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

1. Introduction, Dinner, New Faces (5:30 – 5:40 PM)
   a. Quorum Check
      i. Called to order 5:37pm
      ii. Quorum check:
         1. 42 present; Quorum is met
   b. Approval of May GCM Minutes
      i. Motion to approve and seconded; passed

2. 66.gsc.1 – FY20 Budget (5:40 – 6:10 PM)
   a. Alex
      i. Robin will preset revenue in the beginning of the year reserves
      ii. We’ll go through different committees and line items; each of
          the chairs will defend their own budget. We can discuss line
          items; you can motion to decrease or remove line items (you
          can’t change the amounts). Will be approved if there’s no
          objections. We need 2/3 majority to approve multiple line items
          or single line items.
      iii. PS: Any questions? [There are no questions]
   b. Robin
      i. The first part of the budget is a summary of all our inflows and
         outflows. Here [66.gsc.1 first sheet] is an underestimate of
         inflows. Includes GradRat, $ from stabilization fund (nothing out
         of the ordinary there); budget is flat from last year
      ii. The restricted sources of revenue: $ from ticketed events (will
          go into more detail later); these can’t be spent on anything but
          for ticketed events.
      iii. We have just a list of inflows and outflows for each committee.
          What you’ll see is that on the whole this represents a basically
          flat budget from last year, but we have the new DEI committee. 
          The lines in green represent an increase over last year; red
          represents a decrease over last year. I’m not going to go into
          too much detail about how these amounts were arrived at, but
          we did the budget inflows and outflows correctly
iv. [Question from audience] re. $ from DSL: is the 10% increase going to be reflected in the budget? RL: Yes, there is restructuring of the budget. Increase in student life fees comes from career fair, not us. Career fair $ was unstable, but this should be a steady source of revenue
v. Any other questions? [No questions]
c. Peter
   i. ExComm budget
      ii. We reduced GCM $ to reflect # of people showing up. We try to order food to cover the theoretical maximum because we never know when a lot of ppl will show up (used to be 60)
   iii. Everything else is identical: meetings, food, ad-hoc committee meetings as well
   iv. A couple of events: orientation open house is being combined with a different orientation event (on OC budget sheet). All the rest is still the same (e.g. the BBQs); we have ExComm retreat and transition luncheon, both of which aren’t changing. Supply costs aren’t changing either.
v. Recruiting and engagement is $ to help recruit new ExComm members and subcommittee chairs
   vi. ExComm appreciation dropping to $500 to better reflect the price of ExComm jackets.
   vii. We’re dropping ExComm discretionary to normal levels. (Dropping by $400 relative to last year).
   viii. AJ: Any questions or objections? [None] Good, sheet has been approved.
d. Alex
   i. Nominations board
      ii. As you can see, the nominations board will have elections later; basically it picks nominees for the institute and faculty committees. The board comes together roughly three times per nomination cycle (~3x per summer); same as last year. This year we plan to have an institute committee orientation to bring all the reps together, help everyone report back. We have a committee representatives meeting to bring committee and institute reps together. Also, we’ll get food (2.2 b)
iii. Any questions or objections? [None] This sheet has been approved.

e. Robin

i. Funding board is GSC investing $ into organizations and groups for events.

ii. We are cutting initiatives fund; it is under-allocated each year.

iii. We expect to allocate the same amount of money.

iv. You should apply for council rep funding. Please take our $.

v. Public service fellowships, sustainability grant, etc. are not going to change.

vi. Any questions? [From audience] Where is the rest of the $ going to?

   I. RL: It’s going to the rest of the budget. Because we made the decreases here, it gave us $10,000 to give to other committees.

vii. Any other questions? [From audience] What are initiatives and council rep funds for?

