



Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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

Meeting minutes:

1. Zsigmond Varga is parliamentarian. Also a proxy for Lisa Guay (Treasurer).
2. Clicker check – technical issues. Vote using placards.
3. Vote for approving August GCM minutes – motion to vote; seconded. Passes with 1 abstention
4. ARC update:
 - Grant funded for 1st cycle of professional dev. Exploration
 - Panel on academic search
 - Upcoming panel – alternative careers for PhD
 - Career skills workshop
 - Next meeting tomorrow in gSC office
 - GWAMIT – orientation welcome lunch last week;
5. Activities committee update
 - Six Flags trip was a success
 - Next AC meeting: Sep 20 meeting @ 5 pm – election for co-chair
 - Coffee hour Monday sep 19
 - Taste of Brazil Sep 21
 - Recruitment for grad gala team
 - Recruitment for arts chair
6. HCA update
 - Costco shuttle started; focusing on reliability
 - Paid parental leave – on hold – administration is updating their policy
 - Grad student child care grant
 - Next HCA meeting on Sep 19 at 5:30 pm in GSC office
7. External affairs update
 - Aug and Sep –
 - Visited Univ of Arkansas to meet leaders of ...
 - DC – meetings with NAGPS to improve policies for grad students
 - Updates to legislative platform
 - Friday and Saturday – advocating for Science Symposium and workshop; keynote speaker AAAS president Rush Holt on Friday evening
 - Ivy+ Conference – Brown University
 - NAGPS national conference in November – looking for delegation
8. Muddy Charles update:
 - Infographic that explains how the Muddy runs
 - Left half of infographic is the students
 - Board meeting next Tue at 6 pm
9. Orientation update
 - Last official event is tonight
 - Everything went well

Officers

gsc-officers@mit.edu

President

Arolyn Conwill

Executive Committee

gsc-president@mit.edu

Vice-President

Angela Crews

Nominations Board

gsc-vp@mit.edu

Secretary

Orpheus Chatzivasileiou

Publications &

Publicity Board

gsc-secretary@mit.edu

Treasurer

Lisa Guay

Funding Board

gsc-treasurer@mit.edu

Committees

gsc-excomm@mit.edu

Academics, Research, & Careers (ARC)

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

External Affairs (EAB)

Daniel Curtis

gsc-eab@mit.edu

Housing & Community

Affairs (HCA)

Ryan Gillis

Sarah Shapiro

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

77 Massachusetts Avenue

Room 50-220

Cambridge, MA 02139

Phone: 617-253-2195

<http://gsc.mit.edu>



Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Officers

gsc-officers@mit.edu

President

Arolyn Conwill

Executive Committee

gsc-president@mit.edu

Vice-President

Angela Crews

Nominations Board

gsc-vp@mit.edu

Secretary

Orpheus Chatzivasileiou

Publications & Publicity Board

gsc-secretary@mit.edu

Treasurer

Lisa Guay

Funding Board

gsc-treasurer@mit.edu

Committees

gsc-excomm@mit.edu

Academics, Research, & Careers (ARC)

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

External Affairs (EAB)

Daniel Curtis

gsc-eab@mit.edu

Housing & Community

Affairs (HCA)

Ryan Gillis

Sarah Shapiro

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

77 Massachusetts Avenue

Room 50-220

Cambridge, MA 02139

Phone: 617-253-2195

<http://gsc.mit.edu>

- Coordinators and volunteers – appreciation event in early October

10. Voting is working again

11. Officer updates:

- Grad student labor laws have changed – grad students at private univs are employees and have a right to unionize
- Working group to understand implications – will report to ExComm

12. VP update

- Nominations Board – 1 grad student needed for Chancellor's Advisory Committee
- Orientation for Institute Committee Representatives – Sep 29
- Need volunteer for International Council
- Council Reps – orientation for new ones after meeting; outgoing ones – service award

13. Secretary Updates

- Proposed legislation will be posted online
- Comment section – not anonymous
- GSC Page – representatives – proposed legislation or go to link

14. Treasurer Updates

- Career Fair is approaching and it accounts for 2/3rd of GSC funding
- Volunteers are required – link to sign up provided

