General Council Meeting Agenda
May 1, 5:30 PM in 6-120

1. Introduction, Dinner, New Faces (5:30 – 5:40 PM)
   a. Called to order 5:37
   b. Quorum Check
      i. 41 present; Quorum is met
   c. Approval of April GCM Minutes
      i. Motion to approve and seconded; passed.

2. Budget Report (5:40 – 5:50 PM)
   a. NM: Year in review. New sources of income are combined into one pot in the chart on slide “FY19 Income”. The GradRat royalty shares went up due to the efforts of the GradRat ring committee. Also there was a large volume rebate. We got dividends from our stabilization fund. We also got a separate allocation from DSL specifically for orientation.
      i. Total budget: $248,000
      ii. Funding board allocations. Utilization rate was ~80%. Good job on filling out post-event reports.
      iii. Travel grant: the number of applications in terms of $ more than doubled from last year. (Allocation amounts presented: total = $169k)
      iv. APAG grant: budget = $13k; total requests = $16k, total allocations = $11.8k (APAG applications received before the start of Nicole’s tenure were not acted on.)
      v. Don’t forget that there’s a council rep fund!
   vi. Committee spending numbers are based on internal budget tracker – the accuracy of these numbers depends on our committees reporting accurately. Although it might look like we are not spending that much money, it’s really because the amounts haven’t been entered into the tracker yet.
      i. Weird case with AC - $ from grad gala ticket sales entered but expenses not entered yet.
      ii. FY19 spending - on track to meet budget

3. End of Year Report (5:50 – 6:10 PM)
   a. PS: I’m going to go over the highlights for the year
i. Structure: new development where DEI chair → Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee.
ii. Started Mass Grad Federation (9 Boston area schools) – joint visit to Mass. State House
iii. Collaboration with MITVote for voter registration and turnout
iv. Increasing interaction and collaboration with Cambridge City Council.
v. Newspaper publishing efforts – 3 student articles published in hometown newspapers.

b. PS: Social events
i. Whale watching trip, paint nights, Taste Of series, grad gala

c. PS: Communications
i. Pilot of resource round-ups: focus on professional development resources
ii. Hold regular communications meetings with all administration offices for tighter coordination
iii. Worked with administration for Campus Climate Survey
d. PS: Professional development
i. Piloted GSC Networking event: 200+ attending students, 30+ employers
ii. Alumni Leadership Conference: 4 concurrent alumni career panels
iii. Supported CAPD on development of Prof. Devel. Competency chart
e. PS: Piloted GSC orientation bulletins
i. Emphasize information before arrival on campus
ii. This prevents people from scrambling to get information when they get here.
iii. Next year: refocus on welcoming students: cut back on events to make orientation less stressful. Add more information to pre-orientation so students arrive ready.
f. PS: Grad Housing
i. You can enter the housing lottery with roommates now!
ii. Lots more flexibility with who can live where: e.g. couples can live in larger single dorms.
iii. Next year changes: 2 year renewable lease for incoming students; leases end July 31st. Advantage: masters’ students don’t
have to worry about housing. Progress towards queue-based lottery w/ self-selection in private market-like fashion (some technical issues this year)

g. PS: DEI
   i. Organizing bringing together department reps so that DEI efforts across departments can be shared and coordinated
   ii. Hired a pilot GCF to work with institute research on surveys and data processing. This would help survey data be available to all departments, and so departments can get advice on how to make a good survey.
   iii. Engaged a lot with upper admins related to ICEO search and considerations about College of Computing
   iv. Next year: New committee = DEI. Additionally, there is going to be a focus on getting DEI-focused positions on all committees.

h. PS: Financial distress and families
   i. Stipend recommendation focused on highlighting different experiences of grad students
      1. Looked at half-stipends and all-but-dissertation, and international students & families
   ii. Grad Family Support Working Group – explore how to better support grad students with families. Work on better data collection and benchmarking against other universities.

