



# Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## General Council Meeting Agenda

August 7, 5:30 PM in 32-155

- I. Introduction, Dinner, New Faces (5:30 – 5:40 PM)
  - a. Quorum Check (5:40)
    - i. 34 people here (1 short of quorum)
  - b. 5:45: New people enters, re-do quorum check (5:45 – 5:50 PM)
    - i. 36 people here.
  - c. Approval of June & July GCM Minutes
    - i. Last month, we missed quorum, so we need to approve those minutes.
    - ii. June and July minutes: Seconded & approved.
2. 66.gsc.2 – Updates to the GSC Policy Platform (5:40 – 6:10 PM)
  - a. Speaker: Jordan Harrod
    - i. From last GCM, there was some feedback.
    - ii. Introducing procedures to improve advising and mentorship.
    - iii. Concerns from last time:
      - I. It would force people into a style of mentorship that isn't one-size-fits-all.
        - a. We felt that our proposal is flexible enough.
        - b. Question: Is there a chance the vague language can work against us?
          - i. JH: I don't think it's a huge concern: the policy platform lets us advocate for different things.
        - c. Is the purpose of this to give us a point of discussion? JH: Yes.
    - b. Motion to end discussion seconded and approved unanimously.
    - c. Vote (yes/no/abstain)
      - i. Results: 36-0-1. Officially passed. Will be updated on website soon.
3. Addressing Your Concerns/Questions – Q&A with the Officers (6:10 – 6:40 PM)
  - a. PS: We blocked off 30 mins of time for you guys to ask questions. Open discussion time.
  - b. Richard Zhang

### Officers

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### **Vice-President**

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### **(DEI)**

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### **External Affairs (EAB)**

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### **Housing & Community**

### **Affairs (HCA)**

Mohammad Islam

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### **Muddy Charles Pub**

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### **Orientation (OC)**

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- i. What's the latest update on the advising initiative spearheaded by OVC and Paula Hammond?
  - I. PS: Background: Paula is working on creating faculty advisor training for incoming faculty. We don't know much more than that's progressing/happening, that's largely all we know. Nothing concrete has come out of it yet. Their plan is to launch it by 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Will launch in Engineering first.
- ii. RZ: Last time they talked about it, they were talking about bringing in consultants from Wisconsin?
  - I. PS: Yeah, that's the latest information we have.
- c. Audience member: General question about unionizing – have you talked about that?
  - i. PS: Two years ago, the GSC had a working group on unionization. Our official position is to have no position. From what we understand, we haven't heard that much more about what's going on, and there hasn't been action by the GSC on it.
- d. Audience member: Is there any update on CPT?
  - i. PS: What's happening there is that there has been work behind the scenes, the goal is to have more departments have some kind of experiential learning as part of their requirement like Course 6 does, and have one that's like a CPT class (but don't force people to take it if they don't want to). The Vice Chancellor is working with some faculty members to see how it can be packaged better, and might require a lot of bureaucracy at the faculty level. The goal is to have a decent number of departments to have that option available by Spring.
  - ii. Follow-up question: is it possible to have it retroactively apply?
    - I. PS: I don't know how departments change their requirements for existing students. The goal is to make it apply to all students.
- e. Audience member: Any updates on commencement changes?
  - i. PS: They're still working on logistics for a single speech ceremony and separate department ceremonies. We gave them your feedback and concerns about smaller departments. They're still trying to figure out if they can fit everyone and give every department their own spaces (they have figured it out). The big



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problem now is how to divide resources from the institute side, so they're still trying to figure out that. They know that the institute has enough resources for the actual logistics of running the ceremony. The big question is staffing levels and what else you get on top of the base.

- ii. Have they decided on whether they will do separate grad and undergrad ceremonies?
    - I. PS: No, they haven't decided on that. They're trying to see if they can do a single speech.
  - iii. When we're talking about space, what do they mean by space? Do they mean like classrooms, etc?
    - I. PS: They're thinking about larger spaces on campus.
  - iv. One issue is that some places feel lecture-hall-y and others don't.
    - I. PS: It could be an issue of decorations, etc. too. We haven't gotten any information on the actual spaces. If you are interested in joining the commencement committee, you can email [gsc-vp@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-vp@mit.edu).
  - v. Are they holding these department ceremonies at the same time?
    - I. PS: Yeah, they will be relatively similar timing-wise. It is a potential issue.
    2. Comment from audience: It could be an issue with faculty running between ceremonies, e.g. if they're advising students from a different department.
    3. PS: I don't think admin has run this past faculty and they only recently ran this by the UA. There is still room for adjustments.
  - f. PS: I'm not seeing any more questions, which is fine. I'll keep going then.
4. Officer Updates (6:40 – 6:45 PM)
- a. AJ: Use your council rep funding! It's available to all but the GC committee chairs. You can get up to \$250 per funding cycle (\$150 + \$100 if you're on a GSC committee or a sitting member on an institute committee). You can double that amount if you team up with another dorm/department. E.g. if MechE joins with AeroAstro, then each gets \$250 -> \$500, but then we double that to \$1000.



