Agenda

1. Introduction (5:30-5:40pm)
   a. New faces
   b. Quorum check*
   c. Approval of December minutes*
2. Committee & Officer Updates (5:40-6:10pm)
3. Budget Rescope (6:10-6:30pm)
   a. Led by Vincent Zu (Treasurer)
4. Presentation on the Statements Process (6:30-7:00pm)
   a. By Jordan Harrod (EAB Chair)
5. Open Floor (7:00-7:15pm)

*Requires a vote
Attendance
Committee Updates
Activities Committee

Ruoxuan Yang & Somayajulu Dhulipala
gsc-ac@mit.edu
Sold out tickets.
Some students just started their program in January, new to MIT activities and TD Garden.
We need three students to check-in next time: one for Tim Tickets, one for marking for our own record, one for distributing the tickets.
Bruins lost. There was a fight during the game.
AC meeting Mon. Feb 14 7pm

When: Monday, February 14 7-8pm

https://mit.zoom.us/j/99166886578
Meeting ID: 991 6688 6578

$15 food reimbursement for attendees. You need to attend at least one AC meeting prior to the election to be eligible for the next chair (I think?)
If policy allows (can wait until a week before). Otherwise, postpone to April Taste of, after Patriots Day.

May replace with some non-food event, but currently have no real plan. Let us know if you have a specific idea.

Will think about what in-person non-food events we can have, on and off-campus. Again, let us know.
AC chair next year?

Need two new chairs starting in May.
All current MIT graduate students that will also be graduate students next academic year are eligible.
Election in April AC meeting. Need to attend at least one AC meeting prior to the election.
Let us know.
Ski trip subcommittee?

Need 3 ski trip subcommittee members starting in May. All current MIT graduate students that will also be graduate students next academic year are eligible.

You can bring a guest and go ski trip for free. Aiming for IAP 2023, last time was Jan 24-27 2020.
Grad Gala Subcommittee

Need a chair for the Grad Gala subcommittee.
Grad Gala is official the official black tie event for all grad students. Usually happens at a super fancy place - cruise, aquarium, museum, etc.

Perks include - two free tickets, get to try out fancy food, visit several cool marriage/gala venues (makes it super easy to plan out your own fancy wedding in the future ;))
Grad Arts Forum Subcommittee

Looking for art (both performing arts and visual arts) enthusiasts to lead the grad arts forum subcommittee.

Events that you plan include -
Museum tours, Wine and Opera, Alehouse Tavern music event, Visit to performing arts shows in Boston (Musical, Theatre, Improv, etc.), talent shows, photography workshops and more.
Academics, Research, and Careers Committee

Simone Bruno
Yifan Wu
gsc-arc-chair@mit.edu
Committee updates

- **ARC Chairs:**
  - Simone Bruno
  - Yifan Wu

- **Events organized and upcoming events:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall networking event</td>
<td>Nov, 8th</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAIL! event</td>
<td>Nov, 11th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patent strategy workshop</td>
<td>IAP 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>1) Academia vs Industry</td>
<td>Feb/Mar. 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>2) MBA/PhD connector</td>
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<tr>
<td>3) Networking event</td>
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Advising Subcommittee

- Currently planning IAP panel + session about *switching advisors*
- **Target Audience:**
  - Grad students deciding whether to switch advisors
  - Grad students who are actively switching advisors

- **Tentative details:**
  - Zoom panel
  - January 19th @ 6-7pm
  - Short 15-20min presentation about tips & resources
  - 40-45min panel of grad students who switched advisors mid-program

Have ideas? Want to help? Let us know at gsc-arc-advising@mit.edu or Slack
Who is the Advising Committee?

Paula do Vale Pereira, AeroAstro

Noam Buckman, Mechanical Engineering

Mrigi Munjal
Material Science & Engineering

Hannah Harris
Biology
GSC Alumni Relations Committee is looking for a **new team lead**, who strives to facilitate the alumni - graduate student communication by organizing events and advocating for graduate students.

- **A perfect opportunity to expand your network and build meaningful relations with MIT alumni.**
- **Time commitment is around ~1-2 hr/week.**

If you are interested in this role, fill out this form (https://forms.gle/XibbNeSjFcWHbU8B6)! If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Emre Ergecen (eergecen@mit.edu).

Have ideas? Want to help? Let us know at eergecen@mit.edu
Interested in joining ARC?

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

Presented by Vincent Zu, GSC Treasurer
asa-president@mit.edu
President: Alex Bookbinder (Undergrad)
ASA Updates

• New group application open now, due Feb 28

• LEF/ARCADE application open now, due Mar 1

• Update the group email on Engage

• Poster space application open soon
DEI Committee

Chair: Kayla Storme
gsc-diversity@mit.edu
GSC DEI Officers

Chair
Kayla Storme
(she/her)
3rd year PhD, Chemistry

Vice Chair - Department & Classroom Inclusion
Miguel Alcantar
4th year PhD, Biological Engineering

Vice Chair - Student Life
Rachel Szabo
(she/they)
6th year PhD, Microbiology

Incoming Secretary
Andrei Iliescu
(he/him)
2nd year PhD, Chemistry

Treasurer (Open Position)
You?
Food Connection Debrief

- Individual food items were more popular
- Faculty expressed interest in donating food items
- Collaborating with MIT’s Food Security Action Team on next steps
  - They are looking for grad student reps!
- Planning to hold another distribution pending MIT COVID restrictions
Personal Care Distribution

• Recommendations of products to include:
  • Lotion
  • Hand sanitizer*  
  • Chapstick
  • Soap  
  • Menstrual Products**
  • Floss
  • Mouthwash
  • Toothbrushes

• Looking for other product suggestions
• Happy to collaborate with departments to determine best locations for distributions in individual departments

* = Depends on availability
** = Would be placed in/near bathrooms
Department and Classroom Inclusion

- Collaboration on DEI initiatives and information sharing
- Preparing for implementation of the strategic action plan
- Departments needing conduits:
  - Architecture
  - Media Arts and Sciences
  - Aero Astro
  - Chemical Engineering
  - Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
  - Health Sciences and Technology
  - Materials Science and Engineering
  - Mechanical Engineering
  - Linguistics and Philosophy
  - Science, Technology, and Society
  - Biology
  - Management
  - Brain and Cognitive Sciences
  - Mathematics
  - Economics
  - Political Science
Student Life

- First Generation Honors Society (w/ Graduation Cords)
  - Meeting with OGE Grad Diversity about creating an Alpha Alpha Alpha (AAA) chapter

Do you have an idea for an event centered around community-building among students and DEI advocacy?

Please get in touch with us at gsc-diversity-officers@mit.edu

We are also looking for a Constituency Representative (C-Rep) for first generation/low income (FGLI) students! Please contact us at the email above if interested.
External Affairs Board

Chair: Jordan Harrod
gsc-eab@mit.edu
February 2021 Updates

Statements Passed:
- Submission for the OSTP Advancing Equity in Science and Technology Challenge
- Public Comment on DHS Proposed Rule for DACA

Meeting Notes:
- [January 2022 EAB Meeting Notes](#)
- [January Grad Advocacy Newsletter](#)
January 2021 Updates

• Upcoming Advocacy Topics
  • Cambridge City Council
  • Graduate Student Unionization
  • Student Wellbeing and Mental Health
  • Grad Caucus

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

Jonathan Behrens
Denise Tellbach

gsc-hca-chair@mit.edu
West Campus Construction

- We have received complaints regarding closing of rail crossing
- Issue has been raised multiple times by multiple stakeholders
- Construction delayed by blizzard, but activities starting now
- Earplugs, white noise machines or noise-canceling earmuffs at front desks

- Questions? Concerns? Complaints?
  → west-campus-grad-info@mit.edu

- If no satisfying answer there: gsc-hca-chair@mit.edu
HCA seeks Chair

• Passionate about Housing?
• Advocate for Stipends?
• Gain Leadership Experience?

Apply to be GSC HCA Chair!
GSC-HCA-Chair@mit.edu
Stipend Recommendations

• Join HCA Advocacy Committee to get involved!

• Assess Student Cost of Living

• Make the argument to the Institute what stipend changes are needed

• GSC-HCA-Advocacy-Chair@mit.edu
Muddy Charles pub

Jennifer Kaczmarek
jkacz@mit.edu
The Muddy Charles Pub is open!

The Pub is open for the spring semester!

**Hours:**
- Monday-Thursday 5-8 pm *by reservation*

  - Reservations can be made **3 days in advance**

- Please make a reservation *only* if you are sure you can go to the Muddy
Questions about the Muddy?

Interested in joining the board?

Any questions about how the board runs or operates?

Email me! gsc-muddy-chair@mit.edu
Orientation Committee

Akshit Singla, GSC Secretary (temp)
gsc-oc@mit.edu
Officer Updates
Officers Update

- Budget Rescope
- GSC Reps with Committees reminder
- Open Institute Committee positions
  - Creative Arts Council
  - Shuttle Committee
- Anno update process
- CJAC (Corporation Joint Advisory Committee) update
- SPRC (Student Policy Review Committee) update
- Provost Selection process update
  - UA/GSC Officers meeting with President Reif
Officers Update

• Website hacking issue
  • IS&T took the main site down (it was replaced with something else)
  • We have all of the files and are working on a way to get it back up temporarily
  • We were already exploring rebuilding the site, so will continue on that in parallel

• Union election submission
  • The Officers are scheduling to meet with union representatives
  • We are hoping to have a joint meeting between them and ExComm as well
Old Business
New Business
Budget Rescope

Vincent Zu (Treasurer)
Presentation on the Statements Process

Jordan Harrod (EAB Chair)
What is a Statement?

From the GSC Bylaws:

A “statement” is any written public communication expressing the position of the GSC.

Private or verbal communications and event or activity announcements and publicity are not considered statements so long as the ideas presented do not contradict previously communicated GSC official policies/statements.

All statements reflect the position or opinion of the entire GSC.

