



Graduate Student Council of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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Vice-President

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Cambridge, MA 02139
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<http://gsc.mit.edu>

General Council Meeting Agenda

November 7, 5:30 PM in 32-155

1. Introduction, Dinner, New Faces (5:30 – 5:40 PM)
 - a. Quorum Check
 - i. 44 people are here. We have quorum.
 - b. Approval of September GCM Minutes
 - i. Approved.
 - c. New Faces
 - i. MechE Rep, Civil Rep, BioEng Rep
2. Professional Development and Career Exploration – Dave Darmofal, Career Exploration Working Group (5:40 – 6:20 PM)
 - a. Committee by Office of Vice Chancellor
 - b. Committee made up of faculty, staff, undergraduate and graduate students
 - c. Decentralized nature of resources for career exploration at MIT
 - d. CAPD (Career Advising and Professional Development), from GECD
 - e. Understaffed advisory group
 - f. Fall Career Fair – student led activity
 - g. Changes recommended to the Vice Chancellor's Office
 - h. Improvement in resources for all students
 - i. Timeline: Interim Report in August '18, Final Report in late December '18/January '19
 - j. Data of 2017 survey, before committee was constituted
 - i. 74% - Strongly/Somewhat Agree
 - ii. 26% - Ambivalent/Dissatisfied
 - k. Representation of the current data across
 - i. All graduate level programs
 - ii. Ethnic/Gender groups
 - l. Response Rate – ~22%
 - m. Data on Resources to explore career –
 - i. Utilization v/s Usefulness of the resources
 - n. Opportunity to have 'Career Exploration' Fair



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- i. Need for graduate students - Field selected, but not career (academic/non-academic)
- ii. Different timings for undergraduate and graduate exploratory fairs
- o. Usefulness across different majors
 - i. Mostly focused on undergraduates
 - ii. Choice of career options – job, medical school or graduate degree
- p. Opportunity to develop ‘Career Exploration’ edX course
 - i. Mostly focused on undergraduates
 - ii. Might be helpful for graduate students
- q. Engagement of alumni in helping students think through career options
- r. Present Scenario
 - i. Focused on Fall Career Fair
- s. Graduate Student Internships
 - i. 60% of those who responded, did internships
 - ii. Data might be biased, since MBA, EECS, MEng programs having requirements for an internship
 - iii. Reasons for lower numbers
 1. On-campus work due to RA
 2. Expectations of Advisor
 3. Expectations and anxiety of student
 4. Complexity for International students
- iv. Requirement –
 1. No. of PhD students at MIT >>> No. of academic positions
 2. Option to change careers, from academic to non-academic
 3. Networking for future collaborations
- v. Real-time polls
 1. Poll for departmental representation
 2. Poll for requirement of internship for graduate students



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vi. Need of the hour

I. Change faculty/students' perception on internships

t. Q&A –

Q: Challenges to find career exploration resources

i. : Linguistics and Philosophy – No resources at Career Fair, too focused on CS; No support from faculty
Comments by Dave: Concurrence of the same idea, and the

ii. Hard to find matches on CareerBridge

iii. TPP – Federal/State Government connections are tough for the students

iv. MechE – Career Fair focused towards undergraduates; complexity for international students

Comments by Dave: Possibility for streamlined processes for international students' internships by Government and Department

v. Mathematics – Companies do not send people related to Mathematics, or people focused on statistics, data or coding

Q: Possible solutions – Centralized Career Exploration?

vi. Department-wise mailing list focused on conferences or job opportunities

Master Calendar for job opportunities

Exhaustive list of opportunities at one place

Comments by Dave: Selective mailing list to choose from, and subscribe to

Q: Dedicated personnel at the department level?

Comments by Dave:

- Central office is understaffed
- Departmental or other staff dedicated for the purpose
- Possibility of money raised from Career Fair directed to career exploration programs

Q: Plans of Committee to reach out to faculty to allow students to go for internships?



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Comments by Dave:

- Yes
- Making plans to describe the pros of the internships to the faculty
- Include the data and the advantages in the final report

3. Kauffman Teaching Certificate on Transcripts (6:20 – 6:40 PM)

a. Kauffman Teaching Certification Program

- i. Extracurricular Credits related to Teaching to be included on the official transcript
- ii. Possibility to reconsider the decision from the Office of Vice Chancellor to include the certificate program on transcript

b. Other Certificate Programs to be included on Transcript

- i. Unanimous decision to include on the transcript
- ii. Importance of reflecting on transcript – Diverse views
 1. People may not look at transcript
 2. Industry asking for transcript

c. Inclusion of Certificate programs as Credits

- i. Advisor needs to approve then, and might not be willing to do so

d. Engage – DSL – Extracurricular System

- i. Transcript of Extracurricular Activities
- ii. KTCP may be included on that outside lab/class Transcript

4. The Future of MIT Commencement (6:20 – 6:40 PM)

a. Background

- i. Too long ceremony
- ii. Killian Court not built for so much people (1 student + 4 guests)
- iii. Option for Doctoral students – Hood + Diploma at the same time
- iv. Split by schools – Might lower the number of people for smaller schools
- v. Commencement Speaker at Killian and Degree Handling at separate venue(s)