4. Officer Updates (6:10 – 6:15 PM)
   a. PS: AAU Campus Climate Survey
      i. Due date → May 3. There was an email from GSC president today with link.
      ii. This can really change how MIT handles misconduct
   b. OC: Council Rep Funding
      i. Council did not request that much council rep funding. You might want to take the free money we’re giving you! You probably want to do something nice for your constituencies. Maybe if you collaborate with another rep in another dep’t we could double the $. If you don’t use the $, then you lose it! Apply now! http://mitgscapp.knack.com/funding#applications/councilrepfund
      ii. Questions – email gsc-vp@mit.edu
a. New officers exchanged seats with old officers

6. Nominations Open for Nominations Board and Funding Board (6:15 – 6:20 PM)
   a. PS: First thing of the year: Nominations for Funding board and nominations board are now open! We need one of you [general council] to join it. Every 3 months or so we'll have a big meeting. You'll also get gifts for your efforts! This meeting we'll nominate them, next meeting we'll elect them. AJ: You can also nominate yourself.
      i. Funding board
         1. Katie nominates Nicole
            a. N: What is the term? PS: The school year. N: I don't know if I can do that. PS: I'll take that as an acceptance.
         2. Sandya Subramanian
      ii. Nominations board. PS: This is over the summer. Selects people who go on institute committees. You'll be doing interviews over the summer and looking at applications. Then there will be a big meeting to decide on final nominees for the summer. This needs to be done by fall, since that's when people need to be nominated. If you're already on a given committee, you need to excuse yourself. Q: Do you need to be in town? PS: No, but it helps. Q: What months? PS: Mostly August Q: What's the gift? PS: $50 TechCash. AJ: We want to be done by the end of July.
         1. Katie: I volunteer, but I'll only be here until September. If there are three more people, they can go.
         2. Daniel Marquez (self-nomination)
         3. Nicole Moody (self-nomination) – same issue as Katie

7. 66.gsc.1 – FY20 Budget (6:20 – 6:40 PM)
   a. PS: First resolution for the year – budget!
   b. RL: We'll go over the entire budget for the GSC. This goes into effect at the end of June
      i. Our revenue sources are basically flat
         1. Chose to increase GradRat expected income to reflect this year's expected income.
         2. Nothing super notable here. Restricted revenue sources are listed separately.
      ii. Restricted revenue
1. Lots of new restricted items – we broke them out explicitly (used to be lumped before)

iii. We expect the same amount of $ as last year.

iv. Excomm

1. Budget is basically flat from last year. As you can see, we’ve basically cut budgets for one event. We removed the orientation open house, since we’re combining it into the orientation event. We’ve cut our appreciation and discretionary budgets. Got a small net decrease in allocations.

v. Nominations

1. Pays for meetings and appreciation
2. Cut the meeting costs somewhat to reflect actual spending.

vi. Funding Board

1. We made a few cuts. We’re used to having a fiscal portfolio with a lot of risk, so we’ve kept large reserves. That’s no longer true – we are currently expecting at worst a flat budget. As a result, we feel we can accommodate a little more risk in funding. Although it looks like a cut, we won’t be cutting our allocations for FB at all. We made a 1% cut.

2. We cut Council Rep funding by $3000 because we’ve never spent more than $10k for these events. Please ask us for money or it will be cut next year.

