

Officers

gsc-officers@mit.edu

President

Madeleine Sutherland
Executive Committee
gsc-president@mit.edu

Vice-President

Jerry Ng
Nominations Board
gsc-vp@mit.edu

Secretary

Naveen Arunachalam
Publications & Publicity
Board
gsc-secretary@mit.edu

Treasurer

Steven Burcat
Funding Board
gsc-treasurer@mit.edu

Executive Committee
gsc-excomm@mit.edu

Academics, Research, & Careers (ARC)

Emre Ergeçen
Simone Bruno
gsc-arc@mit.edu

Activities (AC)

Henry Tran
Somayajulu Dhulipala
gsc-ac@mit.edu

Assoc. of Student Activities (ASA)

Becca Black
gsc-asa@mit.edu

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

Bianca Lepe
gsc-diversity@mit.edu

External Affairs (EAB)

Jordan Harrod
gsc-eab@mit.edu

Housing & Community Affairs (HCA)

Jonathan Behrens
Lucio Milanese
gsc-hca@mit.edu

Muddy Charles Pub

Jennifer Kaczmarek
gsc-muddy@mit.edu

Orientation (OC)

Shashank Agarwal
Maytee Chan
gsc-oc@mit.edu

Administrative Staff

Lauren McLean
Elizabeth (Betsy) Granese
gsc-admin@mit.edu

GSC Office

77 Massachusetts Avenue
Room 50-220
Cambridge, MA 02139
Phone: 617-253-2195
<http://gsc.mit.edu>



Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- I. Introduction (5:30-5:40)
 - a. New faces
 - b. Quorum check*
 - c. Approval of October minutes*
 - i. 35 people present – quorum is possible in theory
 - ii. Quorum voting began
 - iii. Quorum reached.
2. Supports relevant during the federal election (5:40-5:55)
 - a. International support network mailing list
 - i. (A resource for all times, especially relevant now)
 - ii. URL: <https://groups.mit.edu/webmoira/list/international-support-network>
 - iii. Contact: international-support-admin@mit.edu
 - iv. Recent events have highlighted the lack of support and heightened concern among the international community at MIT
 - b. MIT COVID Relief has created a new mailing list to share information, support each other, and organize future town halls
 - i. Note: this is peer support, not individualized legal advice
 - ii. Join the mailing list international-support-network@mit.edu at the above URL
 - iii. All members of the MIT community are welcome!
 - iv. For more MIT COVID Relief news, see <https://twitter.com/mitcovidrelief>
 - c. MIT has a new guide for gatherings related to the election
 - d. Goal is to promote civic engagement and community healing without compromising safety
 - e. Main takeaways:
 - i. Outdoor gatherings on campus subject to the usual physical distancing and participant caps
 - ii. There are also many ways to civically engage virtually
 - iii. If you do go to gatherings or protests off campus, please make a safety plan...
 - iv. Review MIT Medical's advice for mitigating risks at protests
 - v. Attend with people you regularly interact with already, and stay together

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- vi. Keep your face covered; use signs and bullhorns rather than shouting
 - vii. Consider quarantining after if safety protocols went awry
 - f. MIT Reboot from Nov 2 to 11 – open to whole community
 - g. <http://studentlife.mit.edu/reboot>
 - h. Central info repositories:
 - i. <https://now.mit.edu>, <https://ask.mit.edu>, <https://gsc.mit.edu/covid-19-updates>
3. Update on campus spaces and how to use them (5:55-6:00)
 - a. “Touchdown” spaces: non-reservable, first-come first-serve; covidpass users only; 8-18 person capacity
 - b. Reservable on-campus spaces
 - i. Covidpass users only
 - ii. E17 – email building-access@mit.edu
 1. Include date, time, and reason for requesting private space
 - iii. Outdoor spaces – <https://studentlife.mit.edu/cac>
 1. Up to 10 people, up to 2 hours, booked 2-7 days in advance
 - iv. W20 Reservable Spaces
 1. Indoor spaces – will be at <http://cac-ems2.mit.edu/emswebapp/>
 4. MIT Corporation Overview (6-6:20)
 - a. Provided a general overview of the corporation
 - b. Corporation and institutional officers
 - i. 78 members; 15 are alumni nominees, and 5 are recent graduates
 - ii. 4 corporation meetings per year
 - iii. Current recent grads are recent BS grads
 - c. How to get more exposure to corporation as a student
 - i. Formal
 1. Student session during Visiting Committee
 2. CJAC
 - a. Contains undergrads, grads
 - b. Project examples include MITx, student-admin interface, XX.ThG, Washington politics
 3. Recent grad process (nominate, apply, vote)

