

Resolution to Create an Advocacy Committee of MIT EECS GSA

Sponsor: Stephen M. Hou*

Approved by the Executive Committee on March 18, 2006 (8 for, 1 against, 0 abstaining).

Approved by a General Body Meeting on April 6, 2006 (30 for, 0 against, 4 abstaining).

Motivation

There are several reasons for creating an Advocacy Committee. After understanding the role that GW6 plays for women in our department, which is a women's social group, EECS GSA can fill in the subspace orthogonal to GW6 that some people may incorrectly believe GW6 already covers. For example, helping the entire department become aware of the issues women face in academia and in EECS is an initiative our club may take on. Furthermore, as our department and the world around us become increasingly international, greater effort should be made to bridge understanding between U.S. and international students, as well as to provide a support network for students from abroad. Finally, such a Committee may also be interested in events or programs relevant for other underrepresented groups as well, such as ethnic minorities and LGBT students.

We should create an Advocacy Committee, which would be responsible for incorporating issues pertinent to underrepresented members (such as women, ethnic minorities, international students, and LGBT) into events already planned by the GSA and coordinating events solely geared at addressing these issues. The idea of this Committee is not to impinge upon what GW6 or other groups already do, but rather to complement it with events that are more visible to the entire departmental body.

Legislation

Be it enacted that, effective May 1, 2006, the Bylaws of the EECS GSA shall be amended so that Article II, Section 9 reads:

Section II-9. Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee is a Standing Committee responsible for incorporating issues pertinent to underrepresented groups in the department, such as, but not limited to, women, ethnic minorities, international students, and LGBT, into events already planned by the GSA and coordinating events solely geared at addressing these issues.

*shou@mit.edu