   I. RL: The council rep fund is so that if you’re a council rep here, you have opportunity to apply to funding for events for your constituency. GSC will fund or completely fund that. Initiatives funds projects that are special in some way but the GSC finds worthwhile. Historically, it’s been underutilized. We’ve been cutting this for a while. We want to keep it around though. AJ: It’s any project not covered by any other fund, but is beneficial to the MIT community.

viii. AJ: Any objections? [No objections] Sheet has been approved.

g. Naveen:

i. Most line items cut to reflect actual usage from last year

ii. Main usage is for employee salaries

iii. Any questions or objections [No objections]

h. Becca:

i. This is the ASA budget

ii. There are some elements that we believe aren’t necessary for GSC to fund this year, i.e. the general body meetings.

iii. Other expenses are for website/database upkeep.
iv. Aj: Any questions? [Somesh: does $3500 for grad students make sense for Midway?] Becca: There are graduate student clubs there. Nicole: How many clubs have grad student representation? Becca: ~200; about half.

v. Aj: Any follow-up questions? [Could you explain LEF and ARCADE?] Becca: LEF requires you to be an MIT student; ARCADE takes applications for student events. Aj: Just a comment, none of this $ is coming from GSC. [Follow-up question: is it underutilized?] Becca: Usually underutilized, but last year we spent more than last year. Aj: By groups, Becca means ASA-recognized groups.

vi. Aj: Any objections to line items? [None] Great, thank you, this sheet has been approved as well.

h. Henry

i. Activities

ii. Some slight increases in budget to reflect changes for GSC

1. Acousting BBQ: Nothing changed
2. Cultural events: Gallery tour (happens every year)

iii. Outdoor events: summer trips. Increased $ this year because removed apple picking.

1. Cost is mostly in bus fees and buying tickets

iv. Dining

1. Taste of’s
2. We’re losing $ from Alumni association.
3. Grad Gala – GradRat is no longer funding it.

v. Ski trip same as last year – no cost to GSC

vi. We canceled outreach – not very popular last year.

vii. Grad Rat – we gave them some money to advertise.

viii. Got rid of small events and put it into paint nights.

ix. We decreased budget for coffee hour

x. [No questions or objections]

i. ARC – Richard (Sylvia, Meicen not present)

i. First one, 7.1a is the ARC meeting; it’s supposed to happen for a number of times. We estimated 8 ppl ~ $10 per person.

ii. Subcommittee meetings – we combined all meeting expenses (VISTA and other subcommittees) into one line item
iii. We took out a significant portion of professional development to put into alumni outreach

iv. Sylvia will be leading the advising effort. She will also need some $ for that. That will mostly be used for panels.

v. Rest stays the same

vi. Travel grant
   1. The $13,500 is from OVC.

vii. We slightly reduced Prof. Development Exploration Grant

viii. GWAMIT – we moved it into DEI.

ix. Next is VISTA
   1. Monthly board meeting dinner has been merged with subcommittee line item; merchandise is listed here.

x. Alumni Relations subcommittee
   1. Three new events: alumni on tap, alumni talks and panels, and special projects (anything that’s not the other two). GSC networking is going to happen on September 20th on the same day as career fair.

xi. AJ (Comment): The Travel grant increased a lot because it’s heavily used
   1. [Comment from the audience] How many additional travel grants will be approved due to this change? Robin: Typical allocation amount is ~$700/person. AJ: GSC provides allocation, but travel grant allocates it independently.

xii. Any objections? [No objections]

j. HCA (Robin Lindemann) [Mohammad wasn’t here]
   i. Food for meetings with Housing and Dining
   ii. DIS is gray because it’s been moved to DEI
   iii. GRT no change, CPR no change
   iv. Policy initiatives cut due to low utilization
   v. CostCo now paid for by MIT Graduate Office, so we crossed it out
   vi. No change to IREFs
   vii. Wellness subcommittee is new: some $ for monthly meetings, wellness activities, and to help departments start their own REFs programs
viii. [Question from audience] For $ for Housing, when will that begin? AJ: They’ll probably be joining July or August.

ix. [Question from audience] What’s the difference between IREFS and DREFS? Peter: DREFS = department, IREFS = institute; they go through same training program; DREFS are managed separately.

x. [Question from audience] I heard that IREFs are underutilized, and there’s an initiatives to have more IREFs in Ashdown. Is that reflected? AJ: The wellness subcommittee is there to respond to that. There is some discussion about how the dorm IREFs and everyone fit together. Question: Would it be better to have ref’s trained as institute ref’s? Robin: If we need new funds for things, we’ll bring it up at another meeting. AJ: You have a really good point, make sure to discuss with HCA. Questioner: Ashdown wants to help.

