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MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY **GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL**

Housing and Community Affairs
Family Subcommittee Meeting
Monday November 5, 2012
Meeting Agenda

1. Attendees:

Nathaniel, Randi, Anna, Monali, Kim, Jason, Emily, Remi, Ami

2. Comments on last meeting's minutes:

Randi summarized that our immediate task is forming a recommendation to EBOC on behalf of graduate families for the pricing and enrollment structures of the new TCC Vassar site, and secondarily to lay out graduate family needs/suggestions more broadly for childcare at MIT.

3. Childcare / EBOC recommendation

a. Progress on tasks:

i. CoL numbers

Kim summarized her assessment of the family CoL data. Described a histogram of age distrib., 180 total kids. Saw rent/utilities higher for families as compared to singles, and the numbers match approximately to survey, though the CoL numbers claim \$1000 per month per kid (Age averaging though? Further investigation needed) It was unclear whether childcare questions adequately differentiated between total and individual childcare expenditures.

ii. Family Survey

Jason handed out summary of the data, calculating means, medians, and combined costs of housing, childcare, health insurance for families (individual partners and combined). (see attachment)

Ami: Do we have anything on what/why spouses are doing what they're doing (staying home or otherwise)?

Anna: Most int'l students have a visa such that they cannot even apply for work.

Ami: I think there are J visas that can work that still stay home cause childcare is expensive

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Kim: Do we have any breakdown of gender of person reporting on childcare costs? Since many men reporting no costs are relying on stay at home spouses.

Randi/Nathaniel: We might look into it with GWAMIT, but we don't have that from this or from CoL

Anna: What is the best takeaway from this?

Randi: Age of children and how many applied for TCC and didn't receive. Getting percentages of students with X attribute would be good. Distributions are more helpful than single stats.

iii. Off-Campus alternatives - Work Life Center

Anna investigated infant and toddler care with Work/Life Center. They have a 24 hour resource site. ~25 childcare center, ~20 family daycare options, and then through googling got nanny options. In the total spread, TCC Eastgate and Stata are right in the middle with regard to cost (2300 per month). Lowest was 1200 (religious). Highest was Bright Horizon at University park (2750). For toddlers, similarly 1500 -2400, with TCC at 2000.

Family daycare data: they are much much cheaper. 1000-1800. Median 1200/month. Not much difference between infant and toddler.

Nanny costs based on work/life, 15-20\$ an hour. So about 2700 a month full time (but typically would be sharing).

All this is Cambridge.

Ami: I think the scholarship ended when the on-campus TCC stopped paying facilities. (gotta check this)

Anna, giving Ramya's stuff on preschools: Cambridge, public options low income is free of charge if you qualify, but wait list is 1-1.5 years Bright Horizons slots are available (1500 a month) Learning Center, \$75 a day or \$315 a week

Not many of the centers have a sliding scale based on income. Only a couple out of 20 (but when they do, what % of income they are taking, usually much lower).

iv. Peer institutions

Remi: Looked mainly at Ivy institutes. Out of 8, only 2 offered subsidies. Princeton offers up to 5000 a year per kid (in home out of home). Stipulation was that the spouse has to be working part time/full time, looking/injured. Their daycare is comparable to MIT

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UPenn similarly, up to 2500 a year per kid. Both distributed by financial need (so not blanket amount). More limited on campus daycare.

Harvard stopped subsidies in 2010. 6 affiliated daycares, some use a sliding scale based on income.

Monali: Yale uses a sliding scale. Why can't we?

v. Rough report draft – message

Monali: The letter is on googledoc. <Goes over outline of article>

Randi: We're looking at policy suggestions too. Specifically about facility preference bias, and flexible hours. For example, specifying hours or number of hours.

b. Work Life Center meeting takeaways

Nathaniel recounted HCA's meeting with Kathy Simon at Work/Life. No TCC budget information was gained, but lots of history and descriptive data on enrollment at TCC was obtained. Request for an int'l student's expertise on visas and running a family daycare. Nathaniel/Randi will email GSC int'l rep about it.

4. Next meeting

a. Anna will contact Tiky or Danielle Churchill to see if we can get Westgate for next Monday evening (same time).