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Association of Student**Activities**

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MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

General Council Meeting
June 4th, 2014, 5:30 PM
Minutes

1. Quorum Check
 - a. 42 people in attendance, quorum is reached (29 minimum)
2. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Agenda is approved
3. Approval of May General Council Meeting Minutes
 - a. Minutes are approved
4. GSC Committee Updates
 - a. Academics, Research, & Careers Committee
 - i. Alumni Association Poster Reception
 - ii. Next meeting is June 24, 6 PM
 - iii. GWAMIT
 1. Spring Social
 2. Looking for co-chairs for Fall Leadership Conference
 - iv. Proposed subcommittee on Advisor-Advisee Relationships
 - v. LASC
 1. Next meeting is Thursday, June 19, 6 PM
 - b. Activities Committee
 - i. Past Events
 1. Acoustic BBQ
 2. Leadership BBQ
 3. Coffee Hour
 4. Presidential Cruise
 - ii. Upcoming Events
 1. Arts Soiree
 2. eMIT Science Outreach Blog
 3. Boston Harbor Islands Cruise
 - iii. Next meeting is Tuesday, June 10, 5:30 PM
 - c. Housing & Community Affairs

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- i. Costco Cards
 - ii. Saferide Shuttle
 - iii. Off-campus: brunch at Zoe's and dinner at Life Alive
 - iv. Institute-wide REFs program
 - v. Improvements in dorm security
 - vi. Looking for off-campus co-chairs
 - vii. Next meeting is Monday, June 9, at 6 PM
 - viii. Q: Do grad dorms need more security?
 - ix. HCA Chair: Incident in undergraduate dorms has precipitated this development. Changes in graduate dorms will include an update to security software and an increase in card readers.
- d. Orientation Committee
- i. All Graduate Student BBQ (new event)
 - ii. Dorm Event Fund (\$12,500 total, dorms have applied for \$16,230)
 - iii. New Mobile-Compatible Website
 - iv. Looking for OC Fellow for the summer
 - v. Still need coordinators for: info booth, apple picking, and a few other events
 - vi. Next meeting is Wednesday, June 11, 6 PM
 - vii. Q: Why not combine the All Graduate Student BBQ with the dorm BBQ events?
 - viii. OC Chair: The BBQs have different purposes.
 - ix. President: We wanted an event that brings all of MIT together.
 - x. Sidpac Rep: We haven't been reached out to yet. How is this a one MIT event if you're excluding dorms?
 - xi. OC Chair: We're not excluding anyone.
- e. Muddy Charles
- i. Ongoing Renovations
 - ii. Next meeting is Tuesday, July 1, 6 PM
5. Officer Updates
- a. Nominations Board
- i. Membership is three officers plus three council members
 - ii. Applications will open for three open spots at the end of the week

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- iii. Nominations for the Nominations Board
 1. Jen Groff (accepted)
 2. Guy Evans (accepted)
 3. Raphael Dumas (accepted)
- iv. Voting; all three candidates approved by Council
- b. Funding Board
 - i. Athletics and Performance Activities Grant
 - ii. Funding Board / Public Service Fund / Sustainability Fund applications are now open, deadline is July 7
 - iii. Nominations for Funding Board
 1. D.W. Rowlands (accepted)
 - iv. Voting, candidate approved by Council
6. Service Awards
 - a. Awarded to Kelsey Stoerzing and Luke Jensen
7. Voting Review
 - a. Parliamentary Hierarchy (GSC Constitution and Bylaws, Roberts Rules of Order, Parliamentary Procedure conveyed to the council)
 - b. Abstentions count as “no” votes, because legislation needs a majority of members present at meeting
 - c. Vote for Divestment Resolution was 26 yes, 11 no, 17 abstain, so the resolution did not pass at last GCM.
 - d. Motion to re-vote on the Divestment Resolution
 - i. Seconded, vote to re-vote is 26 yes, 16 no, 3 no, motion to re-vote is passed
 - e. Re-vote on the Divestment Resolution
 - i. Seconded, vote on the Divestment Resolution is 21 yes, 19 no, 5 abstain. Divestment Resolution does not pass.
 - f. Q: Can this be brought up again at the next Council Meeting, given that the number of abstains was enough to swing the results of the vote?
 - g. A: Yes, but the Council has the ability to decide to not re-vote.
8. Old Business – 61.gsc.1.1 GSC Budget Proposal
 - a. Review of budget voting procedure
 - b. Q: What if the income line item turns out to be different than what we approve?