15. New business:

- Update to the GSC legislative platform
- Application to the initiatives fund

16. Update to the GSC legislative platform

- 3 special purpose meetings were held in the summer; multiple drafts were prepared and the changes were unanimously passed on 11th August
- There is a new title and a new section related to quality of life
- The new items include:
 - Policies to increase the ease of access to public records
 - Policies that ensure that grad student income increases at or above the overall increase in cost of living and also stays competitive with other schools
 - Medical leave policies
 - Access to affordable and quality options for food
 - Policies to prevent sexual harassment and assault
 - Increase in availability, quality and affordability of transportation services
- The substantially modified items include:
 - Comprehensive health care, even when students are away from MIT
 - Gender neutral paid parental leave for all grad students
 - Quality childcare (with the emphasis being on quality, as childcare was already there)
 - A change in the language used on issues related to housing

17. A question was raised on whether free MBTA passes would be provided to grad students, similar to what was done for staff. Arolyn answered that the free pass was given only to



Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Officers

gsc-officers@mit.edu

President

Arolyn Conwill

Executive Committee

gsc-president@mit.edu

Vice-President

Angela Crews

Nominations Board

gsc-vp@mit.edu

Secretary

Orpheus Chatzivasileiou

Publications &

Publicity Board

gsc-secretary@mit.edu

Treasurer

Lisa Guay

Funding Board

gsc-treasurer@mit.edu

Committees

gsc-excomm@mit.edu

Academics, Research,

& Careers (ARC)

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

External Affairs (EAB)

Daniel Curtis

gsc-eab@mit.edu

Housing & Community

Affairs (HCA)

Ryan Gillis

Sarah Shapiro

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

77 Massachusetts Avenue

Room 50-220

Cambridge, MA 02139

Phone: 617-253-2195

<http://gsc.mit.edu>

Cambridge benefits eligible employees, and that graduate students are currently not such employees.

18. Initiatives fund:

- It was created 2 years ago, when the council voted on it
- This is the excess remaining from career fair revenue; there is currently \$27819.4 available
- The initiatives fund will be used for projects that benefit the MIT community

19. Application for using the initiatives fund – checkout kits in the Rotch library:

- Students, faculty and staff can access tools, instruments and equipment for home, research and personal projects
- MakerWorks (in MechE) will design and maintain the kits, train users and advertise
- MIT Libraries shall provide shelf space, inventory, tracking and logistics and also advertise
- The kits are ready to go; both MakerWorks and the MIT Libraries support this initiative
- The kits will be assembled once funding is confirmed
- There will be a “soft” opening without much advertising around mid to late October
- The efficacy will be determined after a semester – the goal is to have 3 to 4 checkouts per kit per year
- If the program is successful, it will be expanded and made permanent after 1 year
- Several questions were raised:
 - Question: Is MakerWorks a student group? Answer: It is a student run workshop in MechE with external grants. It is difficult to get short-term funding though, which is why they are asking for the GSC to provide \$6000 so that this program can start.
 - Question: Why should only the grad students fund this? Answer: The UA is broke, although through their own fault. Also, this program will benefit the entire MIT community, and is in line with the intention of the GSC initiatives fund.
 - Question: How do you know there is a demand for such kits? Answer: MakerWorks hours are restrictive – it closes at 9 pm and students cannot take the equipment home. MakerWorks has mentioned that students would like to take the equipment home. Also, other universities have similar programs like this one.
 - Question: It would be difficult to detect damage to the equipment visually – how do you plan to assign fault if something is damaged? Answer: The equipment will be checked for damage every week
 - Question: When can amendments to this proposal be proposed? Answer: It can be done right now.
 - Comment: The funding plan is ambiguously worded and needs to be clarified. Question: How likely is it that the project will live on if the GSC votes down from \$6000 to \$4000? Answer: If only \$4000 is provided,

