1. Introduction (5:30-5:40)
   a. New faces
   b. Quorum check*
   c. Approval of December minutes*

2. Updates from the RISE campaign (5:40-6:00)
   a. The Reject Injustice through Student Empowerment (RISE) campaign has worked hard to represent the community at-large
   b. Our petition has > 1,000 individual signatures (including 34 faculty) & 73 signatures from student & staff organizations
   c. Further, we've hosted dozens of events to educate and engage the community in these topics, collaborating with many student groups.

4 Sections of Demands

I. Reform Graduate Admissions and Faculty Hiring
   a. Make strategic commitments to reform graduate admissions and improve URM graduate student retention
   b. Promote diversity in faculty hiring and tenure through evidence-based practices
   c. Increase student participation in hiring and tenure decisions

II. Increase Resources for Education and Support
   a. Expand educational programming and training
   b. Hire DEI Officers for departmental accountability
   c. Provide institute-wide support for anti-oppressive research and labor

III. Reform the Policies for Prevention and Response of Faculty Misconduct
   a. Reform the policies and procedures for handling allegations of misconduct against faculty and staff
   b. Publicize data and outcomes for allegations of misconduct against faculty and staff in annual IDHR reports
   c. Implementation of targeted policies for preventing and punishing retaliation
   d. Guarantee transitional funding

IV. Advance Funding Equity at MIT
   a. Guarantee 12-month funding for all PhD programs offered at MIT
   b. Establish non-competitive internal dissertation completion fellowships
   c. Guarantee a minimum annual cost-of-living adjustment for all graduate stipends

The philosophy of the RISE campaign: DEI for all

- MIT’s decentralized nature means things are usually handled at the department level
- This model is inefficient because it decentralizes student efforts, making them repetitive across time and across departments
- This model is fundamentally inequitable, particularly as it relates to DEI
  - Depends on department’s resources and viewpoint of leadership
  - Incongruent with MIT’s institute-wide commitments to DEI and creating a safe and supportive environment for all students
- This model allows admin and faculty to maintain control and power over most processes

d. Progress this term: institute-wide commitment to transitional support.
a. Guarantee advisor-independent transitional funding for one full semester for PhD and SM/PhD students in unhealthy situations (e.g., the student is experiencing bias, discrimination, harassment, other violations of MIT policies, or other aggressive behavior from their advisor or colleagues in the unit they are wishing to transfer from).

e. Other department-specific wins:
   a. Hiring DEI officers
   b. 7+ depts removed GRE requirement
   c. Increased student roles in admissions and hiring (e.g. EECS).
   d. However, there is fundamental refusal to make institute-wide policies around these issues.

Roadblocks - admin opposition to loss of control and centralization

- Section 3 - reforms to the faculty misconduct adjudication and retaliation policies
  - Some changes being made to IDHR documentation and procedures (largely superficial)
  - Refusal to review or change any official MIT policies or make larger procedural changes
- Section 4 - funding equity (these issues were approached via COVID relief efforts)
  - New research specialist position
  - The Institute is committed to addressing funding issues on a case-by-case basis rather than guaranteeing a year-round living wage for all doctoral students

f. Question from audience: is there anything we can do at our departments' level?
   a. Our goal is to connect department student groups with other department student groups.

3. Budget rescope introduced (6:00-6:30)
   a. Steven presents budget rescope document.
   b. We’re decreasing our overall budget from what we thought we were going to have to do last summer. We’re still keeping it pretty large since there’s a nonzero chance that vaccines will change things.
   c. We’re getting around ~$160k from DSL instead of $250k.
   d. ExComm spending is going up a bit b/c of archivist position.
   e. Funding board went down.
   f. Orientation isn’t as expensive as we thought it would be – but still spending a lot on gifts for students
g. EAB, DEI had little change
h. Most of the difference is from Funding Board cutting.
  i. Can we do meal reimbursement for this meeting?
    i. It’s on the table, but we’ll pull it out of ExComm discretionary if we’re going to do that.
  j. We’re leaving council rep funding in – use your council rep funding!

4. Graduate Research Advising Survey (6:30-6:40)
   a. Take the survey!
   b. We can use your help advertising within your constituency.

