GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 6, 2019

Peter Su, GSC President
Orpheus Chatzivasileiou, GSC Vice-President
Richard Zhang, GSC Secretary
Nicole Moody, GSC Treasurer
New Faces

• Welcome to General Council!
Quorum check
Approve February Minutes

- Found on GSC website and GCM announcement email
VICE CHANCELLOR IAN WAITZ
OVC Update
GSC General Council | March 6 2019
Roadmap for graduate students (with DSL)

- Onboarding & Orientation
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Professional Development and Advising
- Financial Stability
- Housing & Food Security
- Community
- Support & Wellness
- Business Practices
Key updates

• Support and Wellness
  • Addition of new staff member to Graduate Personal Support
  • Building network with departments
  • Creating training for graduate students
Key updates

• Financial stability
  • New parental leave policies
  • Annual stiped review process on-going
  • Considering policies to help address situations of students on partial support and non-resident students
  • Grad Family Support Working Group
Key updates

- Advising and professional development
  - Advising meta-analysis
  - Connection to mental health
  - Collaborations with GradSAGE, ChemE on training faculty, GSC, and many others
  - Professional development competencies
  - Incorporation into learning goals for grad programs
  - AdvisorHUB
Key updates

• Diversity and Inclusion
  • Assessment of all programs
  • Grad Students of Color Advisory Council
Key updates

- Other items
  - Spring academic calendar changes to be proposed
  - Graduate Teaching Fellows Network
  - Quarterly grad newsletter from OVC/OGE
RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Matt Johnson
Improving Graduate Student Retirement Planning at MIT

Matt R. Johnson
Graduate Student
2nd year, Course 6
Motivation and Objective

Motivation

• 56% of Americans have <$10k saved for retirement*
• Early financial planning for retirement is crucial for Graduate Students
  – The US retirement system is in transition
  – Pension plans are rare
  – Future payout of Social Security is uncertain
• Conversations with fellow Graduate Students indicate very limited awareness of long-term financial planning, and benefits of early saving.

Objectives

• Help students recognize the outsized impact of good financial planning
  – Apply the “learn by doing” mantra to financial planning
  – Gain the benefit of compounding (otherwise lost due to late entrance to workforce, and not really recoverable)
• Demonstrate MIT’s long term commitment to students

* http://money.com/money/4258451/retirement-savings-survey/
The Financial Impact & Vehicle

Value progression for different beginning age*

Graduate school is a great time to contribute to a Roth IRA

- Power of compounding
- Tax-free income in retirement
- Maximizes tax benefit
  - Likely in lower tax bracket now compared to in retirement
- Low risk: Contributions can be withdrawn at any time without taxes or penalties*

Traditional IRA is the “pre-tax” version of the Roth IRA

- Reduces taxable income
- Withdrawals taxed in retirement
- More stringent early withdrawal rules

* *Assumes 5% annual return

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age started investing</th>
<th>Amount invested/mo. ($)</th>
<th>Total Invested ($)</th>
<th>Balance at age 65 ($)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>144,000</td>
<td>460,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>108,000</td>
<td>251,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>180,000</td>
<td>359,000</td>
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* penalties do apply to early withdrawal of earnings
# Challenges and Potential Solutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Potential Solution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Lack of discretionary income</strong></td>
<td>Acknowledge that though many students can benefit, this is a first step, and not a perfect &quot;one size fits all solution&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>− High cost of living in Boston area</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>− Not all students have the same financial needs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Family/kids</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Other</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2. Less straightforward for international students</strong></td>
<td>MIT to offer limited guidance Students seek tax advice from advisor in home country</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3. Inertia</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>− Not aware of importance</td>
<td>Educate as part of grad student on-boarding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>− Determining eligibility is non-trivial</td>
<td>MIT take on burden of determining eligibility (1st yr: ~30%, ≥ 2nd yr: ~70%*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>− Seems too complicated</td>
<td>MIT enable easy opt-in to a couple commonly accepted low-cost funds (index funds, target date funds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>− Dizzying number of investment choices</td>
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*Quick-look from Office of Graduate Education*
Potential Implementation in Atlas