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- ii. Informal
 1. One-off meetings like this
 2. Email the recent grads
 3. Corporation officers
 4. UA/GSC leadership
 5. Tech/Faculty newsletter
- iii. Corporation accepting nominations for recent grads; applications due 11/29/2020. Eligibility is expected graduation by July 2021 or graduated in 2019 or 2020.
- d. Q & A (6:20-6:40)
 - i. How does Corporation determine what is “governance function” vs a “management function”? For example, fossil fuel investment policies, improving grad program racial diversity, or on-campus housing production goals *could* be in the Corporation ambit. Is there something that restricts Corp from governing on these issues?
 1. Something like racial diversity is both a governance and day-to-day management/execution type of issue – definitely does come up on visiting committees
 2. On-campus housing production and fossil fuel investment falls under corporation
 3. Day-to-day operation (e.g. assignment of individual students to dormitories; setting of pricing for dorms; setting of meal plans) is covered by MIT administration
 - ii. Building design
 1. When a new building is being built on campus, how does the sign-off work? Is Corporation involved in design/planning?
 - a. Corporation might not hear about each individual building that will go up in terms of their design line items
 - iii. Are there big questions that the Corporation is thinking about that we should be thinking about here in the GSC? Or areas that you would especially like graduate students input (through visiting committees, tech, CJAC, etc.)?

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1. We'd like to know the feedback on the current COVID situation and what MIT's policies have been; and what the future of grad education looks like with this hybrid model.
 2. What's on grad students' minds?
 3. MIT's creating a strategic plan around DEI, and there is some difficulty around implementing that around grads/postdocs; so we'd like to see what the biggest barriers/roadblocks are in the way of deciding to go to MIT or graduating.
 - iv. IP – when does MIT own the work you're doing
 1. Falls under TLO – reach out to them
 - v. Supporting cross-disciplinary research
 1. Students and faculty can lead here
 2. This is governed by visiting committees – but not mostly by Corporation. It's pretty rare for a visiting committee to restrict cross-disciplinary research
 3. CJAC is probably best place to raise it
 - vi. I am full of questions so feel free to ignore for time and equity...: Something that could affect the long term future of MIT is Graduate Unionization. Is this something you think about? Something the Corporation is neutral about? Worried about?
 1. A topic that has been on the radar includes MIT Divest. The corporation is made up of 78 people; they all have different opinions on the pros and cons.
 2. One thing I'd [Vrajesh] would like to see addressed more is advising
 3. It would be good for GSC/ARC to prepare a report on advising issue root causes. Especially to benchmark against other grad programs – this definitely resonates among senior leadership.
5. Officer updates (6:40-6:50)
- a. MS: Archivist position recruitment
 - i. Recap: Council voted in September to allocate funding for a GSC Archivist Position
 - ii. Will be open to all MIT grad students

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- iii. If international RA or TA hired, can likely work through a Summer 2021 appointment
 - iv. Application will open on the GSC website this week
 - v. Work to start in IAP and continue either Spring or Summer
 - vi. Rate-limiting step may be getting physical documents out of Walker!
- b. Others
- i. Don't be afraid to ask GSC for things you want that will support grad students! We want to support grad students. You can ask for expensive things.
6. Committee updates (6:50-7:05)
- a. ARC
- i. Academia vs. industry event in late November
 - ii. Weekly meetings on Tuesdays at 6:30pm
 - iii. Advising climate survey
 - iv. Interested in joining? Gsc-arc-chair@mit.edu
- b. AC
- i. Murder Mystery Game event on October 31st – went well
 - ii. Organizing the Henry Purcell Society tavern music event mid-November (dates and registration info to be announced through the Anno).
- c. ASA
- i. General body meeting was Thursday, October 29th 5-7pm ET
 - ii. Gus Burkett gave DSL updates on Student Center, COVID policies, Grubhub deal (!!!)
 - iii. Still hoping more groups ask for \$\$\$
 - iv. Slowly getting more responses to COVID impact survey
 - v. Finished first pass on group applications, now handling appeals
- d. DEI
- i. GSC DEI, BGSA, and G4HMIT RISE Demands
 1. Had town hall about impact of Diversity Officers on Oct 29th
 2. Heard from EECS, BCS, BE, DMSE, and HST student advocates
 - ii. Ongoing work on creating a graduate admissions reform handbook – help us make it!
 1. Meeting with the Office of General Council this Friday

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- iii. GSC DEI Fellows training is happening!
 - 1. Will be occurring over IAP across 5 sessions via Zoom – training on facilitating conversations about race and racism

- e. EAB

- i. Statements passed
 - 1. Public comment on DHS proposed rule with 50+ other schools representing 850,000+ students!
- ii. Currently working on
 - 1. Welcoming new members! (gsc-eab@mit.edu)
 - 2. Cambridge Student Association
 - 3. Defense Task Force Report (gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu)
 - 4. Voter Guide for Ballot Questions
 - 5. Spring Virtual 3MT Competition (with prizes!)

- f. HCA

- i. Graduate Housing Working Group charter finalized
- ii. New graduate residence planned

- g. Muddy

- i. Next meeting 11/9/2020 at 7pm Eastern time
- ii. Email Jennifer with any questions (gsc-muddy-chair@mit.edu)

- h. OC

- i. Looking into delivering shirts/masks to first year students on campus
- ii. Depending on public health, may host an in-person welcome event next semester.

7. Open Floor (7:05-)

*Requires a vote