

GSC POST-TRANSITION MAY 2021

AJ Miller, Syed Shayan Zahid, Vincent Zu and Akshit Singla



Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology



**Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology**

Meet the New Officers



AJ Miller

PhD EECS
EECS GSA VP of VD&O



Syed Shayan Zahid

SM AeroAstro
VP AeroAstro REFS



Vincent Zu

PhD ChemE
70 Amherst Treasurer,
Former ASA exec



Akshit Singla

MS EM (SDM)
Former SDM SLC



Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology



**Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology**

2021-2022 Priorities, Goals, & Vision

President: Adam "AJ" Miller

- **GSC Representation, Collaboration, Communication**
 - Find motivated and capable students to fill all seats
 - Simplify and clarify the process for electing GSC representatives in the departments
 - Better equip all council members to represent and advocate for their students
 - Rework and update the handbook
 - Improve connections with institute and standing committees
 - Normalize communication with department level student governments
 - Involve more of you all in the decision making process throughout the university
 - Continue efforts to improve the GSC brand, imaging, and awareness
 - Through the website, student group liaisons, and outreach



Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology



**Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology**

2021-2022 Priorities, Goals, & Vision

President: Adam "AJ" Miller

- **Safe MIT Culture (DEI, Mental Health, & More)**
 - Improve resource access for mental health
 - Better referrals, unlimited visits
 - Get action on DEI initiatives
 - Push the DEI Strategic Plan for concrete objectives
 - Tangible changes to admissions, hiring, quals, and tenure
 - Fellowship funding for student advocates
 - Push for more proactive education to promote a safer culture
 - Particularly for faculty overseeing graduate students
 - Ensure all community members are accountable for their conduct
 - Promote healthier work environments and habits
 - Ensure fair and reasonable expectations from PIs
 - Reduce grad student burnout
 - Counteract isolative effect of Covid-19



Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology



**Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology**

2021-2022 Priorities, Goals, & Vision

President: Adam "AJ" Miller

➤ Bringing Back Campus

- Advocate for clear and specific policy for the Summer and Fall
 - Vaccination requirement, guest policy, access to campus
 - Ensure support for international students traveling to the US
- Plan an ambitious Fall Orientation
 - To include both new first years as well as second years who missed out
- Reestablish the sense of MIT community
 - Safe events for all students to participate in
 - Help student groups transition back to normal activity
- Get students back on campus and back with each other
- Maintain virtual flexibility
- Ensure consideration for mental and physical health



Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology



**Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology**

2021-2022 Priorities, Goals, & Vision

President: Adam "AJ" Miller

- **Student Worker Protection and Equity**
 - Create broader understanding of and a simpler process for transitional funding for all students
 - Develop consistent and useful resources for students in the advisor selection process
 - Further address the unequal qualification system in each department
 - Strengthen prevention of harassment and discrimination
 - In the lab as well as in the community
 - Ensure affordable housing options for all students
 - Financial support for grad student families
 - Bolster veteran services university-wide
 - Rectify any and all funding policy abuse of students



Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology



**Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology**

2021-2022 Priorities, Goals, & Vision

Vice President: Syed “Shayan” Zahid

- ***Robust interconnection*** within grad student body
 - Involvement of GSC reps
 - Efficient exchange of information between GSC and departmental student organizations
 - Increased participation and awareness
- ***Transparency and communication*** with MIT administration
 - Clear and timely exchange of information
 - International student advocacy
- ***Student life*** - Involvement and improvement
 - Financial support (stipends, housing, transitional funding etc.)
 - Mental health initiatives
 - Active surveying post-pandemic



Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology



**Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology**

2021-2022 Priorities, Goals, & Vision

Secretary / Akshit Singla

- (2021-22) Priorities
- Communications.
 - Improve Graduate Student Communication with MIT (Staff + Faculty).
 - Improve GSC Communications with relevant stakeholders.
- GSC Operations.
 - Identify bottlenecks & recommend efficiency improvements.
- (Default) Scope
- GSC Communications
- Committee Liaison for Housing & Community Affairs (HCA)
- Nomination Board
- Publications & Publicity Board
- Division of Student Life - GSC Rep
- Officer Admin



Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology



**Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology**

2021-2022 Priorities, Goals, & Vision

Treasurer/Vincent Zu

- Enrich student life, academic and personal
 - Expand funding opportunities for intellectual and personal development of individual students
 - Encourage collaboration among student groups and interactions among students and student sub-populations
 - Encourage programs that focus on under-represented groups, e.g. minorities, families, international students, etc.
 - Encourage programs that focus on under-explored areas, such as arts, athletics, community service, etc.
 - Optimize processes for funding application and disbursement



Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology



**Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology**