



Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Division of Student Life Staff Meeting Summary July 21st, 2020, 2:00pm on Zoom

The student life fee will not be charged to students during the upcoming year, as it would introduce inequity concerns for students who cannot access the resources which receive this funding. Organizations that rely on this funding as a primary source of income will be asked to assess their budgets and provide an updated budget request based on how they expect their expenses to change during the upcoming year.

The Graduate Housing Working Group is reconvening, and DSL plans to be heavily involved.

For the enforcement of public health policies on campus, people will be asked to report to a hotline rather than act as community enforcers. The hiring of additional staff or adding training/hours for MIT staff (such as Allied Universal workers) for on campus residences is also being considered.

It is unlikely that non-MIT guests will be allowed in MIT housing. Even for MIT guests, it is difficult to control housing density in an equitable way. There is also no clear answer for how to enforce guest limits/timing, and suggestions are welcome.

The policy requiring spouses to move into MIT housing at the same time as the MIT student is being reviewed. A temporary suspension of the policy for the fall semester is being considered in light of COVID-19 and challenges students – particularly international students – are facing in terms of traveling to MIT. It is a policy that students requested several years ago, and DSL puts a lot of work into verifying to ensure family housing goes to families and so it will not likely be entirely removed.

Site 4 is expected to be ready as early as November, and students will be moving in between November and January.

The Walker Memorial break-in is indicative of how the building is not currently securable, which is part of why the entire building remains shut down. There are also some gaps in communication due to buildings not being fully staffed. This incident brings back up considerations of investing to secure the building and increase security inside (such as by cameras).

The courtyards behind the Student Center and between Buildings 4 and 6 are under consideration as outdoor locations for on-campus gatherings. The second floor courtyard at Stata was also raised as a possibility pending CAC verification that it is ADA accessible.

The GSC has been in contact with a group of graduate student veterans seeking to enhance support for veteran's at MIT, including setting up a veteran's resource office. There is not currently a formal veteran's support office at MIT, though there is some informal space for veterans in the Walker basement.

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