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b. Comments –

- i. Description of ceremony at different schools
- ii. Separate commencements for different schools spread over different slots over hours/days, all at Killian Court
- iii. Segregation by degree type –
 1. Disparity in funding might be there
 2. Different for different schools
- iv. Multi Day ceremony combining larger and smaller schools making equivalent sized groups, and having different speakers
- v. Killian Court –
 1. Highlighted multiple times, since it is the ‘face of MIT’
 2. Must have the commencement there
 3. Can move into different place to hand out diplomas
 4. No other place as aesthetic as Killian Court for the ceremony
- vi. Not to split Masters and PhD (graduate) students
- vii. Commencement Speaker –
 1. Have speaker dedicated to the field by the school
 2. One commencement speaker at the Killian Court
 3. No need of speaker
- viii. Against the split between hood and diploma for doctoral students
- ix. Less guest tickets will be fine
- x. Pain point for Entry/Exit –
 1. Long time to get in through security and be seated
 2. Need to arrive around 3 hours before the actual timing of the commencement
 3. Multiple entry/exit points to the Killian Court for easier movement
- xi. International Students
 1. Need less tickets, since might not have so many guests,
 2. Can split the tickets with other students



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xii. Perspective of Administration – By President, GSC

1. Splitting by degree type

2. Single Commencement Speaker at venue other than Killian Court

xiii. Will Administration be receptive to the suggestions?

1. Yes, mostly

xiv. Poll -

1. Hooding + Diploma at same time on Thursday at Killian Court – Yes. Majority.

xv. Other feedback –

1. Waiting for Sloan faculty to respond

5. College of Computing Discussion (6:50 – 7:10 PM)

a. Skipped.

6. Committee Updates (7:10 – 7:15 PM)

a. Orientation Committee – Peter

i. Start earlier in Spring Semester

ii. Feedback will be discussed soon

iii. Elect this year's OC Chair in December

b. Council Rep Funding – Elaborated by Peter

i. Dorm Representatives

ii. Events organized across universities?

1. No. Only restricted to MIT departments.

c. Academics, Research and Careers –

i. 2 Sessions of Roads to Academia –

1. Kristala Prather, Abhijit Banerjee

2. More Sessions in Spring

ii. Profs on Tap at Thirsty Ear Pub, Nov 8.

iii. Destressing Dissertation in 2nd week of January –

1. Request for Volunteers

iv. Panel for Industry jobs for PhD Students in December

v. Entrepreneurship Panel in Spring

vi. VISTA FAIL! Happening on Nov 7

vii. Open positions for Profs on Tap

d. Activities Committee –



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- i. Taste of Canada –
 1. Students with paper plates for Express Line
- ii. Taste of Belgium – Morss Hall, Nov 27
 1. Request for people to paint at the event
- iii. Paint Nite – Thirsty Ear – Oct 17
- iv. GSC Ski Trip - Tickets Open
- v. GSC Coffee Hour – Nov 5
 1. Participated by iREFS as well
- vi. Arts Night – Dec 7
- vii. Grad Gala – Apr 6
 1. Sampling done by Team in October
 2. Food – Extensive vegetarian options available
 3. Dance Floor, DJ – Good
 4. MIT Office in the process of signing the contract
- e. Association of Student Activities Committee –
 - i. Reorganization of the committee
 1. President, Secretary, Space Chair, Group Chair, Treasurer
 2. SAO – Advisory body
 - ii. Open Positions in Group Committees
 - iii. Comments – Difficulty for Departmental Graduate Student Committees to be recognized by ASA
- f. Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee
 - i. Conduit Assembly
 - ii. Recruitments next semester
- g. External Affairs Board –
 - i. Ivy+ Summit – Adding MIT and UChicago
 1. New Board of Directors for next year
 - ii. NAGPS National Conference and Follow-Up
 1. Committee to put up by-laws
 - iii. Election Day –
 1. Balloons
 2. Democrats at State, Republicans in Senate
 3. Diversity



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4. Question 3 – Passed, and endorsed by GSC

iv. Policy Platform - Open House Update on Nov 19

7. Open Floor (7:30 – 7:35 PM)



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Upcoming GSC Meetings

Academics, Research, and Careers (ARC)	Monday, 11/19, 5:30 PM
Visiting Students Association (VISTA)	Every Monday, 7:00 PM
Activities Committee (AC)	TBD
External Affairs Board (EAB)	TBD
Federal Affairs Subcommittee	TBD
State and Local Affairs Subcommittee	TBD
Public Outreach Subcommittee	TBD
Development Subcommittee	Every Friday, 5:00 PM
Housing and Community Affairs (HCA)	Friday, 11/30, 3:30 PM
Off-campus Subcommittee	TBD
Sustainability Subcommittee	TBD
Transportation Subcommittee	TBD
Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee	TBD
Muddy Charles Pub	TBD
Orientation Committee (OC)	TBD
Executive Committee (ExComm)	Wednesday, 10/31, 6:30 PM

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

Upcoming General Council Meetings (GCMs)

Note: Dinner starts at 5:00 PM and meetings start at 5:30 PM

December General Council Meeting	Wednesday, 12/5, 32-155
No January General Council Meeting	Have a safe and happy holidays!

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