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## MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

Special General Council Meeting  
March 22, 2006  
GSC Office, 5:30 pm

### **Resolution 52gsc11.2**

- Title: **Termination of the Currently Planned Residence Hall Project**
- Sponsor: Sylvain Bruni, GSC President
- Submitted: March 22, 2006

Whereas, MIT has proposed a new \$104 M graduate residence at the intersection of Pacific and Albany Streets (NW35) in order to facilitate the expansion of the undergraduate class through the conversion of Ashdown House to an undergraduate dormitory, remove the need for Senior Segue, increase by 150 on net the number of graduate on-campus beds, and centralize graduate residences in the Northwest corridor; and

Whereas, MIT has refused to shift its deadline of March 31, 2006 for finalizing all major design parameters of this new graduate residence; and

Whereas, the current plans for the residence call for all units to have their own living rooms and kitchens, thus preventing the total occupancy of the building from being increased given zoning regulations; and

Whereas, construction of the new graduate residence would coincide with Ashdown House, a critically important source of affordable graduate housing, being converted into an undergraduate dormitory; and

Whereas, all current planned room types for this new residence are configured in a manner that would necessitate their rents falling above median on-campus rents; and

Whereas, all financial information available to the student body clearly shows that in order to financially support the construction of a new \$104 M graduate residence, MIT will have to either increase graduate rents on campus or provide an unprecedentedly large subsidy for the graduate housing system; and

Whereas, there is no indication from the Senior Administration that MIT is willing to provide on any sustained basis such an unprecedented subsidy to the graduate housing system; and

Whereas, the most recently proposed design for the new building has less than half the common space currently available in Ashdown House; and

Whereas, the GSC unanimously passed resolutions 52gsc10.3 and 52gsc10.4 at its March 2006 General Council Meeting to make clear its requirement that the new graduate

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residence be constructed in a manner that allows it to replace the affordable housing stock and valuable community resources being lost by the conversion of Ashdown House, and that the process be extended to allow for substantive student input in this regard; and

Whereas, the Administration has made it clear that they intend for no possibility of modifying the planning for the new graduate residence in a manner that addresses the concerns of the student body as represented by the GSC's previously passed resolutions,

We, the representative body of MIT graduate students, support the termination of the currently proposed planning project on the grounds that it does not meet the needs of the graduate student body, has been planned without any substantial student or faculty input and without duly regarding the previously passed resolutions 52gsc10.1, 52gsc10.3, and 52gsc10.4., and that it is financially unsound. At the same time, we affirm our strong support for the increase of graduate housing options in a manner that does address the diverse needs of the graduate student body in a fiscally responsible manner. We furthermore insist that MIT begin the planning process anew at a later date in a manner that allows for appropriate student and faculty input throughout the process.