

### Officers

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#### **President**

Madeleine Sutherland  
**Executive Committee**  
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#### **Vice-President**

Jerry Ng  
**Nominations Board**  
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#### **Secretary**

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**Publications & Publicity Board**  
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#### **Treasurer**

Steven Burcat  
**Funding Board**  
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#### **Academics, Research, & Careers (ARC)**

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#### **Activities (AC)**

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#### **Muddy Charles Pub**

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#### **Orientation (OC)**

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#### **Administrative Staff**

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# **Graduate Student Council** *of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

1. Introduction (5:30-5:40)
  - a. New faces
  - b. Quorum check\*
  - c. Approval of April minutes\*
2. Old Officers – Summary (5:40-5:45)
3. Budget report (FY21) (5:45-5:55)
4. Motion to make a housekeeping update to the GSC Bylaws (5:55-6:00)
  - a. Comment: Does this motion include GRAs? - We don't want to cover them as separate entity.
  - b. Comment: "Graduate Resident Groups" to "Graduate Resident Halls"? - Sure!
  - c. Comment: There are also two (currently unfilled) reps for 2/3 of grad students who live off campus. Should that also be revisited?
    - i. Communication about open positions might need to improve.
  - d. Comment: Would it be reasonable to keep the list as a non-exhaustive list of examples of such groups?
    - i. Probably, could consider.
  - e. Comment: Why do we have dorm reps? perhaps it should only be depts
    - i. No comments about the history.
  - f. Comment: It would seem like representation should be proportional - if 7 grad dorms have 7 reps, and that's 1/3 of total grad students, there should be 14 off campus reps, right?
    - i. There's a cap of 5 seats for any group.
  - g. Comment: In b4 GSC has to send out an annual census to determine how to redistrict off campus reps.
  - h. Comment: how about a smaller group works on this and we vote at a meeting?
    - i. [AI] Wording change – to be looked at.
    - j. [AI] Discussion about on v/s off-campus (housing) representation.
5. Open nominations for Nominations Board and Funding Board (6:00-6:05)
  - a. Start in MAY, end in JUN.
  - b. Nominations are now open for recruiting open-floor positions.
6. FY22 Budget introduced (FY22) (6:05-6:35)
  - a. Almost all committees are expanding budget.

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## b. Committees & Boards:

