

**THE UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL CALLS ON THE MIT
CLIMATE NUCLEUS TO RECOGNIZE APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COALITION AS A STUDENT VOICE
ON CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES**

55 UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION | *CONSENSUS DECISION III*

Whereas the urgency to act on sustainability-related local and global challenges is paramount, and the talents and interests of MIT students can be harnessed for this purpose; and

Whereas opportunities to get involved in sustainability at MIT are cross-cutting, spanning academic, professional, extracurricular, and experiential realms; and

Whereas there exists significant decentralization in MIT's sustainability landscape, marked by more than 20 student groups and numerous Departments, Labs, and Centers (DLCs) related to sustainability; and

Whereas the challenges of a decentralized sustainability landscape include poor planning and publicity, limited outreach, lack of collaboration, absence of DLC input from students, and missed opportunities; and

Whereas there is a necessity to fulfill the Student Sustainability Coalition (SSC)'s original mission, formed in 2020, to facilitate communication, collaboration, and collective action among sustainability organizations on campus; and

Whereas SSC has already strengthened student involvement in sustainability through hosting three annual Sustainability Midways, recruiting new students at activity fairs, hosting meetings between student group leaders, a yearlong campaign to advocate for student opinions in the 2021 Fast Forward Climate Action Plan, efforts to promote reusable utensil usage on campus, collaboration between groups on improving MIT student involvement in Cambridge Green New Deal hearings; and

Whereas SSC is the only organization to represent more than ten student sustainability organizations on campus, including the Undergraduate Association Sustainability Committee, the Graduate Student Council Sustainability Committee, Waste Watchers, Divest, Sustainable Energy Alliance, Energy and Climate Club, Water Club, Surfrider Foundation, Engineers Without Borders, Civil and Environmental Engineering Students

Association, Solar Electric Vehicle Team, and Sustainability Summit; and

Whereas despite its achievements, current challenges in fulfilling SSC's mission include concerns for its longevity, lack of recognition and authority, and the inability to represent the student voice on sustainability-related decisions at MIT; and

Whereas there is currently no student representation on MIT's faculty committee on climate—the Climate Nucleus—with broad responsibility for the management and implementation of Fast Forward: MIT's Climate Action Plan for the Decade across its five areas of action: sparking innovation, educating future generations, informing and leveraging government action, reducing MIT's own climate impact, and uniting and coordinating all of MIT's climate efforts; and


Whereas the new Climate Project at MIT will result in substantial changes to MIT's senior leadership, decisionmaking structure, and climate action priorities for which student engagement and input is crucial; and

Whereas the leadership of the Climate Nucleus, or any future climate decisionmaking body at MIT, has committed to including formal student representation coordinated by SSC in its governance structure, contingent on approval from the Undergraduate Association (UA) and the Graduate Student Council (GSC); Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Undergraduate Association Council calls upon the MIT Climate Nucleus to recognize the following functions of the SSC, as outlined in the SSC Governing Document¹:

1. Representing the Student Voice on Sustainability in the Climate Nucleus
 - a. Establishes staggered 1-year terms for student representatives.
 - b. Develops a selection process which involves the Climate Nucleus or any future climate decisionmaking body at MIT, current Co-Leads, the UA and GSC, and associated member student groups.
 - c. Ensures distributed representation of student voices in the Climate Nucleus or future climate decisionmaking body, with one graduate and one undergraduate student.
 - d. Requires the annual selection process for an undergraduate student

¹ The SSC Governing Document can be found [here](#):

 [Governing Document of the Student Sustainability Coalition](#) .

representative to be assisted by at least one representative from the UA Committee on Sustainability.

- e. Requires the UA to fill undergraduate Co-Lead positions through its Institute Committee selection process if an undergraduate Co-Lead is not found or the position becomes vacant in any given year,
2. Strengthening Convening and Collaboration
 - a. Regularly convenes leaders of student sustainability organizations.
 - b. Facilitates coordination, collaboration, and collective action among groups.
 - c. Holds semesterly forums involving both student leaders and DLCs.
 3. Enhancing Community Input and Outreach
 - a. Collects and maintains regular feedback from the sustainability community and the general student body.
 - b. Maintains accessible databases of all sustainability-related student groups.
 - c. Hosts Sustainability Midway and other outreach events to publicize opportunities.
 - d. Innovates methods to engage students who are not yet involved in sustainability efforts.
 4. Unify Efforts and Increase Student Involvement
 - a. Encourages the unification of sustainability efforts across student organizations.
 - b. Documents the landscape of groups for the purpose of longevity and institutional knowledge.
 - c. Facilitates regular communication between different groups and within the MIT community at large.