

Sylvain Bruni
Statement of Interest for Vice-President of the Graduate Student Council

It is an honor and privilege to accept my nomination for the position of Vice-President of the Graduate Student Council, for the 2005-2006 term. I have been involved with the GSC since May 2004 when I was elected co-chair of the Orientation Committee. Since then, I have also actively participated in several GSC programs, including GSN photographer, and more recently the MIT 2005 Career Fair, for which I was elected GSC Director and Treasurer. My involvement with student activities and leadership at MIT also includes various officer positions, including the Club Francophone (as Treasurer) and the Rainbow Coffeeshouse (as Vice-President).

Being active in the student community gave me the opportunity to interact not only with several student groups, but also with administrators, staff, and faculty members. Working with these different groups I learned the needs and expectations of my fellow students, and how the Institute operates at a higher level. Taking advantage of this knowledge, I hope to bring to the Council my leadership and planning skills, in order to maximize the GSC's potential to improve the graduate student experience at MIT.

The primary duties of the Vice-President include chairing the Nominations Committee, helping the President effectively implement a vision for the Council and advocate for the student body, (inter)acting with the Institute administration at the Departmental level, and finally recruiting and orienting the GSC Representatives. Relying on my previous experience, I believe that, within a united team of Officers, I can best fulfill these duties. Given the opportunity to serve as Vice-President, I will follow three interrelated, fundamental principles: *Connectivity*, *Accountability*, and *Transparency*. I see the role of Officer as that of connecting people, connecting resources, connecting the different actors of student life. At times, opportunities for life improvement at MIT have been missed because of a lack of interconnection between the different layers of the Institute. In addition, each member of the Council must be accountable for his/her actions, especially Officers, whose general duty is to support Representatives and Executive Committees in their endeavors. Clearly, both Connectivity and Accountability lead to Transparency. I sincerely believe that the Council must thoroughly inform its constituency of its actions, as well as welcome any opinion and involvement from graduate students and the general MIT community.

As the Vice-President, I would like to specifically *encourage*, *advocate*, and *network* among graduate students to fully acknowledge the diversity of individuals that compose the student body. The graduate student community is composed of numerous, diverse populations, and is itself included in an even wider spectrum of populations at MIT. I want to encourage the graduate students to express this diversity, I want to encourage the Representatives to share their experiences and efforts beyond departmental boundaries, I want to encourage GSC Officers to actively report to the Representatives and the Executive Committee. But this is not enough. The GSC must continue to advocate. Under a united leadership, the Council must continue to support current and future programs that will improve graduate student life, as well as carefully monitor and take position to avoid missed opportunities. And finally network, because this is the way I personally find to be most effective. Network with administrators to ensure friendly, sustainable relations to facilitate the GSC advocacy and the duties of GSC Representatives. Network with faculty members to ensure that the academic experience of students is going forward and improving. Network with MIT staff to ensure that support is provided to the graduate students, individually and groups. Finally and most importantly, network with student groups themselves to ensure that the Council is representative and inclusive.

Once again, I find it truly necessary that the GSC reflects the diversity of the student body and I believe that the position of Vice-President offers me the best opportunity to work toward this goal. I would be very interested in hearing your questions, comments, or ideas to better advocate and represent the Graduate Student Community, and to make the GSC an even more efficient and representative organization. So please, feel free to come and talk with me!

Looking forward to working closely with you,
Respectfully yours,

Sylvain Bruni
PhD Candidate, Aeronautics and Astronautics.