



Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

General Council Meeting 63.4 Minutes September 14, 2016, 5:30 PM

Meeting minutes:

1. Introduction of new faces
2. Quorum check
 - a. 48 responses (6 not present)
3. Minutes approval
 - a. Minutes approved unanimously
4. Guest: Anantha Chandrakasan
 - a. New innovation initiative: The Engine
 - b. Innovation
 - i. Some venture capitalists not interested in impact as much as quick ROI. We need patient capital.
 - ii. One you leave MIT, have to recreate labs. We need affordable space. You also need mentoring support
 - c. Unserved need: Breakthrough innovations cannot leave the lab
 - d. What can we do?
 - i. Increase available space for offices/lab/equipment
 - ii. Give access to mentorship/capital/equipment/talent
 - iii. Access to virtual marketplace
 - iv. Expedite technology licensing
 - v. Committee will be set up for these.
 - e. Engine room
 - i. List of experts, equipment, facilities. Reduces lab-to-business lag time.
 - f. The Engine is a separate entity. MIT and other limited partners will invest.
 - i. To help startups (and MIT startups) get on the right foot
 - ii. Facilities and equipment will be provided through there.
 - iii. Will be a funding board (some will be investors)
 - iv. Will have evaluation board (MIT will have nothing to do with that)
 - v. Grad students/faculty could be involved
 - g. Happy to get feedback, answer questions
 - h. We are looking into solving issues
 - i. Conflict of interest
 - I. Eg start a company while you're a student
 - ii. Visa issues
 - iii. Access to facilities
 - I. Which? Who gets priority?
 - iv. Expediting licensing from MIT
 - i. Q: Differences in application processes if you come out of MIT
 - i. Difficult to say "This is an MIT startup". Will be a regional play. Will involve other regional players, alums, etc.
 - j. Q: If you're a student looking to graduate, will I have funding for living expenses.
 - i. Startups will be funded, you can then pay yourself a salary. We are going to be patient capital. On the MIT side, we can help students craft

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successful applications

- k. Q: Priority for grad students vs Engine-funded startups for lab resources.
 - i. We've got a model for this already (FFA). Priority is probably going to be given to grad students.
- l. Q: Is the research that we do in our lab property of MIT?
 - i. If you make "significant use" of resources, yes. You have to license it from MIT. We could theoretically license it to someone else, if they are more likely to do the most good.
- m. Do you know of any other current initiatives that have to deal with visa issues?
 - i. Approaches vary, but at the end of the day, we all have to deal with the same issues/same laws.

5. Michael McClellan

- a. Assessing research advising: Pilot subject evaluation initiative
- b. thg-survey@mit.edu
- c. Everyone who's doing research is signed up for xx.THG.
- d. Some departments have a xx.(high number) that indicates pre-quals research.
- e. Any class that you take will be evaluated at the end of semester. Not these, though.
- f. We'd like to have xx.THG research subjects and evaluate them.
- g. Last year we created a set of 14 questions about research/advising/advisor relations
- h. Spring 2016 we got 2 departments to sign up.
 - i. All questions but the last one are visible.
 - ii. Last one: Free text. Visible to only the person running the survey.
- i. 30% response rate.
- j. The free text ones have been very helpful to course 6.
 - i. Cards on the mail.
 - ii. Will be training opportunities for senior/junior faculty.
- k. We want to expand to every department. Each department needs to sign up by Nov. 11th.
- l. Anyone who feels they have a stake need to get in touch with their admins and try to push for implementation.
- m. There's a 1 page document with information.
- n. Right now Michael McClellan the point of contact. Future up to the individual departments.
- o. Contact your graduate officers. There's a lot of excitement.
- p. Questions?
 - i. Q: Is there a way to have anonymous feedback to the professor?
 - 1. Your responses are decoupled from your identity. Of course you could implicitly identify yourself. All results get aggregated.
 - ii. Q: Isn't it a goal to get individual advisors to be evaluated?
 - 1. Logistic (use current system) aspect, student privacy aspect (you're anonymous).
 - 2. Q: Is it a long-term goal?
 - a. Not currently



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iii. Q: If you aggregate data, how can you identify powerful and bad professors?

1. Right now it's an issue and we don't have data. At least we'll now have data, the department will be motivated to figure out what is wrong.

