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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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