

# JULY 1 GCM

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**Graduate Student Council**  
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# Introduction

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



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# 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



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# GSC EFFORTS TO IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY

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GSC Officers



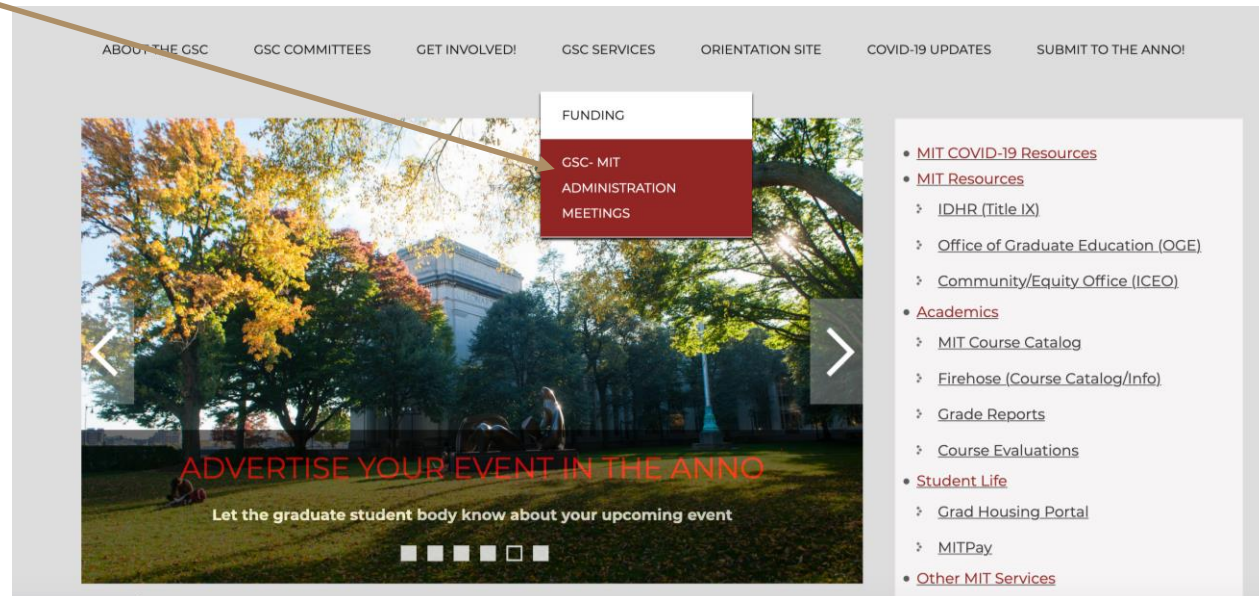
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# Meetings with administrators

- 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](mailto:gsc-officers@mit.edu)
- The COVID-19-focused Student Solutions Group will help make public the grad student voice on important issues



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# What should we do next to aid transparency?



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# MOBILIZING STUDENT GROUPS IN THE COVID-19 ERA

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# 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>
  - 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**



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# 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



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# DISCUSSION OF FALL GRADING OPTIONS

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# 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](mailto:gsc-ssg-academic-policy@mit.edu)) or chair of APART ([danheisr@mit.edu](mailto: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

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# 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!



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# OTHER OFFICER UPDATES

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# 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]

# COMMITTEE UPDATES

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# ACADEMICS, RESEARCH, & CAREERS (ARC)

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Simone Bruno  
Emre Ergeçen



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# 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



