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MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

General Council Meeting
April 3rd, 2013

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Resolution to declare conditional support of MIT's Kendall Square Initiative

Sponsors: Andrea Dubin, Marzyeh Ghassemi, Sven Schlumpberger, Mia White

WHEREAS, On February 6th, 2013 the first Institute-wide forum was held by the Undergraduate Association, the Graduate Student Council, and the Postdoctoral Association to discuss MIT's Kendall rezoning petition to the City of Cambridge; and

WHEREAS, Over 220 participants attended MIT's presentation of the petition with a diversity of response positions¹; and

WHEREAS, the graduate community recognized the financial and commercial benefit of an eastern gateway to campus and the development of Kendall Square as an innovation center, while recognizing also the risks inherent to mixing academic and commercial space on campus; and

WHEREAS, climbing off-campus rental rates² and low rental vacancy rates³ are of great concern to the nearly two thirds of MIT Graduate Students that live in the surrounding neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, further commercial development of this already gentrifying region could impact the availability and affordability of near-campus housing; and

WHEREAS, the Institute has charged a working group to investigate MIT's current provision of housing and "recommend ways by which the graduate student housing needs might best be served into the future";⁴ therefore, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the Graduate Student Council (GSC) supports the Kendall Square rezoning petition provided that the following two criteria are addressed by MIT prior to the project's implementation (meaning the signing of leases or assignment of purposes to Kendall Square spaces):

1. Provide a public, clear, viable long-term plan for preserving affordable near campus or on-campus graduate student housing options taking into consideration the recommendations of the Housing Working Group
2. Ensure that graduate student community interests are addressed by including their representatives in the development and planning processes for the Kendall Square Initiative.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Spitzer".

¹30 minutes in favor, 9 minutes neutral, 21 minutes against.

²Off-Campus Housing Office Data, GSC/ODGE Cost of Living presentation 2013

³American Community Survey and Cambridgepad.com press release

⁴ Graduate Housing Taskforce charge <http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2013/grad-student-housing-working-group-launched-0318.html>