### i. ExComm:

1. Increasing meeting budget – number of attendees
2. (New) Archivist Position

### ii. Nominations Board

1. Increase in meeting budgets

### iii. Funding Board

1. Meeting budget increase
2. Funding board allocations increase @15%
3. Initiatives Fund
4. Supplemental Fund

### iv. Activities Committees

1. Virtual Events

### v. ARC

1. Pre-covid levels

### vi. HCA

1. Sub-committee recommendation to remove inactive sub-committees
2. IREFs and wellness merge

### vii. Orientation

1. No chair yet, currently – forecasting by treasurer
2. 1.5% more attendees
3. Virtual Events, Special Events

### viii. Muddy Board – Financially Independent

### ix. EAB

1. Paying UPenn? For hosting the event
2. Conference budget
3. New Media Subscriptions

### x. DEI

1. Mostly increases due to expanded participation
2. Travel is not new, just new budget line

## c. Withdrawal from reserves

## 7. New officers: vision & priorities (6:35-6:45)

### a. Priorities – team, president

- i. Bringing Back Campus

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1. Advocate for clear and specific policy for the Summer and Fall
    - a. Vaccination requirement, guest policy, access to campus
    - b. Ensure support for international students traveling to the US
  2. Plan an ambitious Fall Orientation
    - a. To include both new first years as well as second years who missed out
  3. Reestablish the sense of MIT community
    - a. Safe events for all students to participate in
    - b. Help student groups transition back to normal activity
  4. Get students back on campus and back with each other
  5. Maintain virtual flexibility
  6. Ensure consideration for mental and physical health
- ii. Student Worker Protection and Equity
1. Create broader understanding of and a simpler process for transitional funding for all students
  2. Develop consistent and useful resources for students in the advisor selection process
  3. Further address the unequal qualification system in each department
  4. Strengthen prevention of harassment and discrimination
    - a. In the lab as well as in the community
  5. Ensure affordable housing options for all students
    - a. Financial support for grad student families
  6. Bolster veteran services university-wide
  7. Rectify any and all funding policy abuse of students
- iii. Safe MIT Culture (DEI, Mental Health, & More)
1. Improve resource access for mental health
    - a. Better referrals, unlimited visits
  2. Get action on DEI initiatives
    - a. Push the DEI Strategic Plan for concrete objectives
    - b. Tangible changes to admissions, hiring, quals, and tenure
    - c. Fellowship funding for student advocates
  3. Push for more proactive education to promote a safer culture
    - a. Particularly for faculty overseeing graduate students
  4. Ensure all community members are accountable for their conduct
  5. Promote healthier work environments and habits
    - a. Ensure fair and reasonable expectations from PIs
    - b. Reduce grad student burnout
  6. Counteract isolative effect of Covid-19
- iv. GSC Representation, Collaboration, Communication
1. Find motivated and capable students to fill all seats
  2. Simplify and clarify the process for electing GSC representatives in the departments

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# Graduate Student Council

*of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

3. Better equip all council members to represent and advocate for their students
    - a. Rework and update the handbook
    - b. Improve connections with institute and standing committees
    - c. Normalize communication with department level student governments
    - d. Involve more of you all in the decision making process throughout the university
  4. Continue efforts to improve the GSC brand, imaging, and awareness
    - a. Through the website, student group liaisons, and outreach
- b. Priorities – VP
- i. Robust interconnection within grad student body
    1. Involvement of GSC reps
    2. Efficient exchange of information between GSC and departmental student organizations
    3. Increased participation and awareness
  - ii. Transparency and communication with MIT administration
    1. Clear and timely exchange of information
    2. International student advocacy
  - iii. Student life - Involvement and improvement
    1. Financial support (stipends, housing, transitional funding etc.)
    2. Mental health initiatives
    3. Active surveying post-pandemic
- c. Priorities – Treasurer
- i. Enrich student life, academic and personal
    1. Expand funding opportunities for intellectual and personal development of individual students
    2. Encourage collaboration among student groups and interactions among students and student sub-populations
    3. Encourage programs that focus on under-represented groups, e.g. minorities, families, international students, etc.
    4. Encourage programs that focus on under-explored areas, such as arts, athletics, community service, etc.
    5. Optimize processes for funding application and disbursement
- d. Priorities – Secretary
- i. Communications.
    1. Improve Graduate Student Communication with MIT (Staff + Faculty).
    2. Improve GSC Communications with relevant stakeholders.
  - ii. GSC Operations.
    1. Identify bottlenecks & recommend efficiency improvements.
8. Committee updates (6:45-7:00)

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- a. ARC
    - i. Emre stepping down, Simone stays.
    - ii. Noam shared insights from survey.
  - b. Activities Committee
    - i. Somu stays as co-chair, Ruoxuan joining in
    - ii. Upcoming events
    - iii. Plug for monthly meetings – free food, free events, new even ideas
  - c. Association of Student Activities
    - i. UG president, so Vincent (Treasurer) presents
    - ii. Almost done with the first round of new group applications
      1. 6 out of 20 approved so far
    - iii. Group re-recognition happening now, deadline 05/21
    - iv. LEF/ARCADE continues to accept applications
    - v. CAC advisory board met just now, one ASA rep and one GSC rep are on the board
  - d. DEI
  - e. EAB
    - i. Statements Passed:
      1. Making Election Day a State Holiday
      2. Endorsement of the VOTES Act
      3. Prohibiting Body Size Discrimination
      4. Endorsement of the NSF For The Future Act
    - ii. Recruiting for Board Leadership Positions!
    - iii. Advocacy Topics + Events
      1. Student Wellbeing and Mental Health
      2. LGBTQ+ Issues
      3. Accessibility
      4. Climate Policy
      5. Tech Transfer/Commercialization
  - f. HCA
    - i. Stipend increase
    - ii. Looking for new members
    - iii. Fall Housing License Agreement
      1. Penalty free cancellation deadlines extended
      2. Summer Break Rent Pause
  - g. Muddy Charles Pub Board
    - i. Looking for new members
    - ii. Re-opening date – pending
9. Open Floor
- a. Maytee: Plug for orientation committee co-chair position.
  - b. Marie: 2+ Graffiti incidents at Site 4.