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MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

Housing and Community Affairs
Family Subcommittee Meeting
Monday November 26th, 2012
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Anna, Emily, Jason, Kim, Marzyeh, Ramya, Randi, Remi, Rosa

The family survey conducted by the GSC showed that the most important issues for graduate families are housing, stipends, childcare and health insurance. In the same survey, majority of the housing, stipend, child care, or health insurance related replies to the questions "How can the GSC help you?" and "Other comments" were either "More money is needed to cover living necessities, like housing, food, insurance, child care " or "Affordable child care for grad families".

The EBOC recommendation dealt with on-campus child care, so it was decided to pursue a family grant or a stipend increase for families.

To be discussed later: Whether we want the grant to be X amount of money for all eligible graduate student families, or a need-based scholarship for low-income families.

It was discussed which parties we want to contact to endorse this recommendation. It was decided that in addition to the GSC, we would like to have the Alumni Association endorse it.

To be discussed later: When and how we should proceed with contacting the alumni.

The structure of the recommendation was discussed; the first part of the letter will focus on showing that there is a need for the stipend increase for families, and the second part will focus on how much better peer institutions are in this regard.

Tasks:

- 1) Going through cost of living and family survey data - Kim (Kim and Jason can coordinate the family survey data)
- 2) Contacting peer universities regarding their policies for graduate student families (The set of questions will be decided via email):

Stanford - Marzyeh

CalTech - Kim

Yale - Remi

U. Penn - Emily

Columbia - Ramya

UC Berkeley - Rosa

Michigan + Cornell - Anna

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It was decided to not increase the number of peer universities, but instead get good quality data of the ones that were seen as MIT's biggest competition.

Timeline was discussed: We want to use the momentum of the EBOC recommendation, so we want to draft this letter quickly. Possible date for next meeting, Monday December 10. To be finalized.