

## Community Concern

## Committee Recommendation(s)

*(only applicable to undergraduate students)*

No easy way for undergraduate students to leave the Institute

A “Leave of Absence” category will be created to allow undergraduate students to flexibly pursue opportunities or to fulfill personal or educational commitments. This category is intended for undergraduate students who leave in between semesters and will have minimal administrative processes.

Terminology and expectations suggested undergraduate students on leave were no longer part of the MIT community

New Terminology  
“Withdrawal” will be called “Leave”  
“Readmission” will be called “Return”  
“Readmission Application” will be called “Request to Return”  
“Voluntary Withdrawal” will be called “Personal Leave”

“Suspension of Services” statement will be renamed and revised

Undergraduate students on leave can be involved in MIT activities open to non-students

S3 has dual and conflicted role of being supporter and decision maker in return process

S3 will be support and guide, while CAP will be decision maker in return process

Concern about the financial impact of taking a leave

The possibility of providing financial support and health insurance to those who need it will be investigated

Undergraduate students on required academic leave will now be required to complete only 1 semester of coursework rather than 2

Confusion about expectations while on leave

CAP and S3 letters will be revised to be clearer and have a more supportive tone

Undergraduate students and S3 will work together (with MIT Medical and Academic Departments) to develop a clear and agreeable action plan

Undergraduate students will be encouraged to remain in contact with supports on campus such as their S3 Dean, Academic Advisor, and Department

Undergraduate students nervous about what it is like to take a leave or return from leave

An online and representative collection of undergraduate student experiences while on leave will be created

S3 will develop a mentorship program for undergraduate students considering leave and while on leave

Undergraduate students feel rushed off campus after requesting leave and wanted guaranteed housing upon return

Undergraduate students will have 72 hours, instead of 48 hours, to move out of MIT affiliated housing and housing will coordinate with S3 to make sure students are not unnecessarily rushed

Eligible undergraduate students returning from leave will be guaranteed housing if requested

Lack of clarity about the process of leave/return

CAP and DUE will increase efforts to communicate about the return and leave processes, data, and outcomes to faculty, administrators, and staff

S3 will edit and clarify their website

FAQ page will be created to address common concerns

Students fearful of psychiatric hospitalizations and involuntary withdrawals

A committee will be charged by the Chancellor to examine these processes

Involuntary withdrawal will never be used to coerce students to leave MIT