

INTRODUCTION TO HOUSING & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCA) COMMITTEE AND SUMMARY OF YEAR



Graduate Student Council
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology



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Goals of HCA Committee

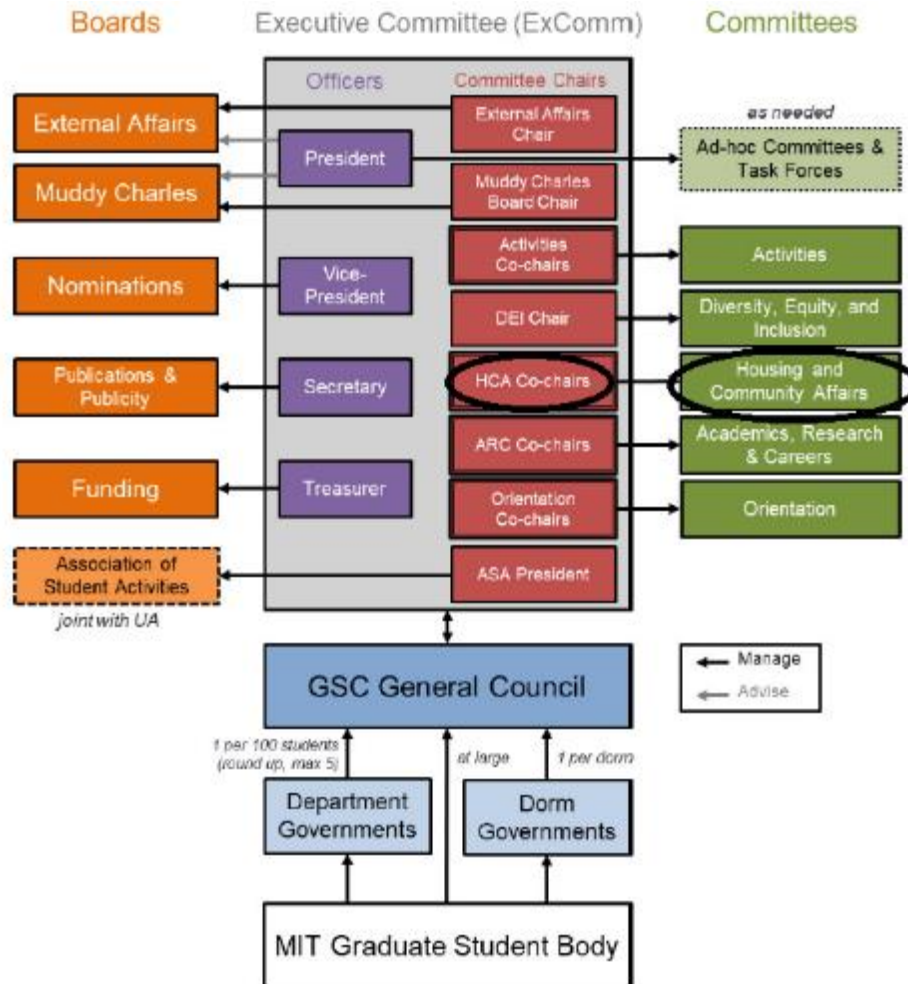
- On paper: The HCA committee focuses on community issues and student services that pertain to the entire graduate population. The committee's work focuses on ensuring that the MIT graduate experience is *enjoyable, affordable, safe, healthy*, and marked by a *welcoming* community.
- What HCA has to offer (in practice):
 - Transfer of knowledge (i.e. Housing updates) between chairs and members
 - Focal Point for discussions between admin + students
 - Gauge pulse of student body on specific issues (through HCA discussions and surveys which are administered by HCA)
 - Stipend Recommendation has been under HCA domain since 2003
 - Subcommittees work on wide variety of initiatives related to creating enjoyable (OCH), affordable (stipends), safe (Transportation), healthy (Sustainability) and welcoming (Irefs, Family) community



Main HCA-centric Initiatives from Past Year

- Interfacing w/ Dorm Representatives
- Enabling communication between MIT Offices (Housing, OVC) and GSC leaders
- Involving more students in the stipend recommendation (resulted in a focus on more targeted programming)
- Some agenda items from Past Year:
 - Establishing Wellness Subcommittee
 - Site 4 and New Graduate Tower Updates

How do we fit into the GSC Structure



- One of the many committees on the GSC
- Members include subcommittee chairs and dorm reps



HCA Subcommittees

- Sustainability
- Transportation
- Off-campus Housing
- iREFS
- Family
- Wellness (created last year)
- Advocacy Subcommittee (creating now!)



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GSC SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE



2019-2020 Projects:

- Koch Institute Reusables Pilot
- Green Labs Atlas course revamp
- Communication between MIT Sustainability Groups
- Clothes drive for “Trashion” show po-up thrift store
- Sustainability Quarantine Newsletter and Movie Night



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Transportation Subcommittee

- Goal: support and advocate for grad students as they get to/from work and around the area
- 2019–2020
 - Bike safety event (w/ MIT Police)
 - Liaison to MIT *Committee on Transportation and Parking*
 - Taking the pulse – interviewing/surveying grad students
 - Transportation guide for orientation (draft)



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Off-campus housing (OCH)

- About 60% of graduate students live off campus
- Organized ~3 social events per month (until March 2020) each with 10-12 students
 - *E.g., Aquarium visit, Harvard Square chocolate tour, Charles River boat cruise, comedy night, Restaurant week lunches and dinners*
- Pioneered a larger end-of-semester group event (~30 people)
- Initiated survey on how OCH can better serve students living off-campus (still collecting responses)
- Ideas for next year:
 - *Orientation event to connect students living in the same neighborhood*
 - *More large group events to involve greater share of students*



OCH SUBCOMMITTEE

We are dedicated to bringing the greater off-campus community together through event programming. Some of our highlights from 2019-2020 include:

- Dine-out Boston at Harvest and ArtBar
- A end-of-semester dinner at Meade Hall
- Visit to the New England Aquarium
and so many more fun events!



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Institute-wide Resources for Easing Friction and Stress (iREFS)

- Confidential, peer-to-peer conflict management coaching
- Open to all graduate students across campus
- 10 active members

- 2-3 in-person meetings/semester/REFS
- Working with OGE and GCF on REFS administration, coordination, and continuity
- Support to new REFS groups
- Pilot with GSC officers for confidential feedback



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Thanks for your attention!



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