Agenda

1. Introduction
   1. New faces
   2. Quorum check*
   3. Approval of April minutes*

2. Budget report (FY21)

3. Old Officers – Summary

4. Motion to make a housekeeping update to the GSC Bylaws

5. Open nominations for Nominations Board and Funding Board

6. FY22 Budget introduced (FY22)

7. New officers: vision & priorities

8. Committee updates

9. Transition
Budget report, FY21

Steven Burcat, GSC Treasurer
Outgoing team message

Thank you for persevering!
Officer projects

• Departmental score cards
  • A project by outgoing VP Jerry Ng
  • Interviewed grad students in 18 departments
  • Same questions, many answers
  • Compilation available to department student leaders
  • Presented to Deans Council to help understand common issues
Officer projects

COVID-19 research impact – a collaboration with MIT COVID Relief

• Preliminary findings:
  • >500 responses
  • Most researchers impacted by…
    • Lack of appropriate work space
    • Difficulty collaborating
    • Health struggles
  • Fully remote researchers not insulated from these effects!!
  • In-person researchers also struggled with equipment access, supply issues and eating space issues

• Public report coming in a few weeks
Committee Works: ARC

• Graduate Research Advising Survey
  • ~20% of PhD students responded
  • Main takeaways:
    1. ~10% of students are in unhealthy relationships with their advisor
    2. ~40% of students were dissatisfied with their departments support in finding advisors, reporting advisor behavior, and protections from retaliations
    3. 25% respondents’ advisors are not communicating expectations
    4. 20% are dissatisfied with the research guidance from their advisor.
  • Results have been presented to MIT senior leaders and OVC UG and Grad Education Visiting Committee

Results summarized [here](#) – use in your advocacy!
Committee Works: DEI

• Helped direct the DEI Strategic Plan
• Contributed to $25k BLM fundraiser for Juneteenth
• Formed RISE campaign with BGSA and G4HMIT
  • Won guaranteed transitional funding for all SM/PhDs switching out of toxic/abusive research groups
• Collected DEI Departmental Scorecards
• Launched DEI Fellows Program
• And more…
Committee Works: External Affairs

• Fought racist federal immigration policy all year
• Organized the amicus brief that helped MIT/Harvard win lawsuit to retract the July 6 ICE ruling!!
• Interfaced with Biden team to promote support for research and researchers
• Advocated for students at the state and municipal levels
  • Getting Cambridge Student Association off the ground
• Public Outreach: Research Slam, K-12 outreach
• And more!!

The Trump administration backed down on its attempt to kick out foreign students

Returning foreign students will be able to take online-only course loads and remain in the US this fall.

By Nicole Narea | @nicolenarea | Updated Jul 15, 2020, 12:03pm EDT
Committee Works: HCA

• Advocated for grad students on many fronts in the pandemic…
  • Relaxing the guest ban in grad student housing
  • Getting heating system repaired in Tang and Westgate
    • Ongoing repairs, root issue determined, MIT HRS taught that the State Sanitary Code’s habitability standards DO apply to grad housing ;)
  • Re-invoked Housing Working Group
    • …and thus determined the Institute’s actual plan (or lack thereof?) for new ACC Residence
• Advocacy Subcommittee and the Stipend Working Group
  • Won 3.25% stipend increase
  • Removed -10% stipend option
  • Increased baseline for child grant from $2k to $5k
  • (with VP Jerry Ng and SVA) getting Yellow Ribbon Program implemented across the Institute for grad students
  • (with MIT COVID Relief) got SA+P 12-month/5-year funding for all PhDs
  • …and more
Committee Works: Activities

- Completely redesigned for a virtual world
Committee Works: ASA

• Made virtual Midway cool
Committee Works: Muddy

• Best memes in the GSC
• Futureproof long-term plan for the Muddy
• Working to make the pub layout more open and accessible before reopening (whenever that time comes!)
Committee Works: Orientation

• Held completely virtual grad orientation programs with many hundreds of attendees
• Delivered hundreds of care packages to new students in Spring semester
Conclusion

THANK YOU
To everyone
Who supported this work
YOU ROCK!
Motion Presented

AJ Miller, GSC President-elect, 2021-22
Resolution to Modify the Housing Representatives for Future Dorms

- Article III, Section B currently lists all Grad dorms with representation
- Since Eastgate has closed, 70 Amherst has added grad students, and Site 4 has opened no official amendment has fixed that representation
- In order to future-proof the bylaws for any new changes, I propose the following amendment:

Article III, Section B:

Each of the following active on-campus graduate living groups housing more than 10 graduate students shall have one representative: Ashdown House, Eastgate, Edgerton House, NW30 (also known as The Warehouse), Sidney-Pacific, Tang Hall, and Westgate.
Nominations Board, Funding Board: Nominations Open
Nominations Board

• Chooses the grad student representatives for all regular Institute and Faculty committees which have grad student members
• High impact on grad student life
• Mostly busy in the summer
• Three at-large members
Funding Board

• Reviews and allocates GSC event funds
• Demand gonna be high when gatherings allowed again…
• Meets only a few times per year
• One at-large member
FY22 Budget Presented

Vincent Zu, GSC Treasurer-elect, 2021-22
GSC POST-TRANSITION MAY 2021

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

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
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
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
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
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
2021-2022 Priorities, Goals, & Vision

Secretary: Akshit Singla

➢ Communications.
  ○ Improve Graduate Student Communication with MIT (Staff + Faculty).
  ○ Improve GSC Communications with relevant stakeholders.