Existing

MIT determine if student is eligible, and report result here

Estimated eligible contribution amount

Resource for more info on how eligibility is determined

New

Select specific investments
LEGISLATIVE PROCESS
Voting on Legislation

Introduction by speaker (5 min)

DISCUSSION with intent to vote 5 min, 1 min/speaker

VOTE

- MOTION to extend discussion (specify amount of time)
- MOTION to end discussion and vote before time runs out
- MOTION to table legislation Vote next GCM
- MOTION to amend legislation (specify exact text)

Motions must be specific, seconded, and require simple majority to pass
## Voting outcomes

Chair decides the method and means of voting (Bylaws V.C.5)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Yes &gt; No</th>
<th>Yes + No ≥ ½ Quorum</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☑️</td>
<td>☑️</td>
<td>Approve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✗</td>
<td>☑️</td>
<td>Legislation dies</td>
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<tr>
<td>☑️</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>Legislation tabled</td>
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<tr>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>Legislation tabled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
65.GSC.6 CREATION OF COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION
65.GSC.7 RATIFICATION OF IVY+ CONSTITUTION AND RULES

Peter Su
Background

• In past 3 years, University of Chicago has been invited to the Ivy+ Summit, but no consensus could be reached on how to include them officially on the roster

• Problem has been financial limitations of some schools of travel to U Chicago

• The following Constitution and Rules came out of the Ivy+ Summit discussions this year to solve this issue and help Ivy+ make group decisions
OFFICER NOMINATIONS ARE OFFICIALLY OPEN
GSC Leadership Social!

• Come chat with current and upcoming GSC leaders

GSC Leadership Social at the Asgard

March 8
5-7 PM

LEARN ABOUT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
AT THE

Graduate Student Council

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Need for Tax Resources

• Brought up by Verena (rep in Linguistics & Philosophy)

• Existing tax resources:
  • Tax workshops from VPF, HR, and ISO
  • Websites from VPF and ISO
  • 30 min consultation through MIT Graduate Assistance & Information Network (GAIN)

• Is there a need for additional tax resources?
Council Rep Funding

- **Apply for your funding!**
- Available to all Council members except those who are members by virtue of their GSC position
  - i.e. Everyone but committee/board and some subcommittee chairs
- $150/rep/term or $250/rep/term with GSC or Institute committee involvement
  - Spring: Feb 16–Oct 15, Fall: Oct 16–Feb 15
- Double your $150 if you collaborate with a rep outside your department
- Events/items must be accessible to entire constituency
- Program info: [http://gsc.mit.edu/funding/departmental-funding](http://gsc.mit.edu/funding/departmental-funding)
- Application: [http://mitgscapp.knack.com/funding#applications/councilrepfund/](http://mitgscapp.knack.com/funding#applications/councilrepfund/)
- Questions? Email gsc-vp@mit.edu
Council Rep Funding

USE IT OR LOSE IT!
Up to $250(1) could be yours(2)!!

Apply now to take advantage of this unique offer(3)!!!
http://mitgscapp.knack.com/funding#applications/councilrepfund/

Questions? Email gsc-vp@mit.edu

1. $150/rep/term or $250/rep/term with GSC or Institute committee involvement
2. Money to be used in Events/items must be accessible to entire constituency
3. Terms and conditions apply, see http://gsc.mit.edu/funding/departmental-funding
COMMITTEE UPDATES
ACADEMICS, RESEARCH, AND CAREERS

Sridipta Ghatak and Meicen Sun
Co-Chairs
gsc-arc@mit.edu
Recent Events Updates

- Entrepreneurship Panel Discussion – 2/27/19
  - Speakers included-
    - Dr. Gary Bergstrom, ECM
    - Dr. Manish Bhardwaj, Innovators in Health
    - Dr. David Borrelli, Insight Data Science
    - Ms. Juan Chen, LacTeck
    - Ms. Newsha Ghaeli, Biobot Analytics
    - Dr. Christopher Lee, InfiniteMD

Upcoming Events

- Roads to Academia with Prof. Lawrence Vale, DUSP-MIT – 3/14/19
- ARC March Meeting – 3/15/19
- De-stressing Dissertations – May 2019, exact dates TBD
- SAP-SHASS Panel - In the pipeline, slated for Spring’19
Taste of Japan
CALL FOR PERFORMERS

What: 2019 Warehouse Jazz Brunch
When: Sunday March 3rd, 11 AM – 12:30 PM
Where: Warehouse (NW30) Colbert Room
Any musical talent welcome! 10 minute or longer performances preferred.

Sign up by Sunday February 24th at https://goo.gl/forms/KDhtJlttvjPbXroH3 or email abrocks@mit.edu

Event sponsored by Graduate Student Council
Try on or order GradRat rings at their table
Upcoming Events
Battle of Bands

• 3/8 Morss Hall 5:30 to 9pm
• Pizza and live music!
• Bands:
  o The All Canadian Rejects  5:30 to 5:50
  o Gravedigger          6-6:20
  o Hilltop Sunset       6:25-6:45
  o Justin Beaver and the Dam Rock Band  6:50-7:10
  o Dylan McKay         7:15-7:35
  o Veisty              7:40 to 8
  o PomDP the PhD rapper 8:05 to 8:25
  o Love & a Sandwich  8:30 to 8:50
Monthly GSC Coffee Hour

• 3/11 6pm Forbes cafe
Taste of Louisiana

• 3/12 Morss Hall

Beignets
Paint Night: 4/2 7 to 9pm

• Co-sponsored by Community Wellness and ISO
• During Grad Appreciation week
Grad Gala

- 4/6 6 to 10pm
- Blanche will be our dean on call
- Sold out!
- Email us to exchange tickets by 3/22
Grad arts showcase

- Postponed due to launch of CoC
- 21+ event
- Please submit your art!
- New date: May 1st in MIT La Sala de Puerto Rico (W20-202)
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
SUBCOMMITTEE

Nasir Almasri
Chair
gsc-diversity@mit.edu
Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee

Completing process of transition
- DIS until June 30, 2019 (at least)

Working on Vision, Mission, and Structure
- Planning workshop at last meeting and next meeting

Second Conduit Assembly was a success!

Contact: gsc-diversity@mit.edu

Next Meeting: March 20, 2019
NEW POSITION: **GSC-IR GRAD STUDENT WORKER**

This new position seeks to increase student input in institute surveys, support student leaders designing surveys, and support a DEI focus in both.

10hr/week, $15/hr
Apply by: **Monday, March 11**

Contact: **gsc-diversity-dci@mit.edu**

Apply here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScr_2zKgL-D4m5EPXqrWiyhWP2yRnMlpOtECjXuj4NHJaPDw/viewform?usp=sf_link
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BOARD

Katie Shulenberger
Chair

gsc-eab@mit.edu
March Updates

• Federal Affairs
  • One advocacy trip to DC (three attendees)
    • Research funding, focusing on infrastructure and climate change
  • Two Upcoming DC Trips

• State and Local Affairs
  • Working on Statehouse Visit Plans
  • MA Grad Student Federation had their second meeting!

• Public Outreach
  • Looking for volunteers for a number of projects
    • Cambridge Science Fest
    • Education First tours/activities
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Jo Melville
Chair
gsc-hca@mit.edu
MUDDY CHARLES PUB

Matthias Ginterseder
Chair

gsc-muddy@mit.edu
Muddy

Walker Minds

• Bringing student organizations in Walker on the same page
• Had three meetings with various groups
• Looking to form a permanent structure
Muddy

Jazz Brunch

• great turnout
• relaxed atmosphere
• next iteration in summer/early fall

Jazz Brunch
Muddy Charles | Feb 9 | 12-3 pm
Cafe Luna Hors d’oeuvre (10$)
Live Music by Ceeband
Serving Mimosas
Cash Only | 21+ ID

Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
The Muddy Wants You!