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- i. To show you some conditions: you must be in good standing (determined by Alex Joerger), you have to be present at half of GCM and been to at least 2 or 3, you can't just throw a party for your friends, you need to apply before your event, and you have to follow publicity guidelines. Info can be found at <http://gsc.mit.edu/funding/departamental-funding>.
  - ii. Comment from audience: Regarding the doubling: you only double the \$150 if you team up with another department.
  - iii. Question from audience: can we combine council rep funding to an existing event?
    - I. AJ, RL: Yes.
  - iv. Examples of successful events in the past:
    - I. Math department did end-of-semester coffee hour. AeroAstro and MechE did a Muddy Monday. Another example was a Qualls practice session.
  - v. Please use the funding. We had to decrease it last year due to underutilization. Use it or lose it.
5. Committee Updates (6:45 – 7:00 PM)
- a. PS: Quick note: due to an amazing coincidence, none of the chairs are here, so we'll give all the updates.
  - b. ARC (Presented by PS)
    - i. Thesis lounge going on right now. 9-5 at Barker 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> floor. If you're willing to help clean up on Thursday, contact ARC and let them know.
    - ii. ARC will have academic job panel and postdoc panel in September.
    - iii. Advising initiative subcommittee had another meeting last week. If you're interested, contact [nbuckman@mit.edu](mailto:nbuckman@mit.edu).
    - iv. Upcoming ARC meeting is in September after Orientation. If you want to be involved, message [gsc-arc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-arc@mit.edu)
  - c. AC (Presented by PS)
    - i. One update: AC took over apple picking from OC, so more open to all students. Happening Oct 5. Tickets have been selling out really quickly this summer.
  - d. ASA (Presented by RL)
    - i. They are collecting application for Midway Booth assignments.
    - ii. They are updating their bylaws. Going slowly since it's summer.



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## e. DEI (Presented by PS)

- i. Will have pre-orientation conduit pizza social. Conduits are students from departments representing their departments at a larger DEI meeting. Facilitates information sharing and coordination.
- ii. Will have a booth at Grad resource fair. Will have their own orientation event at Kresge on Sept. 19, 5-8pm.
- iii. Still looking for a secretary, if you're interested in being more involved. You only need to manage their minutes and look at their notes, and you can shape the role however you want. Email [gsc-diversity@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-diversity@mit.edu) if interested.

## f. EAB (Presented by Jordan Harrod)

- i. Next board meeting is next Thursday at 6pm at GSC office.
- ii. Working on Orientation events (State and local politics done last year, will repeat); federal affairs event, working with student office.
- iii. Working with institutional research (IR) to do a survey to see how we can better approach outreach.
- iv. Lots of statements and letters happening – one on food insecurity (w/ Carnegie Mellon); one on Immigration reform; one statement on retirement savings; one statement on Combating Sexual Harassment in Science act.

## g. HCA (Presented by PS)

- i. Wellness subcommittee has officially formed. Goal is to organize events and workshops, to be the sort of head advocates for wellness initiatives, and will be the home for the REFS program.
- ii. If you're interested, email [gsc-hca-wellness@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-hca-wellness@mit.edu), or fill out their Google form in the slides for this meeting. Will have initial meeting in September.
- iii. No August HCA meeting since Mohammad is not at MIT. Next HCA meeting will also be in September (likely 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm)

## h. Muddy (Presented by PS)

- i. Very successful sailing pavilion sundowners, where they move the Muddy to the sailing pavilion for the evening. They have a capacity of 100, so get there early. If you're interested, try to get there at 6, since it will fill up really fast. Next one will be Aug 12.
- ii. New funding proposal to replace weekly Wednesday wings.



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- iii. Will have orientation event.
  - iv. Next Board Meeting is in 2-ish weeks on the 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm; no longer in the GSC office, and will be moved to Kendall Square. If you're interested, email [gsc-muddy@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-muddy@mit.edu).
    - I. RZ: They're not going to building 1? AJ: No, they changed it, it's not going to be at MIT.
  - i. Orientation (Presented by PS)
    - i. Lots of things going on, since Orientation is going on and things are happening next week.
    - ii. Volunteer signup is in the Anno – if you're interested in welcoming new students, sign up! You get a free T-shirt, that just says MIT Grad Student (not Orientation), so you can wear it whenever you want!
    - j. PS: That should be it – open floor. Any more comments?
6. Open Floor (7:00 – 7:05 PM)
- a. Motion to adjourn seconded and approved. (6:22 PM)



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## Upcoming GSC Meetings

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Academics, Research, and Careers (ARC) | TBD                      |
| Visiting Students Association (VISTA)  | Every Monday, 7:00 PM    |
| Activities Committee (AC)              | TBD                      |
| External Affairs Board (EAB)           | Thursday, 8/15, 5:00 PM  |
| 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)    | TBD                      |
| Off-campus Subcommittee                | TBD                      |
| Sustainability Subcommittee            | TBD                      |
| Transportation Subcommittee            | TBD                      |
| Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) | Wednesday, 8/14, 5:00 PM |
| Muddy Charles Pub                      | Monday, 8/19, 7:00 PM    |
| Orientation Committee (OC)             | TBD                      |
| Executive Committee (ExComm)           | Wednesday, 8/28, 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

|                                   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| September General Council Meeting | Wednesday, 9/11, 32-155 |
| October General Council Meeting   | Wednesday, 10/2, 32-155 |
| November General Council Meeting  | Wednesday, 11/6, 6-120  |
| December General Council Meeting  | Wednesday, 12/4, 32-155 |

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