

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Undergraduate Student Government

The Undergraduate Association (UA) (<http://ua.mit.edu>), the major governmental body to which all undergraduates belong, works to improve the quality of undergraduate life. It is assisted by a variety of committees. The Financial Board coordinates budgets and allocates funds to student organizations. The Committee on Education provides student feedback to departments and the Institute to improve the undergraduate academic experience. The Nominations Committee recommends student representatives for more than 50 administrative and faculty committees.

Each class at MIT annually elects a president and executive committee for its class council, which plans and coordinates programs and social events throughout the year.

The Association of Student Activities (<http://web.mit.edu/asa>), a joint committee of the UA and the Graduate Student Council (see below), is responsible for recognizing student groups and activities, allocating student office space, and organizing Activities Midways, which take place during orientation in August and Campus Preview Weekend (CPW) each April.

All living groups maintain governing structures responsible for the internal functioning of their houses, including sponsoring social events and promoting house culture. To deal with issues of common concern, the fraternities have the Interfraternity Council (IFC), the sororities are organized under the Panhellenic Council, the independent living groups are members of the Living Group Council (LGC), and undergraduate residence are represented by the Dormitory Council (DormCon). The IFC, Panhellenic Council, and LGC also promote good relations among their houses and their host communities in Boston's Back Bay, Brookline, and Cambridge. DormCon coordinates common house activities including Residence Exploration (REX), CPW, and the Interactive Introduction to the Institute (i3).

Graduate Student Government

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) exists to enhance the overall graduate experience at MIT by promoting the general welfare and concerns of the graduate student body, creating new programs and initiatives, and communicating with the MIT faculty and administration on behalf of graduate students. The GSC seeks to emphasize, in all its activities, the core values of representation, communication, collaboration, transparency, and accountability.

The council accomplishes its goals through a structure of elected representatives, standing committees, and officers. GSC representatives facilitate communication between the council and their constituency (a department, academic program, living group, or demographic group). The standing committees span all facets of the graduate experience, including orientation for all incoming graduate

students; career exploration events and a variety of academic seminars throughout the year; large social and cultural activities; advocacy on student-related issues at the local, state, and federal levels; and even the Muddy Charles Pub.

On issues such as housing, stipends, health care, sustainability, and advising, as well as nearly any other academic or student-life related issue, the GSC serves as the primary voice and advocate for the graduate student body. In addition, the GSC nominates individuals to serve on a number of Institute committees, to ensure that there is a student voice in decisions made throughout the Institute.

The GSC also interfaces with graduate student groups through the Association of Student Activities (<http://web.mit.edu/asa>) (a joint committee of the GSC and the Undergraduate Association) and the GSC funding board, which allocates event funding to these groups. Additionally, the GSC maintains relations with other graduate student organizations both locally and nationally so as to share ideas about how to best address graduate students' needs.

The GSC office is located in Room 50-220, Walker Memorial, above the Muddy Charles Pub. To keep students apprised of the council's activities, it maintains a comprehensive website (<http://gsc.mit.edu>) which serves as a repository for a large amount of information relevant to graduate students; it also publishes the *Anno*, its weekly newsletter, reaching all graduate students on campus.