



Graduate Student Council of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

December General Council Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2016, 5:30pm-7:00pm

Officers

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President

Arolyn Conwill

Executive Committee

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Vice-President

Angela Crews

Nominations Board

gsc-vp@mit.edu

Secretary

Orpheus Chatzivasileiou

Publications & Publicity Board

Board

gsc-secretary@mit.edu

Treasurer

Lisa Guay

Funding Board

gsc-treasurer@mit.edu

Committees

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Room 50-220

Cambridge, MA 02139

Phone: 617-253-2195

<http://gsc.mit.edu>

1. Introduction, Dinner, and New Faces
 - a. Quorum check
 - i. 43 present, 5 not present, Quorum Reached.
 - b. Approval of November GCM Minutes
 - i. Approved unanimously
 - c. Comment: Next Council Meeting in Feb.
2. Committee Updates
 - a. ARC
 - i. Co-organizing with SPI a panel for govt. jobs
 - ii. Dissertation bootcamp 9-13th December (name will change)
 - iii. Invitation to fill course survey xx.THG
 1. 12 departments signed up for this
 - iv. Advising work with ODGE
 - v. Co-sponsoring patent law workshop.
 - vi. What would you like us to do?
 1. Companies that could offer jobs to intl. students?
 - b. Activities
 - i. "COUNTRY" events going well
 1. Taste of Egypt
 - ii. Grad gala April 15th
 1. Ticket sales start in February
 - iii. More events with postdocs.
 1. Battle of the Bands in March
 2. Monthly board game nights
 - iv. Ski Trip sales over
 - c. External Affairs
 - i. Recent events
 1. NAGPS Natl. Conference
 - a. Stopped them from spending $\frac{1}{4}$ of their budget on a lobbying firm
 - b. Made good connections
 2. Election Debrief Panel
 - a. Potential EAB Subcommittee for Public Outreach
 - i. Email us for info
 3. Preparing statements on



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- a. Sexual Harassment/Assault
 - b. Research grants
 4. Upcoming visits to DC, local congressional offices
 5. Univ. liaison resigned, position open.
 6. Also want another events subcommittee member.
- d. HCA
- i. Large fire in Cambridge
 1. Families displaced
 2. Want to help them
 - a. Gift registry on Amazon
 - b. Publicize to community
 - i. Season of giving, buy some items for the displaced people.
 - c. List will be populated by Friday.
 3. COST OF LIVING/Stipend update recommendation
 - a. If you are interested in participating, let us know.
 - ii. GWAMIT: Childcare grant proposal
 1. We've been trying to get scholarship grants
 - a. We used to have some, but ran out
 2. GWAMIT is working to develop a need-based scholarship
 - a. Not necessarily for TCC
 - b. Especially interested in the needs of international students.
 - c. We're also collecting testimonials.
- e. Muddy Charles
- i. We will have Jazz Brunches
 - ii. Please apply for the Muddy Monday
 1. What would you like to see happen?
 2. The new VPSL wants to improve grad student wellbeing.
 - a. Can we put an ATM outside the Muddy?
 - i. We've spoken to MITFCU, this is ongoing.
 3. Closed over most IAP.
 4. Will reopen on February
 5. We're thinking of a new program:
 - a. Fireside talks with Professors at the Muddy
 - i. Informal talks about any topic, really
- f. Orientation
- i. We're planning Spring Orientation to take place over the last 2 weeks of IAP.



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- ii. We're having joint events with ISO, ODGE, etc.
- iii. We want to have a resource fair to highlight different student groups.
 1. A lot of people want to hear about graduate student groups.
- iv. If you have ideas about events, or if your organization is doing events around that time, please let us know.

3. Officer Updates

a. President

i. Student Life Fee will NOT rise next year.

1. We objected to raise

a. We were not consulted about this.

