

## **Marcus Dahlem**

### **Statement of Interest for Treasurer of the MIT Graduate Student Council**

I am honored to be nominated for the position of Treasurer of the Graduate Student Council. I have been involved in the GSC since I came to MIT in 2002, having served on a number of different committees.

#### **Background**

My first contribution to GSC was as a photographer of the Graduate Student News. Becoming the Photo Editor (some months after) was a great way to interact more closely with the Editor-in-Chief and the GSC Secretary, and to start learning the dynamics of the GSC. I have also been involved with orientation. During my first year I attended most of the events, and during the following years I helped as a coordinator and a volunteer. I even wore the Beaver costume! Let me tell you, that thing is really hot inside, especially in mid August!!!

Currently I am the chair of the GSC Ring Committee, which turns out to be a lot of fun! (in addition to generating additional revenue for the GSC). I have also been involved in the mentorship program for the last two years. As far as student groups, I have been active in Ashdown House (as an officer and presently as the Treasurer), the Portuguese Student Association (Vice-President and President) and the European Club.

#### **GSC Treasurer**

Concerning the Office of the Treasurer, I understand that the two major responsibilities of the Treasurer are the budget allocation for the committees and representatives, and the regular Funding Board allocation periods for the ASA recognized student groups.

The GSC budget allocation is done between May and July, which requires effectiveness and good communication between the officers and each committee. Being the first big responsibility of the GSC Treasurer, this step is essential for the smoothness of the rest of the year. I intend to run this process in a fair and rational way, starting as soon as possible.

I have previously served as a Member-at-Large in the GSC Funding Board under LaRuth McAfee, where I learned a great deal about the process – which has definitely helped me in my current position as the Ashdown House Treasurer. One of the biggest challenges as the GSC Treasurer is to manage a limited budget and try to ensure a healthy and rewarding experience for everyone. One of the few ways for student groups to raise money is through the several funding organizations of MIT, including the GSC Funding Board. This new interaction with the Funding Board made me develop a new connection with the GSC that I had not experienced before, and which I would like to make part of my life during my next year at MIT.

The Funding Board serves as an important building block of the student groups' daily life. It tries to provide the minimum funding for each group to keep its own identity and continue to enhance the graduate student life at MIT. Limited funds are available and normally the Funding Board suggests alternative funding sources. As the Treasurer, I would also sit in the LEF/ARCADE Funding Boards, which will greatly improve the vision of how to fairly distribute the funds among the groups. I understand that the number of student groups is huge (and increases every year), so pushing for more funds and alumni/corporate fundraising is something that I would like to do.

Being the Treasurer of a very active dorm, I also realize the extreme value of having "dorm credit cards" for purchasing supplies and paying some bills. Convincing MIT to make purchasing cards available would greatly reduce the paperwork and time spent doing reimbursements, and is an issue that I will keep in mind and would try to work out with the Student Activities Finance Office at MIT. If this is successful, I hope to broaden the program out to departmental student groups as well.

Concluding, I feel that I will be able to fulfill the requirements of this position and manage the GSC resources in a responsible and fair way.

Sincerely,

Marcus Dahlem