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Resolution to Make MIT’s President a Signatory to the Presidents Climate Commitment

Whereas, MIT is one of the world’s foremost institutions of science and technology, and endeavors to “best serve the nation and the world in the 21st century” [1]; and

Whereas, MIT is fast becoming a leading center of research and activism on issues of sustainability, of which climate change is one of the most notable; and

Whereas, MIT’s establishment of the Energy Research Council and increased involvement in the Alliance for Global Sustainability reflect the Institute’s growing emphasis on said issues; and

Whereas, the Presidents Climate Commitment (PCC) “is a high-visibility effort to address global warming by garnering institutional commitments to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions, and to accelerate the research and educational efforts of higher education to equip society to re-stabilize the earth’s climate” [2]; and

Whereas, hundreds of preeminent college and university presidents, including those of the University of California, Cornell University, Duke University, and New York University, have signed the PCC; and

Whereas, MIT would further demonstrate its leadership on issues of sustainability if President Susan Hockfield were to confer upon it her imprimatur; and

Whereas, MIT is already actively engaged in most of the activities in which the PCC asks committed institutions to participate; and

Whereas, in signing this agreement, MIT’s only major new responsibility would be to make its “action plan, inventory, and periodic progress reports [in regards to the objectives that are set forth in the PCC] publicly available by providing them to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for posting and dissemination” [3];

Be it resolved, by the Undergraduate Association assembled in Senate and the Graduate Student Council:

That President Susan Hockfield sign the Presidents Climate Commitment.



UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Respectfully submitted,

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[1] <http://web.mit.edu/facts/mission.html>

[2] <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/about.php>

[3] <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/commitment.php>