xi. [Question from audience] I have question about sustainability. They seem to have little funding for a broad range of important things. HCA representative: It seems sufficient for the time being. We have a separate sustainability fund to fund projects. We also have some other expenses, etc., but at least for this year, the budget was not an issue. There are $7000 more for other projects.

xii. Any questions/objections? [None]

k. Orientation – Somesh

i. We combined a couple of events – 101, presidential, and welcome picnic

ii. New event: 101 series coffee hours
   1. Go deeper into semester

iii. We want to try off-season welcome events and have something to help them get orientated to the area.

iv. Welcome event for women transferred from ARC

v. The ticketed events are self-sustaining, so we reduced the budget.

vi. Volunteer appreciation now includes the cost of T-shirts.

vii. [Any questions/comments?] Why get rid of apple picking? Somesh: last year it was done by 5 departments; when done by the GSC it wasn’t well-received because the departments also
do it. AC is doing one in October though. AJ: We’re trying to spread out events.

viii. Any comments/objections? [None]

l. Muddy – Richard


ii. Any objections? [None]

m. EAB – Jack

i. Meetings are the same; price of food is the same

ii. We’re getting rid of advocacy appreciation since we don’t really use it.

iii. We increased Ivy+ since it’s going to be at Princeton rather than Cornell. The additional revenue is due to changes to Ivy+, so that now all participant schools have to pitch in $1500 for each school. However, we are telling administration to pitch in.

iv. NAGPS went down since we reallocated into another line item

v. Legislative action days are the same – we go to DC to advocate for issues.

vi. Advocacy trips – slightly increased, mostly includes AAAS CASE (for all the engineering and science professional organizations) – they have their own advocacy training and we support 2 students to go to that.

1. We also send students to Mass. Statehouse legislature, and we’d like to cover their lunches.

vii. Subcommittee activities: went up because CCTV for Public Outreach.

viii. The decrease from previous NAGPS line item went into 11.3b (new item); we’re a member of NAGPS along with several dozen schools from across the country. They have regional conferences in the spring, and we’d like to host the Northeast regional conference this spring. What this entails: we have representatives from universities across the Northeast up to Pennsylvania. They send students and there’s presentations on things that student governments have tried and have been successful, what they’d change, etc. If your dorm/department does something particularly well, you can present it to other schools. We get some $ from registration fees (we listed a conservative estimate, but I budgeted for worst case).
ix. Any questions? Any objections? None

n. Last sheet – DEI (Bianca)
   i. DEI is new starting this year, so all items are yellow.
   ii. Conduit assemblies – we’ll have meetings
   iii. Normal committee meetings and subcommittee working groups in 2
   & 3 lines.
   iv. Same as it was in HCA, but # of conduit assemblies increased.
   v. Second group: all the different initiatives for this year.
      1. Town hall: this year, we had a town hall on the student
         survey.
      2. In addition, we have $ allocated to have intergroup
         dialogue/seminar series
      3. Diversity training events in 3rd line
      4. Largest increase: travel grant for DEI-related conferences.
         Gives students ability to go to those
   vi. GWAMIT reallocated from previous ARC committee
   vii. Any questions? Any objections?
      1. Richard [not an objection]: There are always sources like
         MindHandHeart for funding for conference travel in case
         it’s not enough? Bianca: we’re talking with administration,
         etc. looking for funding to do advocacy for underrepresented groups.
   viii. [No objections/questions]
   ix. AJ: Sheet approved.

3. Elections for Nominations and Funding Boards (6:10 – 6:30 PM)
   a. Alex
      i. We need to find one more member for funding board.
         Represents 40% of budget. You get a gift for appreciation if you
         participate. Nominations from last GCM was Sandya; we have
         an additional nomination (Lizbeth – asked us to read when
         appropriate)
      ii. Sandya – I would like to withdraw
      iii. Alex – I second Lizbeth’s nomination
   b. Lizbeth (read by Robin)
      i. Speech topics include being a board member of 70 Amherst. I’d
         like to contribute to larger MIT community via funding board.
      ii. Jack: I can answer general questions; she’s one of my lab mates
1. Question: is she on top of her email? Jack: yes. Alex: she’s pretty reliable and the only one on the board who actually does work.

