

Advocacy Chairs Transition Feedback

How did your position contribute to the mission of SWE as a whole? Do you think it adds value to SWE?

SWE is aimed at being a community to support women interested in science and engineering. MIT is extremely supportive of female engineers, but the real world is not necessarily as supportive as MIT. The role of the advocacy chair is to facilitate activities that ultimately will teach women to advocate for themselves outside of MIT, where they may find themselves in less-supportive environments.

Because we are at MIT, where there is such a supportive environment for women, the importance of this role has the potential to be overlooked. However, if this position were removed from the SWE board it, it would truly be a loss of potential growth MIT student body.

Please list all events that you and your co-chairs planned over the last year.

- GW@MIT-Undergraduate Women at MIT Mentoring Event Kick-off.
 - We brought together a panel of graduate women at MIT and alums who had gone into the workforce and then come back to graduate school. Star, our panel moderator, did a wonderful job of asking questions which (a) elicited wonderfully informative answers and (b) jump-started conversations between the panelists and the undergraduates. After the panel, the undergraduates and the panelists were encouraged to exchange contact information and stay in touch.
- Women's career resources library
 - We asked our successful female mentors and friends for the books that were most influential in the outlook and approach to life. We bought their top recommendations, and will set up a lending system in the SWE office over IAP.

Which events were the least successful, and why?

Both of us started the year with big plans, and we found that we did not have enough time outside of our classes to enact everything that we had planned to. We hope to be able to do more next year.

However, I think that everything we have been able to do this semester has been fairly successful.

Which events were the most successful, and why?

I think the GW@MIT-Undergraduate Women at MIT Mentoring Event Kick-off was our most successful event, because it included both undergraduate and graduate students, and we received a lot of positive feedback from both the undergraduates and graduates who participated in the event.

Describe your working relationship with your co-chair if applicable. Include how you divided responsibility, how it well it worked, how you felt about working with this person overall, and whether you found it necessary/helpful to have a co-chair for your position. Did you know your co-chair before working with them in this position?

I did not know my co-chair, Star Simpson, before we started. She was absolutely wonderful to work with. We discussed our goals at the start of the year and periodically we checked in with each other to see what we could do to get closer to them. Each time we met, we divided up sub-tasks to make it to our next big goal.

Please list any important resources, contacts, and other relevant information for your position.

- President of Graduate Women at MIT (GW@MIT)
 - Kay Furman - kfurman@mit.edu
- All of the cool women on Campus who Star and I (and you) know

What do you wish you knew before you entered this position?

The Bush Room is not covered by the campus activities complex, so you need to all of the furniture set-up, AV, etc. on your own, or pay an outside company for it.

Is there anything you would have liked to do with your position, but didn't have the time or resources to do? Please describe.

Yes, we had so many plans. We have an entire Google doc filled with ideas that we would still like to make happen. Please get in touch if you would like a copy of the google doc.