6. GSC Committee Updates

a. ARC

- i. Fall travel grant round
 1. Over half funded thanks to additional funds recently approved.
 2. Next deadline coming up
- ii. Networking dinners
 1. People like smaller dinners
- iii. Non profit/govt. career panel
- iv. Patent law workshop
- v. Entrepreneurship panel
- vi. Best practices in graduate advising.
 1. Lists policies, resources, etc.
 2. Printed 2000. Please take some.
 3. If we email you this, will you send it to your constituencies?
 - a. Mostly yes
 4. Concerns?
 5. Hesitations

b. EAB

- i. NAGPS conference
- ii. Approve budget
- iii. Employing lobbying firm. Delegation thinks we shouldn't have it.
- iv. Upcoming legislation
 1. Int'l entrepreneurial rule
 2. Innovation & Competitiveness Act
 3. Infrastructure Research Funding
 4. Sexual harassment
- v. Will interact with local people (Senators/Congress-people) and advocate
- vi. Let us know if you want to be involved
 1. University liaison

c. HCA

- i. New Transportation Sub-Committee Chair
- ii. Paid parental leave
 1. Halted while admin is looking at their staff policy.
- iii. Costco Shuttle
 1. Running more smoothly

d. Muddy Charles Pub

- i. On regular basis:
 1. Wing Wednesdays
 2. Muddy Mondays (some Mondays)
- ii. If you're concerned about student spaces, let me know

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e. AC

i. This month

1. Taste of Mexico

a. Berklee Mariachi Ensemble

2. GSC Coffee Hour

3. GSC/Postdoc Assoc joint coffee hour

ii. Grad Gala

1. At the New England Aquarium

iii. Ski Trip

1. Sales Nov. 7th

2. Will get advertisement email.

f. ASA

i. If you're interested in the at-large positions, let us know.

ii. They're looking to revise student group membership.

iii. Q: Some groups have a number of non-students (e.g. spouses)

g. OC

i. IAP re-orientation!

ii. Events hosted by offices other than GSC

iii. We'll tie everything together and publicize

iv. What sort of events would you like to see?

v. Q: Will you market the events to people who didn't attend the first orientation?

1. Yes. If you feel strongly and have a perspective, please let us know.

vi. If you're a member of a student group and you want free publicity, let us know.

vii. Q: Will it cost us (the GSC) money?

1. No

7. Funding Board Taskforce

a. We approved taskforce in July

b. We want to make sure we harmonize funding process and increase efficiency, improve advertising.

c. 15 different funding sources at the GSC

d. Cycle deadlines

i. Push up funding application deadline

ii. Did it already for this current cycle

e. Combine deadlines, consolidate the application process, system will help you apply to the right source.

f. Issues with application itself, especially if people forget things. Revising application to be more specific about what level of detail we're looking for.

g. Post event reports: We want to make sure money is being used appropriately.

h. MIT's internal transfers take too long. Post event reports help us with our budget tracking.

i. Increase transparency.

j. Funding guidelines.



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- k. Trying to work with other partners (other funding sources).
 - l. Implementation to follow.
8. Officer updates
 - a. VP
 - i. Student travel proposal
 - l. We may want to provide the committee input
 - ii. Campus Activities Complex committee
 - l. Feedback on policy
 - iii. 76 seats filled
 - b. Treasurer
 - i. \$325 received so far
 - ii. Expected to receive a bit more money. May be a bit more
 - iii. We're ok as far as finances go. We can draw on Stabilization Fund.
 - iv. FY17 spending to date.
9. New Business
 - a. Bylaws Amendments
 - i. Require 2/3 support of Council
 - ii. Orpheus says the Bylaws need to be amended. Why?
 - l. Align with current practice
 - l. Fix missing things or dysfunctional things
 - b. 63.gsc.6 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning Council Meeting Procedures
 - i. Voting and procedure fixes
 - l. Shorter notice for special GCMs (1 week proposed; 2 weeks currently)
 - a. We don't use carrier pigeons anymore!!
 - l. Reconsideration of legislation
 - l. References to specific types of motions that aren't defined (legacy of Roberts Rules)
 - l. Anybody should be able to request for a recorded vote
 - l. Recorded votes can use clickers
 - c. 63.gsc.7 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning Committee Functions
 - i. Committees should have written procedures
 - ii. Subcommittees currently dissolve when the chair changes; propose to continue at discretion of chairs
 - iii. ARC & AC give awards listed in Bylaws; the budget process covers this
 - iv. P&P description does not reflect current reality
 - d. 63.gsc.8 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning Funding _____
 - i. Proposed changes:
 - l. Allow more flexibility in funding cycles
 - l. Update Funding Board meeting procedures
 - a. Open meetings not particularly useful
 - b. Plan is to keep transparency but fix meeting issues
 - l. Update 3-yr inflation adjusted average equation
 - l. Update "Reserve Fund": we actually call it the "Stabilization Fund" (because there is another "Reserve" account)



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5. Update voting on Stabilization Fund disbursements

e. You can comment on legislation!!

i. <https://gsc.mit.edu:444/legislation/>

10. Open floor

a. MIT Future use of land. Please come over!

11. Adjourned