

I am honored to accept the nomination for the position of Secretary of the GSC for the 2005-2006 academic year. Over my time at MIT I have always strived to be a staunch advocate for students and student interests and to leave MIT in better shape in these respects than I found it. It will give me great pleasure to continue these efforts on behalf of graduate students within the framework of the GSC.

For most of my time at MIT I have been a Graduate Resident Tutor at Senior House, and have always done my best to work for student concerns within this part of the residential system. In particular, I have promoted student-faculty interaction by recruiting all four of Senior House's faculty House Fellows, and I have worked with diverse areas of the wider administration, such as the Office of the Dean of Student Life and the Safety Office, for example in restoring the traditional opening ceremony to the annual Steer Roast event. After several years of negotiation, this year I have reached success in spearheading the approval of the Thirsty Ear pub to cater Steer Roast, which simultaneously supports two important student concerns and cuts off a significant waste of student funds that were formerly forced to be directed towards an expensive off-campus vendor.

One of the achievements at MIT of which I am most proud is returning the How To Get Around MIT book to publication, which had become defunct for five years prior to my resurrection of it in 2002. In my two years as Editor-In-Chief of the book and one year as Distribution Manager, I oversaw the book's updating, expansion, self-financing and ultimate distribution free of charge to freshman undergraduate students and incoming graduate students. I did not seek, nor receive, financial support from MIT for this book, as I wanted it to be a truly independent student voice, and I believe this has been successful. In addition to providing new students with practical information to make a fulfilling start in MIT and Cambridge, the book provides a cultural and historic context to being an MIT student that I believe is invaluable and somewhat neglected from other sources.

I have also been active in several student organizations on campus. In particular, I was the Editor-In-Chief of Voo Doo, the MIT humor magazine, for three years, and remain active in a project I initiated to have the magazine's entire history, since 1919, scanned and made available on the web. During my tenure as Voo Doo editor I proposed and organized two major LEF-sponsored events and a 24-hour telethon on MIT Student Cable. Other examples of student activity involvement are my work as a projectionist for LSC for many years, and my participation on the team that was responsible for the construction and running of the 2004 IAP Mystery Hunt.

Recently, I had the privilege of being selected to represent both graduate and undergraduate students as a member of the Student Advisory Board to President Hockfield. I grasped this opportunity to continue my strong advocacy for student

concerns, particularly those of culture and student life. I have also been fortunate enough to be able to advocate for support of student art at MIT through my position as an Arts Scholar during the 2004-2005 academic year, and will continue this ideal as an Associate Advisor for the Freshman Arts Program in the 2005-2006 year.

My interest in the position of Secretary stems first from my interest in communication and publications, as demonstrated by my stewardship of HowToGAMIT and Voo Doo. I believe that one of the most important requirements of a student organization such as the GSC is to demonstrate its relevance to its constituents, and I hope to be able to effectively lend my experience to this endeavour. Secondly, I am cognizant of the many gains achieved by the GSC in recent years. I am running for the position of Secretary in order to provide continuity so that we can build on those gains, rather than risking fighting the same battles again. From my experience with MIT residences, student activities and the Student Advisory Board, I know how things are done at MIT. I know many of the administrators involved, and through my editing of HowToGAMIT I am extremely familiar with the inner workings of the Institute.

I believe that I will be able to effectively perform the Secretary's duties of interfacing the GSC with its representatives and constituents and the MIT administration, as well as providing valuable continuity and institutional memory for the benefit of the other Officers. I hope that you will grant me both the opportunity to do so, and the benefit of your ideas and suggestions of how the GSC can best represent your interests at MIT.