c. Clicker vote for Funding Board [numerical results withheld from minutes]
   i. Choices: A. Liz (only choice) (Hit quorum of 38)

d. Alex
   i. Nominations board: They nominate reps for institute and faculty committees
   ii. You’re welcome to apply; you just can’t vote for yourself.
   iii. Peter and Robin are chairing this year.
   iv. Three members at large; small time commitment (3 meetings over summer, taking student candidates for positions)
   v. There’s appreciation too.
   vi. Nominations from last meeting: Daniel, Nicole, Katie
   vii. Any more nominations? [There are no nominations]
   viii. All candidates can give statements if they want.
      1. Any candidates want to start?
      2. Daniel:
         a. I think student representation is important, so that’s why I’m interested.
      3. Nicole:
         a. I left the last meeting to get a slice of cake, then when I came back I was nominated. Moral of the story: don’t leave GCM or you’ll get nominated.
      4. Katie
         a. I was External Affairs chair last year; I nominated myself and Nicole last meeting. I am defending in August and leaving, will not be available for ad-hoc meetings thru school year; if you would like to serve, you should nominate yourself. So there will be a position open at end of summer.

ix. Candidates leave room
   1. RL: Does anyone have anything to say?
   2. [Audience member] I think Daniel will do a good job
   3. Motion seconded.

e. Clicker vote for nominations
4. Officer Updates (6:30 – 6:40 PM)
   
   a. Peter
      
      i. New requirement in Bylaws
         1. Liaisons, committees, etc.
         2. If you have questions, ask them now
         3. <Peter goes through acronyms>

   b. AJ
      
      i. Institute committees; we can participate in discussions. We need you to help – teaches you how to advocate for yourself and fellow grads. You can interact with faculty as equals. You can share your own perspective and ideas, and it can teach you leadership and how to interact in those groups. You can really make a difference as an institute rep.
      
      ii. [Question from audience: do these committees address issues at Grad level?] AJ: There are separate ones. [Are curriculum together?] AJ: Yes; student life together, etc. Full list is on our website under Representatives > Institute Rep > Become an Institute Rep
      
      iii. Please apply yourself or tell your friends to apply.
      
      iv. Student perspective is highly valued.
      
      v. [Question from audience: How much work is it? Are you advising, or are you building initiatives?] AJ: It depends on the committee – usually the monthly ones are 1-2 hours or so, provide food (lunch meeting); the advising ones try to find brainstorming sessions, make policy (that being said, institute committees are under the President, the faculty ones are under the Secretary of the Faculty). Usually the committee recommendation makes an impact on policies. Please email gsc-vp@mit.edu if you are interested.
      
      vi. Any more questions on the institute committee applications? It’s open till June 14th.

   c. AJ – council rep funding
      
      i. We have decreased it by $3000 because it was underutilized. We will decrease it again if you don’t use it. All council reps except GSC-admin reps (e.g. officers) are eligible. If you’re not sure, ask me. You can apply for up to $150 per funding cycle. If
you are part of an institute committee or have affiliation with GSC, you can increase amount to $250. If you collaborate with another constituency, you can get twice the amount. (E.g. if Sidpac and Ashdown join forces, you can get $600.)

1. Conditions: To be eligible, you need to be a council rep with good standing, have to have been at 2 GCMs since becoming a rep (Alex makes the call, though). Event must be open to the entire constituency. Please apply before the event (give me 1 week to process it). You need to include our logo, etc.

2. Funding cannot be used for Alcohol; you can by food for Muddy events, though. Things need to be tax-exempt and compliant with institute policies.

3. Use it or lose it!

4. AJ: We can’t make capital purchases because it looks like a personal purchase (we only will fund events).

5. PS: If you contact Alex ahead of time, this could possibly work out and be reimbursable. But work it out with Alex beforehand to make sure the bureaucracy gets worked out – we might be able to pull it off.

d. Peter - Bad news re. Costco cards

i. Costco isn’t allowing us to continue it, so for now it’s going away.

ii. A couple of options you have:
   1. Costco shuttle will keep running
   2. If you want to get a membership, Costco has a student discount for the first year.
   3. [Nicole: Can you create vanity emails?] Katie: No, your name has to match the card.

