Introduction

1. New faces
2. Quorum check
3. Vote to approve meeting minutes
BUDGET APPROVAL VOTE

Steven Burcat, Treasurer
FUNDING BOARD MEMBER ELECTION
Procedure

• Call for any new nominations
• One-minute talk
• Question and Answer period
• Vote on qualtrics
NOMINATIONS BOARD
MEMBERS ELECTION
Procedure

• Call for any new nominations
• One-minute talks
• Question and Answer period on sli.do: https://app.sli.do/event/bppw9lb9
• If >3 total candidates, voting will be ranked-choice
  • You’ll be sent a Qualtrics poll and rank your candidates from 1 (favorite choice) to 4 (least favorite choice)
  • The three candidates with the lowest numerical total win
HCA ADVOCACY SUBCOMMITTEE

Lucio Maria Milanese and Jonathan Behrens
Advocacy Subcommittee - Vision

• The advocacy subcommittee will focus on highlighting and analyzing issues and opportunities related to the well-being of graduate students and work with the MIT administration to drive change.

• In particular, the subcommittee will have a few key mandates:
  1. Making sure that the annual stipend increase for graduate students covers the cost of living increase and takes competitiveness into account
  2. Working towards eliminating financial distress (both lack of funding and financial uncertainty) for all graduate students
  3. Working on issues related to graduate students’ housing

• Other areas of focus will be decided on a yearly basis or when the need arises. Possible area of focus this year: advocating internally for international students in these difficult times.
Advocacy Subcommittee - Membership

- Chair (or co-chairs)
- HCA Co-chairs, GSC ExComm liaison
- Any interested graduate student. We would love to recruit a diverse membership (gender, race, international/domestic, in a couple/single, different MIT schools, 12-month and non-12-month appointment, etc.)

- If you’re interested in joining the committee in any capacity, let us know! gsc-hca-chair@mit.edu
Relationship with Officers/ExComm

- The Chair of the advocacy subcommittee reports to the HCA co-chairs and the Officers’ liaison.

- Every year, or when need arises, the subcommittee decides on specific topics on which to focus. The topics shall be approved by the GSC ExComm.

- In order to ensure consistency in the communication between the GSC and the MIT administration, the GSC Officers shall be the main points of contact between GSC and MIT. Instances/issues/proposals will generally be brought to the attention of the MIT administration by the GSC Officers.
OFFICER UPDATES

Madeleine Sutherland
COVID-19 Response

• The GSC Website now has a COVID-19 Updates page
  • Links to main sites grad students need: research ramp-up, Return to Housing, etc
  • Meeting materials from administration Academic Continuity calls – see what plans MIT is considering!
  • Ways to get involved in discussion, updated weekly
COVID-19 Response: LEE

- MIT COVID-19 Response System coordinates *health management* and other campus issues
- Legal, Ethical, Equity works on equality and equity issues like:
  - Preventing and responding to PI coercion → process to report whether you’re returning to campus to a third party
  - Responsible health data management at operations scale
  - Mitigating differential impacts on over-surveillance’d groups
- Recruiting one more grad student member – apply through regular Institute Rep process:
COVID-19 Response: Student Solutions Group

- Set up by UA and GSC Officers → directly involve more students in campus COVID-19 conversations
- If you join by filling out this form, you will be kept up to date and have input: https://gsc.mit.edu/join-the-student-solutions-group/
- Organized into “wings”:
  - Research safety
  - International student support
  - Residential life
  - Campus life
  - Academic policy (grading, degree requirements, etc)
  - Undergrad education
Other work in progress

• Website improvements
• Electronic voting and “special meeting” process
To: Madeleine Sutherland;

To the MIT Graduate Community:

We, the Graduate Student Council Executive Committee, stand in solidarity with Black Lives Matter, our Black graduate students, and all those working to fight for racial justice in the United States. We offer our absolute support and will actively work towards dismantling systems of oppression.

Activists and protestors have gathered across the country to voice their outrage against the murders of Black lives including George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others. Moreover, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, Black communities are disproportionately affected.

As researchers at a STEM-focused institution, it can be easy to believe that the work we do is ‘neutral’ and ‘objective’. This is untrue. It is impossible to disentangle it from politics and power dynamics - particularly because we operate in a society with systemic, institutionalized racism that permeates every aspect from academia to law enforcement to health care.

