



The Undergraduate Association of MIT Advocacy Policy

Updated last in May of 2017

FOREWORD

The UA Public Affairs committee is responsible for assisting the UA in development of its policy positions by annually submitting a proposed Policy Platform for consideration and approval by the membership. The Policy Platform is not an exclusive expression of the issues of concern to the UA, nor does it bind the UA to advocating for any policy listed below without consideration of other circumstances. The purpose of this document is to state what the UA supports and does not support. This document deals both with external and internal issues that may affect MIT undergraduates, and must be reviewed and voted on by the UA Council at least once every academic year. To pass, this document has received unanimous or near unanimous (with one exception, to be stated in this document as an objection) approval.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND DIVERSITY

The UA firmly supports:

1. Protecting the First Amendment rights of students to publish scholarly work and to engage in advocacy and debate without fear of reprisal.
2. Protecting the constitutional rights of all students regardless of race, color, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, immigrant status, ancestry, national or ethnic origin, income level, or any other marginalized class.
3. Protecting the rights of all MIT students regardless of race, color, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, immigrant status, ancestry, national or ethnic origin, income level, or any other marginalized class.
4. Efforts that encourage diversity at institutions of higher learning to ensure equal opportunities for all individuals.
5. The protection of sensitive student information and electronic information.
6. The protection of personal living space including but not limited to dorm privacy, the right to not be subject to unauthorized search and seizure, and protection of personal property.

QUALITY OF LIFE

The UA firmly supports:

7. Medical leave policies for all students that ensure their access to the same services, rights, and privileges of active students upon their return.
8. Policies that effectively prevent sexual harassment and assault, provide resources and support for survivors, and result in fair and timely investigations with appropriate consequences for perpetrators, regardless of reporting time.
9. Access to affordable, quality residence halls, accessible from MIT, for all undergraduate students and their dependents.
10. Policies and developments that increase the availability, quality, and affordability of transportation services and infrastructure used by students.
11. Policies and developments that increase access to food services, including but not limited to, grocery shopping and dining, and basic services, including laundry.
12. Access to affordable and comprehensive healthcare, including but not limited to mental health care, reproductive care, and dental coverage, for all undergraduate students. Coverage should apply regardless of where the student lives or works.

HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

The UA firmly supports:

13. Efforts to maintain and/or increase the amount of state and federal funding provided for colleges and universities in the United States.
14. Actions taken to promote affordable tuition, including but not limited to the expansion of need-based scholarship programs in the form of financial aid and external scholarships.

RESEARCH/STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

The UA firmly supports:

15. Policies that encourage public and private investments in research and development in order to improve the competitiveness of the United States.
16. Federal initiatives to increase the public dissemination of scholarly research products, and efforts supporting open access to scholarly publications resulting from federally funded research.
17. Policies that promote the use of federal discretionary spending for research and development that supports grants and fellowships at institutions of higher education.
18. Promoting accessibility of research opportunities to students via the UROP program or related initiatives.

The UA firmly opposes:

19. Exploitation of UROP students, undergraduate researchers, and student workers including, but not limited to, forcing students to work overtime hours, not crediting students for their work, and not fully disclosing expectations.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ISSUES

The UA firmly supports:

20. The right of international students to study at MIT and participate in the same extracurricular, educational, training, and on-campus employment opportunities during their studies that are available to domestic students.

21. Efforts that allow undocumented students to study at MIT unhindered.