See what the Muddy is all about!

Come to our next Board meeting (3/18)!
ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

Somesh Mohapatra
Chair
gsc-oc@mit.edu
Structure

- Pre-Orientation - Webinars and Send-Offs
- Communication - Modules and Welcome Booklet
- Events
  - Orientation Week
  - Fall Semester
Pre-Orientation

- **ISO** Webinars hosted by current students for incoming students based on region/language
  - Meeting with International Council
  - First Email shared with International Council

- **MIT AA** in-person send-offs hosted by local alumni for incoming students
Pre-Orientation Pilot

Countries/Regions

1. Arabic Speaking Nations
2. Argentina
3. Caribbean Nations
4. France
5. Singapore
6. Vietnam

Countries/Regions covered in Pilot Project

Students: 60+
Sessions: 6
Communication

Welcome to MIT!

**tl;dr:** The Graduate Student Council (GSC) is here to help! See below for the first of several informational newsletters about MIT – housing, food, transportation and medical services.

The Graduate Student Council is happy to welcome you to your new home. We are a group of graduate students (just like you) and our mission is to enhance the overall graduate student experience. We have a wide range of programs and initiatives that you can see [here](#) and hope you get involved with at least one of them once you arrive to campus. The first of those initiatives is the GSC Graduate Student Orientation which will begin on **Sunday August 26th**. We are the largest student run orientation for graduate students in the nation and we can’t wait to welcome you to the MIT community!

But even before you arrive to MIT, we want to make sure you have the tools you need to make the most of your time here. The graduate orientation team, a collaborative effort between the GSC, DSL (Division of Student Life) and OVC (Office of the Vice Chancellor), will be sending short newsletters this summer with key information, links and resources for you. Here are the topics we plan to cover:

- You’re in Good Hands
- Special Thanks and Acknowledgements
- Structure of US01
- Introduction to the Canvas LMS
- Getting Started with Graduate School
- Embracing Challenges
- Advice from Graduate Students
Communication Modules

- Welcome! (Settling In)
- Money Matters: Employment, Banking, Taxes
- Academic Resources: Support Systems/ Networking/ Funding /Prof Dev
- Health and Wellness
- Entrepreneurship + Innovation
- Community and Culture
Module - 1

Welcome! (Settling In)
Graduate Housing
  - On-campus
  - Off campus
Logistics of Living
  - Food
  - Transportation
  - Families
Welcome Booklet - Cornell

Orientation 2018

Welcome to Cornell

On behalf of Cornell’s graduate community, I warmly welcome you to campus and help you take your first steps in joining our dynamic community of scholars and researchers.

At today’s orientation you will learn about graduate study at Cornell as well as expectations and tips for success as a new graduate student.

We will introduce you to important members of our community who can help you during your time at Cornell.

Our orientation does not replace your graduate field’s orientation program; it supplements it and helps you experience the benefits of engaging in Cornell’s larger, interdisciplinary community.

Welcome to Cornell! I wish you success as you embark on your graduate education.

Warm regards,

Barbara A. Knuth,
Dean of the Graduate School
Events - Outline

- Pub Crawl - Campus Pubs
- Presidential Welcome + Welcome Picnic
- OneMIT Eat and Meet + GSC Open House
- Graduate Activity Resource Fair
- Local Outdoor Hike - MITOC
Events - Outline

- ISO Reception
- Diversity Event
- GWAMIT Welcome
- Pride Welcome
- Grad AA Mixer (around Career Fair, ALC)
101 Series

- Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Libraries and ATIC
- OVC/OGE - Academic support
- CAPD/AA/ARC
- Health and Wellness - DAPER, MIT Medical
OPEN FLOOR