Infamously, STEM research has a deep-rooted history of being political and anti-Black. To counteract this, we urge non-Black graduate students to uplift Black voices, cite Black scholars, educate themselves on these important issues, and speak up about racism both at MIT and in society. Without action, we are complicit in upholding an unjust system that continually devalues Black lives.
GSC Letter: Black Lives Matter

Being antiracist means more than being non-racist - it means actively counteracting racism. Making change begins with unlearning racist habits, and acknowledging and reflecting on the privileges and biases we hold. It will require intentional, ongoing action. We must spend time reading resources about active allyship, practice those skills, and teach them to others. It is on us to educate ourselves and call out racism. We must do better to support and protect Black lives.

To our Black students - we recognize that you acutely feel recent events in ways that non-Black folks cannot understand. This profound emotional toll is exhausting and traumatizing. We value each of you as vibrant members of the community. We hope you are taking care of yourselves during this time and offer our sympathy and collective action.

Below are internal and external resources collected by the GSC Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) committee for students to learn about these issues and how to get involved and take action. As MIT graduate students, we have both the obligation and opportunity to do better. Let’s fight for a more just, equitable society.

In Solidarity,

MIT Graduate Student Council Executive Committee

#BlackLivesMatter
GSC Letter: Black Lives Matter

Resources for Black Graduate Students:

- Self-care tips for Black people who are struggling with this very painful week
- Emotionally restorative self-care for people of Color
- 101 ways to take care of yourself when the world feels overwhelming
- Black healing gathering facilitated by Black therapists and artists (free & online, June 9th, 19th, 23rd, 6PM EST)
- Black Emotional and Mental Health Collective: virtual therapist directory
- Self-care mini-workshops

Resources for Antiracist Allies (as collected by the GSC DEI):

- General resources
  - Ways to Help: https://blacklivesmatters.carrd.co/
  - Letters for Black Lives (with translations): https://tinyurl.com/y87z9n8n
  - In Defense of Black Life: https://linktr.ee/showupnow
  - How to be Actively Antiracist
  - Guide to Allyship
  - Antiracist Ally Starter Pack
  - Support Black people
- Reach out and offer support to Black friends, peers, colleagues in your community
- Donate to different fundraisers and sign petitions
  - Bail funds: https://tinyurl.com/ybldk9uo
  - Mutual aid funds
  - Petitions & Donations: https://tinyurl.com/y9qnyzh2
  - Petitions: http://tinyurl.com/bimforever
- Contact elected officials
  - President Obama’s How to Make this Moment the Turning Point for Real Change
  - AOC’s thread on policy solutions
  - Pressley Demands Accountability in Police Brutality Resolution
COMMITTEE UPDATES
ACADEMICS, RESEARCH, & CAREERS (ARC)

Simone Bruno
Emre Ergeçen
Committee updates

• Supporting …

• Next possible events:
  • Talk series: “Innovation during the days of COVID19”
  • COVIDSafePaths, ProjectManus PPE, E-Vent etc. (Other possible teams?)
Sub-committee updates

• **MIT VISTA:**
  - Carrying on with weekly events (movie nights, game nights, and so on) for the visiting students still at MIT
  - Next event: Virtual Roundtable Discussion Series: Science Communication – Friday, June 12th, 6:30PM

• **Improving Advisor-Advisee Relationship:**
  - Developing orientation session, “Advising 101” to discuss relationship expectations, create and fostering relationship, and advising advice
  - Interested in contributing? Especially seeking REFS…contact nbuckman@mit.edu
Alumni Relations Subcommittee

Alumni Fireside Chat

• An informal conversation about alums’ career paths after MIT
• Current taking place on a weekly or biweekly basis since April
• Involving a lot of GSC alumni: German Parada (OC Chair ’17-’18), Orpheus Chatzivasileiou (GSC Secretary ‘16-17’, VP ‘18), Daniel Franke (‘15 Muddy Chair)
• Next event:
  • Malvika Verma (OC Chair ‘17) on 06/17 at 5:30pm, BCG consultant and research associate at the Langer Lab, MIT ChemE
ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Henry Tran and Somayajulu Dhulipala
Any one is welcome to join

Casual and fun

• Antsy from quarantine?
• Looking for gala contributors and anything else you might find fun!

https://mit.zoom.us/j/99707151149
Come to our meeting!

