

## Cory D. Kidd

### Statement of Interest for President of the Graduate Student Council

I am pleased and honored to accept the nomination for President of the Graduate Student Council for the coming year. I look forward to the opportunity to be a part of the GSC and to carry on the outstanding work and traditions of previous years. As a departmental representative and more recently as chair of the Muddy Charles Pub Board of Governors and member of the GSC Executive Committee, I have had the chance to be a part of the GSC and look forward to continuing and improving on the excellence of the Council.

There are two types of issues that the President must address in the coming year, those internal to the Council and those that concern the larger community. Let me address each of these briefly, talk about the ideals and goals that we should strive for, and mention a few specific ideas that I believe should be implemented.

First, there are the concerns related to the internal functioning of the GSC. The representatives are the heart of the Council. They bring the concerns of the students to the GSC and they let the students know what the GSC is doing about these issues. It is necessary that we get the representatives more involved with the issues facing the GSC and the Council's actions. As president, I will invite representatives to Executive Committee meetings so that they can more easily see what is happening with the officers and all of the committees of the Council. I will also meet regularly with representatives so that I can hear first-hand the concerns and issues of graduate students in our departments, residences, and other groups.

In recent years the GSC has developed a strong working relationship with the administration of the Institute. During the last few months, the Student Advisory Board has created a good relationship with Susan Hockfield, our new president. One of the top priorities of the president and of the council should be to maintain these relationships. This will allow us to remain involved with decisions made at MIT and to confront members of the administration when there are issues that need to be addressed.

There are several issues that the GSC is currently working on that should remain top priorities this year. The cost of living advisory board has done a wonderful job of not only achieving a better understanding of the costs confronting students and their income from the Institute, but also of getting that information recognized and acted upon by the administration. It is clear that many graduate

students must constantly worry about these costs, therefore we must keep this issue as one of our top priorities.

A more recent activity that is also well underway is the graduate advising initiative. This is another GSC undertaking that has so far shown great success. A group of those working on this recently presented the findings to a very receptive audience at a town hall meeting. I have personally heard from faculty leaders that they are taking this information seriously and want to find solutions. The GSC must remain actively involved in making sure that the solutions that are implemented are ones that will be truly beneficial to graduate students.

Finally, the officers and the council must be attentive to the students and the issues that arise during the year and be ready to address new concerns as needed. There will undoubtedly be problems that will arise during the next year. We must be proactive in preventing any problems and willing to address them when needed.

I have been involved in advocating for students in my program for three years as a part of our Student Committee, which has given me experience in taking the concerns of the students to the faculty and administration as well as creating new events to bring students throughout our lab together. Two years ago, I helped to create a group of students from across the School of Architecture and Planning to bring together students and faculty from across our departments, programs, and labs in a variety of research-related and social events. This group has successfully organized a series of events that have been successful in creating greater interaction throughout the school. I have also been chair of the Muddy Charles Board of Governors and led the extensive renovations that can be seen in the pub. Through this experience, I worked with numerous MIT departments and administrators to make this possible over the last year.

I look forward to working alongside you over the coming year to continue to move the GSC forward in our advocacy for graduate students at MIT. I would like to discuss these ideas with all members of the council and the MIT community. Please contact me if you would like to talk about the future of the GSC and your involvement in it. I can be reached at [coryk@media.mit.edu](mailto:coryk@media.mit.edu) and 857 205-3133.

Sincerely,

Cory Kidd  
Ph.D. candidate, Media Arts and Sciences