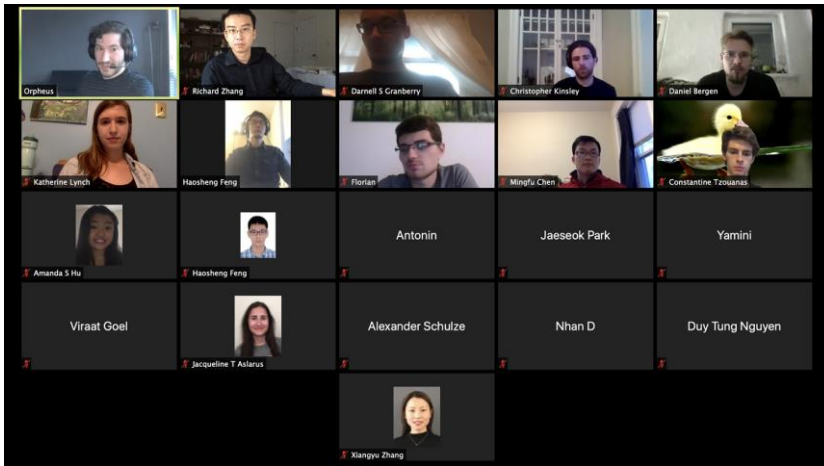
# Sub-committee updates

- **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

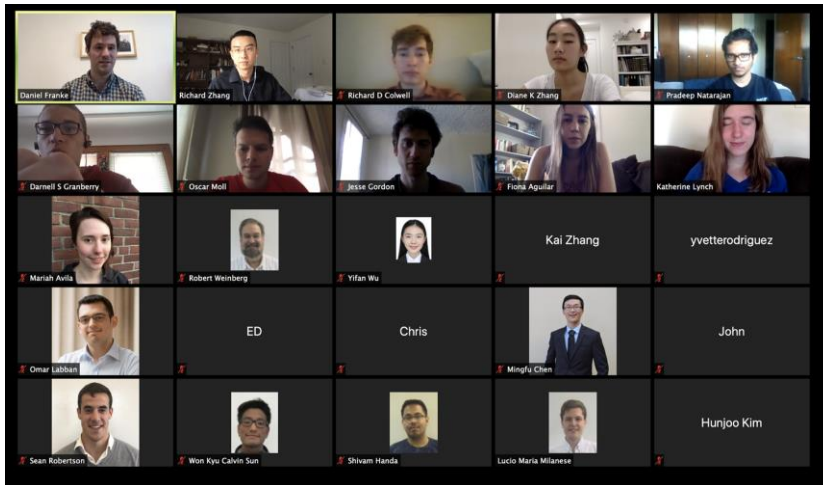




# Alumni Relations Subcommittee



- Alumni Fireside Chats with Orpheus Chatzivasileiou, Daniel Franke, Malvika Verma, and Erich Caulfield (all former GSC ExComm members :))
- Attendees for each event: 20-40



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# ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

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Becca Black

ASA President

[asa-exec@mit.edu](mailto:asa-exec@mit.edu)



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# ASA Updates

- Done with re-recognition!!!
- Virtual Midway: adapt CP\* website or something new?
- Still waiting on guidance on student spaces on campus



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# DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

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Chair: Bianca Lepe

Email: [blepe@mit.edu](mailto:blepe@mit.edu)



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# 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>

## 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)



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# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BOARD

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Jordan Harrod  
gsc-eab@mit.edu



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# 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



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# MUDDY CHARLES PUB

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Chair: Jennifer Kaczmarek

[jkacz@mit.edu](mailto:jkacz@mit.edu)

05/06/2020



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# 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=WxNLU2I3WDQlRWtFZVRnOWxYNGkvZz09>

- **Email Jennifer with any questions!**



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# ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

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Maytee Chantharayukhonthorn

Shashank Agarwal

[Gsc-oc-chair@mit.edu](mailto:Gsc-oc-chair@mit.edu)



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# 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 22<sup>nd</sup>

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 15<sup>th</sup>

Attendees: ~350, ~150 offline queries, ~500 views to event recording

## **GSC :**

Introduce students to the GSC

How students can join

Date: June 17<sup>th</sup>

Attendees: ~150, ~100 views to event recording



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# 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12 AM EST July 4<sup>th</sup>
- Volunteers wanted!
  - Email [gsc-oc-chair@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-oc-chair@mit.edu) if you are interested



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# 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]



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