5. Committee Updates (6:40 – 7:00 PM)

a. ARC (Peter; both chairs off campus)

i. Only update: Advising subcommittee – if you’re interested, email the ARC co-chairs. One of their big goals is to get a representative from every department.

ii. Richard: VISTA hosted a Salsa class and a there’s going to be a pub crawl on Thursday. Alumni Relations subcommittee is recruiting – you should talk to me if you’re interested.
b. Muddy (Richard)
i. We had WMBR event – only thing that’s new is that our OGE for weekly wing Wednesdays is being cut. The Monday events got cut completely by OGE. No wings over summer and IAP, but will be there over academic year.
ii. Recruiting drive: come to our next board meeting on the 10th (next Monday) at 7pm.

c. AC (Henry)
i. Grad arts showcase had good turnout
ii. Last coffee hour
iii. Late night sold out
iv. Acoustic BBQ inside; good show of bands and people
v. Next Thurs, is art gallery scavenger hunt ($5/person). Also in Anno.
vi. Whale watching trip – selling tickets in 2 weeks
vii. Six Flags trip in August
viii. Apple picking in early October
ix. If you want to join – send us an email. You get free tickets for events. Commitment as low as 1 hr/month.

d. ASA (Becca)
i. We are currently working through LEF/ARCADE submissions
ii. If you know someone who wants to do a big event, have them reach out to us
iii. Big summer projects
   1. We are working with SAO to develop new handbook (more comprehensive list of guidelines) to condense info.
   2. Space reallocation – a lot of student group spaces are in awful condition.

e. DIS (Bianca)
i. We have some new community reps (LGBTQIA+, GWAMIT, URM)
ii. June, we’ll be setting goals for the year

f. EAB (Jack)
i. Our next board meeting is next week on Thurs; we’ll be setting plans and priorities for the upcoming year
ii. Diversity liaison and International Student liaison.
iii. Nothing about advising in GSC policy platform, so we’ll plan out some language for that and present it to you.
iv. Cambridge city council elections this fall; we’ll be working with MITVote to get people to vote.
v. Also, school board elections – families might be interested.
g. HCA (Alex)
   i. One of the big projects for this upcoming year is the Wellness subcommittee; in general, the GSC wants to make grad student wellness a priority.
   ii. Feel free to reach out to HCA if you’re interested; this follows the presidential memo from a couple of weeks back.
   iii. Wellness includes several initiatives around wellness workshops around IREF and DREF, also we want to interface with other MIT resources.
   iv. Mohammad is looking for a co-chair! If you're interested in housing, families, wellness, stipend recommendations, etc. and want to make a difference, please apply to be HCA co-chair!
v. Next meeting in 1 week; 6pm in GSC office. Primary topic will be housing concerns, family support, and financial distress.

h. Orientation (Somesh)
   i. Pre-orientation working on summer sendoffs (from origin countries to here)
   ii. Dorm-level event coordination meeting was today
      1. We want to host mini-golf at all the dorms, and other events involving dorms individually
      2. BBQs at a couple of dorms
   iii. Working on Goosechase app; want to have a campus-wide scavenger hunt.

6. Open Floor (7:00 – 7:05 PM)
   a. Motion to adjourn at 7:12 [No opposition].
Upcoming GSC Meetings

| Academic, Research, and Careers (ARC) | TBD |
| Visiting Students Association (VISTA) | Every Monday, 7:00 PM |
| Activities Committee (AC) | TBD |
| External Affairs Board (EAB) | Thursday, 6/13, 5:30 PM |
| Federal Affairs Subcommittee | TBD |
| State and Local Affairs Subcommittee | Monday, 6/10, 4:30 PM |
| Public Outreach Subcommittee | TBD |
| Development Subcommittee | Every Friday, 5:00 PM |
| Housing and Community Affairs (HCA) | Wednesday, 6/12, 6:00 PM |
| Off-campus Subcommittee | TBD |
| Sustainability Subcommittee | TBD |
| Transportation Subcommittee | TBD |
| Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee | Thursday, 6/27, 5:00 PM |
| Muddy Charles Pub | Monday, 6/10, 7:00 PM |
| Orientation Committee (OC) | TBD |
| Executive Committee (ExComm) | Wednesday, 6/26, 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

| July General Council Meeting | Wednesday, 7/3, 32-155 |
| August General Council Meeting | Wednesday, 8/7, 32-155 |