JULY 1 GCM
Introduction

1. New faces
2. Quorum check
3. Vote to approve meeting minutes
Agenda

• GSC transparency improvements
• Mobilizing student groups in the COVID-19 era
• Grading options for Fall 2020
• Grad student issues during Research Ramp-up
• Office updates
• Committee updates
GSC EFFORTS TO IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY

GSC Officers
Meetings with administrators

• Every month, the officers meet with:
  • Office of the Vice Chancellor (Ian Waitz)
  • Office of Graduate Education (Blanche Staton)
  • Division of Student Life (Suzy Nelson)
  • Office of the Chancellor (Cynthia Barnhart, with Vice Chancellor Waitz and Dean Nelson present).

• Starting now, will make agendas + meeting summaries available on our website!
Other things to look for:

- Positions and statements of the GSC will be easier to find in the “GSC Committees” section of our website.
- GSC Officers are here to help departments with filling open Council seats! Email gsc-officers@mit.edu.
- The COVID-19-focused Student Solutions Group will help make public the grad student voice on important issues.
What should we do next to aid transparency?
MOBILIZING STUDENT GROUPS IN THE COVID-19 ERA
Funding

• Check-in with your group(s) – where does the budget usually come from?

• How will these sources be affected in the upcoming year?
  • Survey from UA/ASA coming soon!

• What other options are there?
  • [http://asa.mit.edu/group-resources/group-funding](http://asa.mit.edu/group-resources/group-funding)
  • ASA
  • SOLE/DAPER
Advocacy

- Who are the groups to go to with concerns?
  - UA/GSC
  - ASA
  - DAPER/SOLE
  - Department/dorm exec (if relevant)
  - Groups with similar missions
Continuity as members graduate

- Transition meeting.
- Transition meeting.
- Did I mention having a transition meeting?
  - SOLE & ASA have resources on contents of transition workshops
  - https://asa.mit.edu/group-resources/transition-resources

- Think critically about publicity & recruitment this year
  - SOLE can support your marketing strategy
Cute animals are good for morale
DISCUSSION OF FALL GRADING OPTIONS
What we know

• Fall semester will be mostly taught remotely
  • Lab and performance classes preferentially given space on campus
• 25-60% of undergraduates will be invited on campus

How to get involved

• Survey sent out in Presidential Memo today
• Join the student solutions group!
  • https://gsc.mit.edu/join-the-student-solutions-group/
• Email academic policy SSG (gsc-ssg-academic-policy@mit.edu) or chair of APART (danheisr@mit.edu) directly
Grading options

1) **Standard letter grades**
   1) Alternate version of D/F = no record

2) **Alternative grades**: pass/no record (PE/NE/IE)

3) **Instructor decides** for each class before reg. day

4) **Student opt-in per class**
   1) Letter grades as default
   2) Alternative grades as default

5) **Dual opt-in**: default is letter grades, either instructor or students can opt-in to alternative grades
GRAD STUDENT ISSUES DURING RESEARCH RAMP-UP
The highlights

- PI coercion to come back to work more/earlier is real
- MIT has revamped its hotline which uses a third party, EthicsPoint. Report at: https://hotline.mit.edu/
  - **MIT non-retaliation policy** → consequences for PIs who retaliate against good-faith report
  - Non-anonymous complaints have more power
  - If issue persists, complain again to escalate the issue
- See also the Research page of our COVID-19 dropdown: https://gsc.mit.edu/research-ramp-up/
What’s going well, and what isn’t?

• We want to hear from you!
OTHER OFFICER UPDATES
GSC Executive Committee Statements
Subcommittee membership

• Works up GSC Statements for ExComm to vote on
• Serves the other committees that don’t have Statement voting membership

• Membership as of now:
  • Steven Burcat (Officer member)
  • Naveen Arunachalam (Secretary)
  • Jonathan Behrens (HCA Co-Chair)
  • Bianca Lepe (DEI Chair)
  • Jordan Harrod (EAB Chair)
  • [An EAB member]
ACADEMICS, RESEARCH, & CAREERS (ARC)

Simone Bruno
Emre Ergeçen
Committee updates

• **Next events:**
  • Talk series: “Innovation during the days of COVID19”
  • **Possible projects involved:**
    • 1) COVIDSafePaths
    • 2) MIT COVID challenge
    • 3) MIT E-Vent

• **Possible dates**
  • 9-16-23-30 of July, 6PM
Sub-committee updates

• **MIT VISTA:**
  • Carrying on with weekly events (movie nights, game nights, and so on) for the visiting students still at MIT

• **Improving Advisor-Advisee Relationship:**
  • Restarted the initiative
  • Noam is leading the effort
  • First steps:
    • Reaching out to departmental bodies/REFS
Alumni Relations Subcommittee

- Alumni Fireside Chats with Orpheus Chatzivasileiou, Daniel Franke, Malvika Verma, and Erich Caulfield (all former GSC ExComm members :))

- Attendees for each event: 20-40
ASA Updates

• Done with re-recognition!!!

• Virtual Midway: adapt CP* website or something new?

• Still waiting on guidance on student spaces on campus
DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Chair: Bianca Lepe
Email: blepe@mit.edu
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee

- Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA) Petition
  - Calls on MIT to achieve two objectives:
    - Establish demands for the development of a 3-year and 10-year strategic plan to address racial bias at MIT by accomplishing the remaining tasks of the 2015 BSU/BGSA recommendations AND new addendums to the recommendations
    - Make MIT safe for all students by investigating and implementing new models for public safety that reduce the scale of policing and increase safety and well-being

- Black Lives Matter Departmental Demands
  - Following BLM and #ShutDownAcademia/#ShutDownSTEM – DEI has been collecting departmental demands
    - Our Graduate Community Fellow in Institutional Research is creating a public departmental scorecard to enforce accountability

- GSC DEI Allyship Guide
  - Used to help folks who are navigating discussions around anti-racism and allyship to those underrepresented in academia
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:

- **None** for the month of July!

Next Committee Meeting:

**TBD in August** via Zoom

Contact: [gsc-diversity@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-diversity@mit.edu)
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BOARD

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

• Next Meeting: TBD
• Passed two more statements:
  • Joint OPT Letter with 72 other student councils
  • MA State Elections Voting Options in Response to COVID-19
• Working On:
  • Affordable Housing Overlay
  • Cambridge Student Association
  • Executive Order on Visas - Limited Advocacy Options
MUDDY CHARLES PUB

Chair: Jennifer Kaczmarek
jkacz@mit.edu
05/06/2020
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 07/13/2020 at 7 PM eastern

• Zoom link: https://mit.zoom.us/j/91514787029?pwd=WXNLU2I3WDQ1RWtFZVRnOWxYNjg0Zz09

• Email Jennifer with any questions!
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**
- 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

**GSC**
- Introduce students to the GSC
- How students can join
- Date: June 17th
- Attendees: ~150, ~100 views to event recording
Orientation Facebook Page

• ~1300 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
Social Event

• 1 hour long Ice Breaker event for new students to virtually meet each other
• 2 PM EST July 3rd, 12 AM EST July 4th
• Volunteers wanted!
  • Email gsc-oc-chair@mit.edu if you are interested
Future Webinars and Plans

- General Webinars Mid-July
- Finance late-July
- Advising late-July, early-August
- Meeting with graduate admins to coordinate orientation with departmental orientations
- Orientation Leaders
[Open Floor]