3. Initiatives fund
   a. Funding for events that don’t get funding elsewhere.
   b. We’ve never used all of it so we cut it.

vii. P&P – Just a few minor cuts. This basically just reflects the cuts we’ve been making overall. Won’t change operations

viii. ASA – no change, but we aren’t paying for their meeting food. (They’re doing it themselves.)

ix. AC – Some increases. These include: actual costs for events (usually they go all the way up to their budget). Also, includes lost sponsorship. We want to ensure that events can be thrown with the same quality. We got rid of the small events budget
and replaced it with Paint Nights, which were the most popular of the small events. Small cut to coffee hour. Increase to reflect the fact that Alumni Association is going to cut $ from Taste Of.

x.  ARC – This is a bit confusing, since it appears that there are significant cuts, but there aren’t. The new alumni subcommittee is going to take over old ARC activities. Also, small increases for other things. Basically flat.

xi.  HCA – Pretty significant decrease in budget because they’re losing DIS. Also, the department of parking and transportation is paying for Costco shuttle!

xii. OC – Big restructure, as Peter mentioned. Focus on fewer events that do better at bringing the community together. We’ve moved funds for GWAMIT into this committee for their orientation event.

xiii. Muddy – isn’t going to be objectionable to anybody. $0 in, $0 out.

xiv.  EAB – a few changes here. We want to increase the amount of $ we’re allocating to send people to conferences. We also want to increase $ for Ivy+ and advocacy trips. New NAGPS NE Regional conference line item. We’re hosting it! This is a 1-time expense.

xv.  DEI – Everything is new, so here’s a little more detail

1.  First three line items are meetings and assemblies – standard for any committee
2.  Last three lines are outreach – town halls, intergroup dialogue, events, sending a number of people to conferences related to diversity and inclusion. Final change is that the rest of GWAMIT’s $ moved here. (Originally, $ from OGE, but they get still get some $ from us so they’re still a line item in our budget.)

xvi.  ARC – significant increase to travel grant budget. We got an additional $13k from administration, and we chose to allocate an additional $6k to this event since we think it’s valuable to the community.

xvii. Questions? We’ll vote on this in a month. (No questions)
a. PS: New efforts (from Highlights) – keep doing DEI stuff, communications, family stuff, etc. – this is stuff we did this year and this stuff won’t stop next year.
b. PS: New things
   i. Advising – student-PI relationship. There’s a lot of momentum amongst the administration for this.
   ii. ARC is going to take a lead on this to do more advising-related things. Will be outlined relatively soon.
   iii. More focus on student wellbeing and support. One thing we’re probably going to work on (started by Mohammed) is to move IREFS and give them a more permanent home within the GSC. (What happened: they were under DSL, left, and are now drifting around. We can strengthen their work by incorporating them into the GSC). HCA is taking point on this too.
   iv. Any questions? (None)

9. Committee Updates (6:50 – 7:05 PM)
   a. ARC
      i. Syl: Last month, we did our election. We did our election. We will be doing Destressing Your Dissertation event. We will have our main ARC meeting on May 16.
   b. Activities
      i. R: Grad Gala happened on April 6. It was a success! (One bus cracked down on the way.) This will put a lot of pressure on next year’s grad gala to work hard. H: Easter event – lots of families. We’ll try to advertise to students better.
      ii. Taste of Lebanon – food came really late. There was dance music!
      iii. Coming semester: Happening today (right now) is the GradArts showcase in the student center! Coffee hour next Monday – special end-of-year coffee hour with special treats.
      iv. OneWorld being hosted by MIT for the entire grad student community. Large party, very fund.
         1. Xueying (predecessor) is one of the organizer
      v. Next Paint Night is May 14
      vi. Big Acoustic BBQ is May 17 (4pm to 7pm) – live music, free BBQ
      vii. Art Gallery tour – May or June.
c. ASA couldn’t make it. No updates. Currently working towards changes to their bylaws. Main changes: remove the implementation of the no application policy of ASA. Restructuring board slightly. Changing amendment policy to match GSC. Suggest that groups have formal policy to remove members. (This is a response to things that have been happening in various clubs recently). This is all happening in September. If you have questions, contact Becca.

d. DIS

i. Nasir – we had elections. Bianca will do a great job! I'll stay as vice chair. Town hall yesterday. Enrolled student survey. Conduit assembly. Last meeting on May 15 – transition and recap for upcoming year. Elections: Chair and two vice chairs; still looking for secretary and treasurer! Within DEI, there is a role for someone who is interested in having a limited official role, bringing things to attention and working on side projects. (These are two fantastic roles that are open right now.)