➢ GSC Operations.
  ○ Identify bottlenecks & recommend efficiency improvements.

➢ GSC Communications
  ➢ Committee Liaison for Housing & Community Affairs (HCA)
  ➢ Nomination Board
  ➢ Publications & Publicity Board
  ➢ Division of Student Life - GSC Rep
  ➢ Officer Admin
Committee Updates
Academics, Research and Careers

Chairs: Yifan Wu and Simone Bruno

gsc-arc@mit.edu
Committee updates

- ARC Chairs:
  - Simone Bruno
  - Yifan Wu

- Upcoming events:
  - PhD/MBA connector: PhD students will have the possibility to pitch their research projects to Sloan MBA students
VISTA Subcommittee

- No visiting students allowed to come to campus during Spring 2021
- Visiting student program should start again on September 2021
Alumni Relations Subcommittee

New Alumni Relation Subcommittee Chair:
Emre Ergecen
Institute-wide results are available!
gsc.mit.edu/advising-survey/results
Graphs + Executive Summary
Interested in joining ARC?

Feel free to reach us anytime through gsc-arc-chair@mit.edu
Activities Committee

Chairs: Ruoxuan Yang & Somayajulu Dhulipala

gsc-ac@mit.edu
Updates from April 2021

Upcoming events –

• May 2021 – MIT Talent Show – Students can participate in teams of up to 5 people. Prizes (TBD) for teams that make a successful submission.

• Matt Burns of Magnvm Opvs Tasting Concerts – Saturday, May 8th, 7 PM

• UnMute Yourself: Live Interactive Improv Event Exclusively for MIT, with ImprovAsylum - Thursday, May 13th, 6:30 PM

• Purcell Society Alehouse event – May 19th, 7 PM

• Harvard – MIT Game Night – Last week of classes
Join our monthly meetings

• Send an email at gsc-ac@mit.edu to be added to our mailing list and don’t miss out on any of these events.

• Attend our monthly meetings – get free food, discuss new event ideas and get free tickets to events.
Association of Student Activities

GSC Liaison: Vincent Zu
President: Alex Bookbinder
asa-president@mit.edu
ASA Updates

- Almost done with the first round of new group applications
  - 6 out of 20 approved so far

- Group re-recognition happening now, deadline 05/21

- LEF/ARCADE continues to accept applications

- CAC advisory board met just now, one ASA rep and one GSC rep are on the board
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Chair: Bianca Lepe

gsc-diversity@mit.edu
DEI Committee: What’s happened

• DEI@MIT Strategic Plan Update
  • First draft of the plan is live
    • Please read over and send your comments at: https://deiactionplan.mit.edu/

• Development of Graduate Admissions Handbook
  • We are compiling information about how graduate admissions is conducted across the Institute in different departments
  • Email us if you are interested in helping us finish this handbook!

• Looking to join GSC DEI?
  • We are recruiting for the upcoming year 😊
    • Chair
    • C-reps: Disabilities, Religious Life
DEI Committee: Data Info + Events

• Ongoing Data Access
  • Graduate Enrolled Student Survey: data request form
  • Black Lives Matter: departmental scorecard

• Upcoming Events:
  • Fridays, 1:30-2:30 pm: DEI Coordinator Meetings @ Zoom

• Next Committee Meeting: Mon. May 17 from 9-10 am @ Zoom

Contact: gsc-diversity@mit.edu
External Affairs Board

Chair: Jordan Harrod

gsc-eab@mit.edu
April 2021 Updates

• Statements Passed:
  • Making Election Day a State Holiday
  • Endorsement of the VOTES Act
  • Prohibiting Body Size Discrimination
  • Endorsement of the NSF For The Future Act

• April 2021 EAB Meeting Notes
Upcoming Events + Advocacy

• Recruiting for Board Leadership Positions!
  • No Experience Necessary!
  • Looking for a Public Outreach Chair
  • Reach out to gsc-eab@mit.edu if you’re interested!

• Advocacy Topics + Events
  • Student Wellbeing and Mental Health
  • LGBTQ+ Issues
  • Accessibility
  • Climate Policy
  • Tech Transfer/Commercialization

• Welcoming New Members! Reach out to gsc-eab@mit.edu
Housing & Community Affairs

Chairs: Jonathan Behrens, Denise Tellbach
gsc-hca-chair@mit.edu
Academic Year 2021-22 Stipends

$41,856 / year

Individual departments can pay up to $48K
Academic Year 2021-22 Stipends

• Stipend increase of **3.25%**
  • Missed GSC recommendation by $500 / year
  • Still higher than inflation
Academic Year 2021-22 Stipends

Additional changes:

• Elimination of sub-100% stipend rates for departments
• Family grant was drastically increased from $2,000 to $5,000

Contact gsc-hca-advocacy-chair@mit.edu to learn more or get involved in future work
Fall Housing License Agreements

• Housing: penalty free cancellation until May 14th

• Housing allows for a summer break rent pause

• Contact us with any questions or concerns:

  gsc-hca-chair@mit.edu
Muddy Charles Pub Board

Chair: Jennifer Kaczmarek
jkacz@mit.edu
05/05/2021
The Muddy Charles Pub wants you!

• The board is looking for new graduate student members!!

• **Next meeting 05/10/2021 @ 7 PM eastern**

  Zoom link: https://mit.zoom.us/j/96949680993?pwd=dHVLNmN2Nzl3UnJwbCtYSVFQT3hvdz09

• **Email Jennifer with any questions!**
  • gsc-muddy-chair@mit.edu