Committees and subcommittees of the GSC or individuals in their capacity as GSC members or officials may not make or sign on to statements representing their own independent positions.
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What is a Statement?

August, 31st 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Chairman, Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Chairman Sanders,

We are writing on behalf of student governments at 25 universities representing over 180,000 students and researchers. We advocate for the right of graduate assistants (teaching assistants and research assistants) to be recognized as employees, form unions, and collectively bargain to improve their quality of life. We sincerely thank Chairman Sanders for his previous leadership on this issue through the Respect for Graduate Student Workers Act as well as Majority Leader Schumer for his vocal advocacy on this issue.

As the Senate seeks to pass measures protecting the right to organize in the upcoming reconciliation bill, we seek to ensure that the right of graduate assistants to unionize is included in this process.

The reasons why graduate assistants are employees and should have the right to unionize are clear:

- **Graduate assistants’ compensation are ‘consideration for work’ and not financial aid.** Graduate research and teaching assistants are compensated based on their duties as employees, not as financial aid for their economic circumstances.

- **The principal time commitment of graduate assistants is work as instructors or researchers.** After taking some classes during the first one or two years of graduate school, it is common for graduate assistants to not take any classes and function solely as a researcher. In the typical 4-7 year STEM PhD, as well as in non-STEM fields, a majority of a graduate assistant’s time is spent as a researcher or instructor.
What Counts As A Statement?

A “statement” is any written public communication expressing the position of the GSC.

This Includes:

- Signing petitions with your official GSC title and/or on behalf of your GSC committee
- Publishing opinion pieces with your official GSC title and/or on behalf of your GSC committee
- Advocating publicly for a specific position with your official GSC title and/or on behalf of your GSC committee

Past EAB Statements can be found here for reference.
From the **GSC Bylaws:**

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**Committees and subcommittees of the GSC or individuals in their capacity as GSC members or officials may not make or sign on to statements representing their own independent positions.**
What Are Statements Based On?

Policy Platform of the Graduate Student Council
Passed by General Council: August 7th, 2019

FOREWORD

The following policy platform contains the views and positions of the MIT Graduate Student Council (GSC). This document acts as a guide and summary which may be used by committees of the GSC to pass position statements. The GSC will update and reaffirm these positions on an annual basis.

RIGHTS AND DIVERSITY

The GSC firmly supports:

1. Protecting the rights of students to engage in advocacy, lobbying, and debate without fear of reprisal.
2. Protecting the rights of all students regardless of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, ancestry, employment status, marital status, national or ethnic origin, political affiliation, or immigration status.
3. All efforts that encourage diversity at institutions of higher education.
How Are Statements Passed?

There are three GSC entities that can pass statements:

1. The Executive Committee
2. GSC Committees with Statements-Voting Membership
   a. Currently, the External Affairs Board is the only committee with this status
3. The General Council (You!)
How Are Statements Passed?

General Process for Committees:

1. Statement Notification to ExComm by Chair of Committee
   a. Must include intended audience and be sent at least 72 hours before voting begins*
2. During the 72 hours, other Committees can notify ExComm if they’d like to get involved or have objections
   a. GSC Secretary also checks statement history and policy platform
3. After 72+ hours, Committee votes on Statement
   a. Statements pass by simple majority with a quorum of 50% of voting membership
4. After approval, a Statement may be put under review if ExComm/Officers have a problem with it.

*there’s a way around this called the Statements Subcommittee but this is already a lot of text so I decided not to get into it
How Are Statements Passed?

General Process for General Council:

same process as any other item that is introduced and voted on
How Are Statements Regulated?

- **The Policy Platform**
- **General Council:**
  - The fact that the General Council is passing the statement is the regulation, given that it’s the representative body of all graduate students.
- **Committees:**
  - Any time a standing committee other than the Executive Committee approves a statement, the Officer Liaison, one of the committee chairs, or a majority of the Officers may place that statement under Review.
  - Any Officer can place statements approved by the Executive Committee under Review.
  - A statement under Review shall not be issued unless the Review is resolved positively.
How Are Statements Regulated?

- Reviews of statements approved by any standing committee may be resolved positively by either:
  - Passage of a motion by the Executive Committee approving of the statement by a two-thirds vote; or
  - Passage of a motion or resolution by the General Council approving of the statement by a simple majority; or
  - Passage of any other motion or resolution by the General Council clarifying that the statement is appropriate. This may include, but is not limited to, updates to Platform Documents relevant to the statement.

- A Review is closed:
  - If the Executive Committee resolves the Review positively; or
  - If the Review has been considered by the General Council; or
  - If another motion or resolution by the General Council passes indicating that the statement is appropriate.
In Summary

• Statements are any written public communication expressing the position of the GSC.
  • This includes stances expressed by individuals in their capacity as GSC representatives
• Statements must be based on positions endorsed in the Policy Platform
• Statements can be passed by (1) ExComm, (2) Committees with Statements-Voting Membership, and (3) The General Council
• Statements are regulated by the Policy Platform, the General Council, and the Review process.
Bylaws Amendment on Statements

Submitted by Noam Buckman
Open Floor