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- c. Treasurer: It won't be different, these are defined amounts from the ODGE and other funding sources.
- d. Voting on the Budget
 - i. Activities Committee
 1. Q: Why did some line items decrease?
 2. AC Co-chair: We are basing out budget on the unamended FY14 budget, which is lower than the FY14 amended. Some items had to be removed.
 3. Q: You removed money from certain line items. Where did this money go?
 4. Treasurer: Went to Arts & Cultural Events, Subsidized Dining, Outreach/Community Service, and Coffee Hour.
 5. Q: Is AC no longer funding events that are put on by student groups?
 6. A: Generally yes. They should apply through the Funding Board.
 7. No objections raised, AC budget is passed.
 - ii. Academics, Research, and Careers Committee
 1. Q: What is the GWAMIT line item?
 2. A: We receive \$10K from the ODGE, and we earmark that for the GWAMIT.
 3. No objections raised, ARC budget is passed.
 - iii. Association of Student Activities
 1. Q: Is the ASA part of the GSC?
 2. A: The ASA is a joint committee between the UA and the GSC. The UA and the GSC both commit money to support operations of the ASA.
 3. Q: What is the first year summer mailing?
 4. A: All undergraduates receive a paper mailing with information on the student groups at MIT.
 5. Q: What is the First Year Summer mailings?
 6. A: Not sure. They used to send out a paper mailing, but I thought that they have moved to email.
 7. Q: Can we not allocate the money to line item 5.2, but then allocate at a later time?
 8. A: Yes, we can re-allocate the money at the amended budget.

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9. Motion to reduce funding for line item 5.2 to \$0, seconded.
 - a. Vote was 29 yes, 12 no, 4 abstain, motion was approved
 10. Comment: If the representative for the ASA is not here, we should have the ability to not pass the budget for ASA while passing the rest of the GSC budget. If this is not possible due to the bylaws, we should amend the bylaws accordingly.
 11. No other objections raised, ASA budget is passed.
- iv. Executive Committee
1. Q: What is NAGPS?
 2. A: A conference for graduate student leaders across the country. This covers expenses for members of the Executive Committee that attends.
 3. Q: What is the discretionary budget?
 4. A: This budget can fund GSC events if they go over budget. Also helps cover incidental expenses such as the electronic clickers that we now use for voting.
 5. Q: What is the Holiday Reception?
 6. A: An event held at Brick and Mortar with officers, co-chairs, and student leaders from other schools.
 7. Q: How many people attend the Executive Committee Luncheon and Retreat?
 8. A: Approximately 24 people.
 9. No objections raised, Executive Committee budget is passed.
- v. Funding Board
1. Q: Why were 3.9 and 3.10 reduced to \$0?
 2. A: They were moved to the first page, because they are commitments that were previously passed by the Council.
 3. Q: What is the collaboration reward?
 4. A: Money that we give to student groups who collaborate with one another.
 5. No objections raised, Funding Board budget is passed.
- vi. Housing and Community Affairs
1. Q: What is covered under Transportation Options?
 2. A: Mostly covers the Costco shuttle.
 3. Q: How many people use the Costco shuttle and card?

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4. A: Not sure about the shuttle. Students and GSC will be using the Costco cards, we expect that we should recoup the costs of the cards based on the cash back from the spending on the cards.
5. No objections raised, HCA budget is passed.

vii. Orientation Committee

1. Q: Why did you decrease particular line items?
2. A: Some line items were overbudgeted from the previous year.
3. Q: Why was publicity budget reduced if many events weren't well attended last year?
4. A: We're rolling the cost of event publicity into individual event line items.
5. No objections raised, Orientation budget is passed.

viii. Publications and Publicity Board

1. Q: Why do we have to pay the webmaster salary?
2. A: We aren't able to attract the right amount of talent without paying a salary.
3. No objections raised, P&P budget is passed.

9. Open Floor

- a. Raphael Dumas: There has been a concern about how faculty are hired in the School of Engineering. Most aren't actually engineers, because there is an emphasis on hiring new faculty that are doing things that haven't been done before. Is this a shared sentiment?
- b. A: Is this a departmental specific issue? The departments choose who to hire or be tenured, and MIT mostly signs off on the decision.
- c. President: There will be initiatives and committees formed over the next year, and we will be reaching out to council representatives to staff these committees.

10. Motion to adjourn, seconded, passed.