelists now
- Career Resources for Graduate Students
  - Resources to be advertised at Orientation Resource Fair
  - Planning a Career Options for PhDs Panel and other (TBA) events in the weeks leading up to the Career Fair

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July 2017 GCM ARC Updates

- Advising Initiative
  - Working to collect information on the Advising practices of individual departments
  - Planning a Choosing an Advisor event to hopefully occur in the Fall based on the information gathered
  - Need more information from following departments:
    - MechE   Management
    - Chemistry   Econ
    - Civil   ORC
    - Biology   HASS
    - Physics   HST
    - Media Lab

June 2017 ExComm Meeting ARC Updates

- Distressing Your Dissertations
  - Planning to hold a week long event the 1st week of August for grad students to have a quiet space in the Library to work of their thesis
  - Food will be provided
  - More Information to come

- Please come to the monthly ARC meeting: Tomorrow, July 13th at 6pm in the GSC Office
  - Will be focusing on Advising Initiative and the landscape survey
  - Free Dinner!

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ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Sabina Chen

ASA President

asa-exec@mit.edu

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ASA Database Update

- New database will likely be rolled out later this month
- Background:
  - Old database no longer supported by IS&T
  - New database platform (CampusGroups) purchased last October
  - Much work since then to implement critical functions in new system
- What does this mean for you?
  - During a short transition period, will not be able to make updates to group information
  - Documentation will be provided to help groups navigate the new system after migration
  - We expect no significant disruption in ASA and SAO support

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BOARD

Peter Su: Chair

gsc-eab@mit.edu

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HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Malvika Verma and Nicholas Triantafillou

Co-Chairs

gsc-hca@mit.edu

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HCA Matters

- Diversity Subcommittee is up and running

- Meeting with GRTs and Grad Dining

- Recruitment for Family Subcommittee

- Email us if you are interested in helping with the Cost of Living survey

Contact us: gsc-hca@mit.edu

Come to the next HCA meeting on July 24th at 5:30 p.m.

- Interested in…
  - Best food in the GSC
  - Mental Health topics
  - Improving transportation at MIT
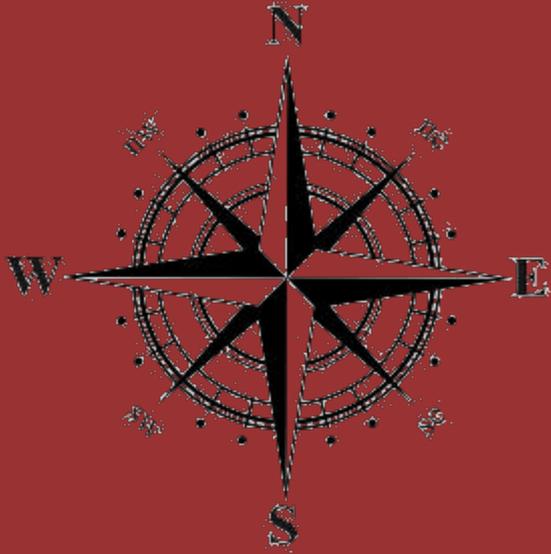 - Housing quality and affordability
  - Family and childcare

everything starts with a good conversation

http://www.gassassociates.com/

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MUDDY CHARLES PUB

Alex Genshaft

gsc-muddy-chair@mit.edu

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ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

German Parada and Akshata Krishnamurthy

Co-Chairs

gsc-oc@mit.edu

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What has happened?

- OC meeting last week
  - Selected the logo competition winners – awaiting the final logo from the publicity team
  - Website content uploaded
  - Still looking for Event Coordinators – can you help recruit?

- Meetings with key contacts
  - This Week: Meetings with the Office of the President, and Individual Event Coordinators, and MIT Libraries
  - Next Week: COOP, MIT FCU (gifts, sponsorship)
  - TBD: School deans (funding) for the OneMIT Banquet

We're looking for Event Coordinators for:

- Graduate Panels
  - Replacing grad 102-103. Six panels (1h each), topics TBD
  - Recording (Video/audio) for people who can't make them
- Graduate Welcome / Presidential Address
  - On Monday, 8/28 in Kresge from 1:30-3:30 pm
- Networking event with MIT AA
- Reception Under the Dome
- Family Carnival
- ISO Welcome Dinner
- Pride Welcome
  - Held at Thirsty Ear; coordinate with the Rainbow Lounge

Email us: gsc_oc@mit.edu

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