

Letter of Support

Given our mission to promote the general welfare and concerns of the graduate student body, and communicate with the MIT Faculty and Administration on its behalf;

And understanding that there are LBGT students among the graduate students we serve and represent;

And understanding that in addition to our role as students, MIT graduate students support and serve other members of the MIT community in our roles as teachers, resident tutors, committee members, and more;

And understanding that the MIT non-discrimination policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and gender-identity;

And recognizing that MIT's policy on harassment states that "MIT provides a variety of avenues by which an individual who feels harassed may proceed, so that each person may choose an avenue appropriate to his or her particular situation."

And acknowledging that currently there is no staff person at MIT whose job includes responsibility for directing LBGT support, education, outreach, and planning;

And recognizing that MIT currently lags behind many of its peer institutions by not providing a full-time staff position to support LBGT issues on campus;

We, the Graduate Student Council, representing all graduate students at MIT endorse the proposal put forth by the LBGT Issues Group to create an Office of LBGT Services within the Office for Student Life, staffed by a new Assistant Dean for LBGT Services to institutionalize MIT's commitment "to creating an environment in which every individual can work, study, and live without being harassed."