Next Meeting:
• Wednesday, June 10, 6 PM
• https://mit.zoom.us/j/99707151149

Fairly accurate depiction of AC meeting depending on what you consumed for “dinner”
ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Becca Black
ASA President
asa-exec@mit.edu
ASA Updates

• Following up on re-recognition of ASA groups
  • ~60 remaining to complete process late

• Continuing to delay LEF/ARCADE applications
  • On-campus programming cancelled through the summer, but NOT orientation events (so far)

• Beginning discussions on CAC fees for use of space on campus for non-ASA groups
DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Bianca Lepe
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee

• **COVID-19 & DEI Memo**
  • Sent to MIT leadership back on May 1st raising concerns about DEI priorities/initiatives being overlooked during the pandemic
    • Ex: hiring freeze would prevent hiring of DEI staff person per school and College of Computing
  • Currently having meetings with School of Engineering Dean & are working with other student leaders to contact and discuss issues with other school Deans to prioritize DEI in budget

• **Student Evaluation of BGSA/BSU Recommendations Progress**
  • Called MIT to establish an Institute DEI strategic plan (long-term)
    • Measures to increase number of Black graduate students
    • Backed by ‘purse strings’ $$$ of Institute

• **Roundtable on Harassment & Discrimination**
  • Representatives from Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Biology, Media Lab, Aero Astro will give a broad overview of their advocacy and recommendations process
  • Date TBD
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee

Graduate Enrolled Student **Survey Data Request Form**: 
  • To request data, please fill out: [https://forms.gle/tuyufcV2TJW66hT77](https://forms.gle/tuyufcV2TJW66hT77)

Upcoming Events:
  • **Fridays at 4 pm**: Weekly DCI Meetings @ [Zoom](https://zoom.mit.edu)

Next Committee Meeting:
  **Wed., June 17th at 5:00 pm** @ [Zoom](https://zoom.mit.edu)

Contact: **gsc-diversity@mit.edu**
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BOARD

Jordan Harrod
gsc-eab@mit.edu
External Affairs Board

• **Next Meeting:** TBD

• Passed two statements:
  • Early Voting and Vote By Mail
  • International Student Inclusion in COVID Relief Stimulus

• Presidential Proclamation on Chinese Graduate Student Visas
  • If you’d like to get involved or share experiences, email gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu
The Muddy Charles Pub wants you!

• Be a part of the Muddy Charles Pub!
• The board is looking for new graduate student members!
• Next meeting 06/08/2020 at 7 PM eastern

Research safety International student support
Residential life Campus life Academic policy
(grading, degree requirements, etc) Undergrad education

• Zoom link:
• https://mit.zoom.us/j/92712234626?pwd=QXdjcUlUZDVRbVl6bDA2czEyaCt6QT09

• Email Jennifer with any questions!
ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

Chairs: Shashank Agarwal, Maytee Chan
Completed Orientation Webinars (GSC OC 2020)

The aim of these webinars is to help incoming graduate students get prepared for joining the MIT community by clarifying their range of questions from technical to personal aspects and tell them about the do’s and don’ts at MIT.

**Housing:**
To compensate cancellation of visiting week, inform about housing application process, and students perspective of housing options.
Date: April 22nd
Presenters: 15 (GSC OC, Housing office, Graduate dorms, Off Campus housing)
Attendees: ~350, ~200 offline queries, ~500 views to event recording

**Medical & ISO:**
With ISO and MIT Medical.
Filling medical forms, i20, Visa, OTP etc
Date: May 15th
Attendees: ~350, ~150 offline queries, ~500 views to event recording

**Finance & MIT admin:**
Original plan for mid to end of June
Move to later due to uncertainties
Orientation Facebook Page

- ~1150 students signed up for Facebook page group out of 2000 total incoming grads
- Informal place for students to meet each other
- New place for interaction
Future Webinars and Plans

- GSC Webinar
  - Chance for committees to discuss what they do and recruit
- Lead to individual webinars
- General Webinars Mid-July
- Finance late-July
- Meeting with graduate admins to coordinate orientation with departmental orientations
- Orientation Leaders
OPEN FLOOR

Everyone!