e. EAB

i. Jack: We had our statehouse meeting (we didn’t have one in Fall since statehouse wasn’t in session). 11 MIT students there. 4 other schools that had grad students participate in meetings. 7 including those 4 involved in writing statements. (We still wrote most of them.) Over the past month or so we've been filling various positions; we're looking for a development subcommittee chair. You don’t need to be super involved in everything to be the chair. They just help coordinate and help ppl get their work done. If interested, let Jack know.

f. HCA
Mohammad: We’re looking for one more person.

Goal: Make MIT a home for everybody. Some goals for next year:

1. More wellness initiatives for grad students
2. Increased interactions between dorm gov’ts
3. Ensure communication between house governance and students re. allocations.
4. Promoting wellness – create a subcommittee within HCA dedicated to wellness. Still talking with IREFS to see what it’ll look like. Main goals are to work with subcommittees to work w/ people on campus (e.g. Naomi)
5. As Peter alluded to, IREFS don’t have that much of a home in the GSC. We want some kind of committee to schedule the meetings that different DREFS groups have. Want to provide resources for departments to start their own DREFS.

For those of you who are new – what HCA does

1. We talk about the relevant housing issues that are coming up.
2. One thing we’ve been talking about is the housing allocation process.
3. Other things: sustainability, transportation, families. (We’re still looking for a family rep). Off-campus, IREFS, dorms. Each dorm typically brings one person to HCA meetings.

Last thing to mention – still looking for a co-chair. If you’re interested, let me know!

1. Things I’m interested – issues that families and off-campus people face.
2. We have a budget for coffee and lunch too
3. We’re looking for people to organize off-campus events

Muddy

1. Richard is the new chair
2. Spring pub night in mid-April. 250 people. Biggest thing done last month. Next meeting May 13, 7pm.

GSC Office
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Room 50-220
Cambridge, MA 02139
Phone: 617-253-2195
http://gsc.mit.edu
i. Somesh – we have been working on pre-orientation. Webinars are set. We are looking for people – if you want to represent your country please volunteer (see Anno). Cultural mixer – helped by Office of Multicultural Programs. We want to help different people from different communities.


iii. Events: tentative deal on location. There are some issues with office of Registrar

1. We are looking for people from families communities and off-campus communities for info about events that can help them

iv. Meeting re. how dorms will organize during Orientation week.

10. Open Floor (7:05 – 7:10 PM)

a. Motion to adjourn and seconded.
Upcoming GSC Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic, Research, and Careers (ARC)</th>
<th>Thursday, 5/16, 6:00 PM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visiting Students Association (VISTA)</td>
<td>Every Monday, 7:00 PM</td>
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<td>Activities Committee (AC)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>External Affairs Board (EAB)</td>
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<td>Federal Affairs Subcommittee</td>
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<td>State and Local Affairs Subcommittee</td>
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<td>Public Outreach Subcommittee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development Subcommittee</td>
<td>Every Friday, 5:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing and Community Affairs (HCA)</td>
<td>Wednesday, 5/8, 6:00 PM</td>
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<td>Off-campus Subcommittee</td>
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<td>Sustainability Subcommittee</td>
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<td>Transportation Subcommittee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee</td>
<td>Wednesday, 5/15, 6:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muddy Charles Pub</td>
<td>Monday, 4/8, 7:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orientation Committee (OC)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Committee (ExComm)</td>
<td>Wednesday, 5/29, 6:30 PM</td>
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*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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Date, Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June General Council Meeting</td>
<td>Wednesday, 6/5, Location TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>July General Council Meeting</td>
<td>Wednesday, 7/3, Location TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>August General Council Meeting</td>
<td>Wednesday, 8/7, Location TBD</td>
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