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MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

General Council Meeting
June 7th, 2006

53gsc1.2 Diversity Committee

(VOTING AT THIS MEETING)

Sponsor: Elizabeth Clay

Whereas, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (the "Institute") has affirmed its commitment to diversity and expressed the goal of increasing the enrollment and retention at the Institute of under-represented groups;

Whereas, the Institute's framework to effectively implement its expressed commitment to diversity is limited because of administrative decentralization: graduate student recruiting, admissions, and retention are managed at the departmental level;

Whereas, the 2005-2006 Graduate Student Council ("GSC") initiated the Task Force on Diversity ("TFoD") in October 2005 to evaluate GSC and Institute diversity initiatives, define diversity, research external diversity responses at the Institute's peer graduate schools and produce a report in March 2006;

Whereas, the GSC Task Force on Diversity has completed and submitted a report on graduate student diversity that includes recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the Institute's and GSC's expressed commitment to diversity in ongoing graduate student life;

Whereas, the GSC TFoD has presented its report and the GSC body discussed the TFoD report recommendations at the March 2006 GCM and the primary recommendation of the TFoD was to create a standing committee on diversity;

Whereas, committees of the Graduate Student Council work to address student needs are the primary avenues by which the GSC accomplishes the majority of its mission;

Resolved, the GSC supports the President's action to create an Ad Hoc Graduate Student Council Committee on Diversity, charged as follows (the "charge"):

1. Evaluation:

Evaluate the current GSC and Institute initiatives and provide an analysis of the pulse of the graduate student community on the issue of diversity on an annual basis;

2. Program Coordination:

Coordinate the GSC's diversity initiatives and programming and work with other GSC or Institute committees on events of joint interest;

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3. Information Clearinghouse:

Investigate prior diversity initiatives at MIT and develop a directory of Institute administrative, departmental and student organizations working to promote or facilitate diversity in the graduate student community;

4. Advocacy:

Advocate on behalf of graduate students on Institute committees and through various mechanisms;

5. Liaise with the Institute:

Serve as a central resource for graduate students, faculty, and administrators on the issue of diversity for the GSC and work with the administration and departments on developing and promoting recruitment initiatives at the graduate level.

It is so moved:

1. For the GSC to vote to support the President's creation of an Ad Hoc Graduate Student Council Committee on Diversity to commence work at the beginning of the 2006-2007 academic year.

2. The Ad-hoc committee shall be evaluated based on the stated plans and goals and the GSC shall hold a vote at the February 2007 GCM on the creation of a permanent standing GSC Committee on Diversity.