Survey open NOW until February 15

- Completely anonymous...kerberos used for authentication but NOT saved with responses
- Giving away PRIZES
- 8 Sections...median response time ~12 minutes:
  - Advisor Behavior, Research Guidance, Lab/Group Management
  - TA-ing, Funding, Advisor Satisfaction/Leaving Advisor, Support & Reporting
  - Open Response
- MIT-wide responses will be public
- Department-specific results delivered to department student groups and department heads
- Open responses will be summarized and shared to departments

c. d. We have a 5-15% response rate

5. Stipend Working Group process (6:40-7:00)

2021 Recommendations

- We recommend an increase of 2.0% in the baseline stipend
- On-campus rent increases should not exceed $43 per month

Policy Recommendations

1. Eliminate “low-range” sub-100% stipends
2. Improve food security and family assistance
3. Address moving costs
4. Expand Yellow Ribbon program for U.S. veterans

Preliminary and subject to revision.

a. b. We want to implement a Yellow Ribbon program
  c. Signing bonuses can help with transition to grad school
6. Officer updates (7:00-7:05)
   a. Start thinking about officer nominations!
   b. If you are affected by travel bans reach out here: [link]
   c. Tomorrow: Reimagining Public Safety event by BGSA

7. Committee updates (7:05-7:20)
   a. ARC
      i. Looking for Academia vs. Industry panel moderators
      ii. Promote the advising survey!!
   b. AC
      i. Harvard vs. MIT game night; Valentine’s day event coming up
      ii. May 2021 = MIT Talent Show (deadline March 14, 2021)
   c. ASA
      i. Midway this Friday
   d. DEI
      i. DEI Fellows training completed
      ii. Want to join? We’re recruiting chair, vice-chair, and c-reps.
   e. EAB
      i. Statements Passed:
         1. Public Comment on MBTA Forging Ahead Proposal (State)
         2. Biden Transition Team/Administration Letter – Department of Education (Fed)
Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

3. Biden Transition Team/Administration Letter – DHS + State (Fed)
4. Biden Transition Team/Administration Letter – OSTP (Fed)
5. Endorsing the College Transparency Act (Fed)
6. Endorsement of the STEM Opportunities Act and MSI Opportunities Act (Fed)

ii. Met with Biden Transition Team

iii. Upcoming events:

1. Statements In Progress:
   a. Letter to the Department of Defense (Fed)
   b. Missing Middle Housing Zoning Petition (Local)
   c. Letter to the Biden Administration on Climate Change (Fed)

2. Advocacy Topics:
   a. LGBTQ+ Issues (Currently All-Gender Restrooms)
   b. Virtual Statehouse Visit
   c. Student Wellbeing + Mental Health
   d. Accessibility
   e. National Interest Exception

3. Welcoming New Members! Reach out to gsc-eab@mit.edu

iv. Research slam

1. Hone your science communication skills and compete for hundreds in cash prizes with MIT's first Research Slam!
2. Modeled after the 3-Minute Thesis format, participants will explain their research in 3 minutes or less.
3. The Slam is open to all MIT postdocs & PhD candidates; see tinyurl.com/mit-slam-21 for details on workshops, deadlines, and submissions.
4. Contact srosu@mit.edu with questions, and encourage your friends to sign up!

f. HCA
   i. Stipend recommendations (discussed earlier)
   ii. GHWG
      1. Focus on planned residence hall
2. MIT administration has been evasive about what rents will be and about results from the ACC survey

iii. Housing issues
   1. Reports that residence hall heating issues haven’t been fully resolved
   2. Units should be able to reach 68°F during the day (64°F at night) and be below 78°F
   3. Anything less violates the State Sanitary Code!
   4. If you have your own thermometer, record the temperature to show it’s not just a personal-preference issue
   5. Fill out service requests on Atlas
   6. The instructions on the Ashdown website are broadly applicable
   7. Reach out to City of Cambridge Inspectional Services if necessary

 g. Muddy
   i. Come be a part of the Muddy Charles Pub Board, it is the way.
   ii. The board is looking for new graduate student members!
   iii. Next meeting 02/08/2020 @ 7 PM eastern
   iv. Zoom link: https://mit.zoom.us/j/92942943400?pwd=K2JrS3hNZlIdMS21EQ25TZ0oyZDRLdz09
   v. Email Jennifer with any questions!
   vi. gsc-muddy-chair@mit.edu

 h. OC
   i. With new students being mostly virtual, need to emphasize connection of students with MIT community
   ii. Working with COOP, MITFCU and GradRat on a care package for 1st years, sending out ~March
   iii. Planning for Fall 2021
      1. Will likely retain virtual summer events for 2021 regardless of COVID situation
      2. Rollout of new web interface (Canvas) for 2021 that will streamline information dissemination
      3. Orientation is recruiting!
4. Email gsc-oc-chair@mit.edu if you are interested in shaping orientation for our newest graduate students!

8. Open Floor (7:20-7:30)
*Requires a vote