Officers

gsc-officers@mit.edu

President

Arolyn Conwill

Executive Committee

gsc-president@mit.edu

Vice-President

Angela Crews

Nominations Board

gsc-vp@mit.edu

Secretary

Orpheus Chatzivasileiou

Publications & Publicity Board

gsc-secretary@mit.edu

Treasurer

Lisa Guay

Funding Board

gsc-treasurer@mit.edu

Committees

gsc-excomm@mit.edu

Academics, Research, & Careers (ARC)

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

External Affairs (EAB)

Daniel Curtis

gsc-eab@mit.edu

Housing & Community Affairs (HCA)

Ryan Gillis

Sarah Shapiro

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

77 Massachusetts Avenue

Room 50-220

Cambridge, MA 02139

Phone: 617-253-2195

<http://gsc.mit.edu>



Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

then it will be tricky but the project will likely not die out and they will try to get funding from elsewhere.

- Question: If you expect General Motors to provide funding after 1 semester, can't you get started at that time? Answer: Not sure if GM will provide the funding, especially without the metrics that they are planning to gather with this pilot program that they are hoping to start with GSC funds.
- Question: Are we voting to fund this now? Answer: The usual procedure is to have a 2-month legislative cycle.
- Comment: Send out a survey to grad students to assess whether these tools will actually be helpful for them.
- Comment: Grad students may already have access to these tools through their research labs; they may not be in need of this program.
- Question: What proportion of MakerWorks is made up of grad students? Answer: 80 to 90% of the mentors and 50% of the members are grad students.
- Question: Do you believe grad students will use this? Do you believe they can make something cool with it? Answer: Yes and yes.
- Question: \$6000 is a significant fraction of the initiatives fund. Why not directly ask MIT to fund you? Answer: There are only a couple of grants available and only one provides this amount of money; this makes it difficult.
- Comment: There have been zero proposals in the past to use the initiative fund.
- Question: Can we have a motion to amend? Answer: Yes; this year we can ask critical questions right in the beginning
- Question: If we vote now and turn down the proposal, can the person who brought it amend it and come back in October for another vote? Answer: Yes; a new resolution can be introduced
- Motion to vote to suspend by-laws and seconded. Result of vote: 30 Yes and 17 No. The motion is successful; the council can now go forward and vote to cast a vote today if they wish to.
- Motion to amend proposal – reduce the amount to \$4000 instead of \$6000.
- There was some discussion on whether the program would work with reduced funding
- Motion to end discussion and vote on the amendment (to reduce funding from \$6000 to \$4000). Result of vote: 11 Yes, 35 No, 2 abstain
- Motion to reinstate by-laws and table the discussion for now – justification for this: there is a lot of tension and aggression in the room and there is merit to going offline and bringing it in next month. Result of vote: 21 Yes, 21 No, 2 abstain. This is a procedural vote – so the “abstain” counts as a “no” and the motion does not pass.
- Motion to vote on whether to vote in this council meeting. Motion is seconded. Clarification: “Yes” means we want to go ahead and vote immediately; “No” means we don't want to vote and are in the discussion phase. Result of vote: 42



Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Officers

gsc-officers@mit.edu

President

Arolyn Conwill

Executive Committee

gsc-president@mit.edu

Vice-President

Angela Crews

Nominations Board

gsc-vp@mit.edu

Secretary

Orpheus Chatzivasileiou

Publications & Publicity Board

gsc-secretary@mit.edu

Treasurer

Lisa Guay

Funding Board

gsc-treasurer@mit.edu

Committees

gsc-excomm@mit.edu

Academics, Research, & Careers (ARC)

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

External Affairs (EAB)

Daniel Curtis

gsc-eab@mit.edu

Housing & Community

Affairs (HCA)

Ryan Gillis

Sarah Shapiro

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

77 Massachusetts Avenue

Room 50-220

Cambridge, MA 02139

Phone: 617-253-2195

<http://gsc.mit.edu>

Yes, 7 No. The motion has passed.

- Motion to vote on the resolution as it was introduced. Clarification: “Yes” means that the GSC initiative fund will fund this project; also “Abstain” means no opinion and is not counted as either a yes or a no. Result of vote: 37 Yes, 11 No, 1 Abstain. Resolution has passed.
- Motion to adjourn and seconded. Placard vote. Passed.