2. We will work with the UA moving forward to harmonize funding mechanisms

3. Most of the SLF goes to DAPER.

4. Another chunk covers MIT Medical for some mental health initiatives

ii. NLRB

1. General Counsel asked for our feedback for the FAQ they posted.

b. VP

i. Holiday Party 5.30-9.30 in Za Restaurant

1. Dec. 16th

ii. Nom. Board looking at 5 Engine Groups.

iii. New Reps please see the VP for orientation.

c. Treasurer

i. We got more Career Fair Money

ii. We are in a position to consider rescoping the budget.

4. Old Business (17 min; 6:06pm-6:23pm)

a. Brief review of parliamentary procedures (2 min)

i. Note: YES+NO votes do NOT need to meet quorum for Bylaws amendments

b. Bylaws Amendments (5 min each)

i. Thank you for coming to the Bylaws discussion event.

ii. 63.gsc.6 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning Council Meeting Procedures

- Summary

- When special meetings can be scheduled

- When you can revoke



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- Remove main or principle motions
- When you can ask for a revote
- Removing roll call
- Amendment
 - Change monthly meetings back to what Constitution says
- Voted to consider amendment proposed by Orpheus
 - Question about whether this would allow putting all three semester meetings in September
 - Could make "regular" stronger
 - Pointed out that May and June meetings must occur
 - Motion to update language: "regular meetings shall be at least 3 weeks apart"
 - Amendment to amendment approved, amendment approved
- Voting on amendment
 - Yes - 51
 - No - 0
 - Abstain - 0
 - Passed!
- Some confusion over process for making comments
- iii. 63.gsc.7 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning Committee functions
 - Summary:
 - Committees must have written procedures that are posted
 - Updating P&P description
 - Two specified awards in Bylaws - remove these
 - Daniel's amendment
 - Article II, Section G, Item 11, Paragraph 8
 - EAB
 - Remove "In exception to Article II, Section B" from the text
 - ~~"In exception to Article II, Section B, subcommittees of the External Affairs Board will continue to operate for a term specified in the Purpose of the Subcommittee (the term may be~~



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indefinite)"

- Motion to consider – amendment approved

- Voting on amendment

- Yes - 46
- No - 0
- Abstain – 2
- Passed!

- iv. 63.gsc.8 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning Funding and Budgets

5. New Business

a. More Bylaws Amendments

- i. 63.gsc.9 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning removal of Committee Chairpersons

- Remove committee chairs
 - Committee can vote to remove (already exists)
 - Council can also remove (without suspending committee)
- Question - Committees already can remove chairs
 - Operating procedures of committee will specify who can vote

- ii. 63.gsc.10 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning affairs pertaining to Council Officers

- How to handle ties in officer elections
 - Revote up to 3 ties, then flip a coin
 - Is there discussion between these votes?
 - Do we want to add amendment to add in discussion between votes?
 - What if there is a tie between candidates should be eliminated?
 - Maybe we should amend this
- How to impeach an Officer
 - Who presides? Copy procedure for committee chairs
 - Neutral party
- What happens for officer vacancies?
 - There will be an election
 - Other officers share duties
 - VP would fill in for President

- iii. 63.gsc.11 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning Council Meeting Procedures



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- Reconsidering legislation – what does that mean?
 - Majority vote to reintroduce to normal legislative process
- Long explanation of the yes + no = quorum
 - Need to keep track of who is still in room to make sure we count all abstentions
 - Question about why this was added two years ago
 - Chris just left
 - Concern that a minority can overrule a bunch of people that don't have a strong opinion
 - Council reps could motion to table
 - Someone wants to amend to make it a requirement to make yes's half of quorum
 - We will table this discussion for now
- iv. 63.gsc.12 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning the Election of Council Representatives
 - Updating conflict of dates with Constitution and make applications rolling
 - Right now Council has to approve individual members from dept without governing body
 - Get rid of requirement to submit documentation to VP to continue to serve
 - Elections if you have more than one person running for at-large positions
 - Council will elect if no narrower constituency
- v. 63.gsc.13 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning Finances and Spending
 - Prevent sketchy transactions
 - Up cap on stabilization fund
 - Move Initiatives Fund out of Bylaws

6. Open Floor

7. Post-GCM Social at the Muddy Charles Pub