

Associate Provost

The associate provost chairs the Committee for the Review of Space Planning (CRSP), which oversees space assignments and renovations, working closely with the Department of Facilities. The associate provost also sits on the Building Committee. The associate provost represents the Office of the Provost in a variety of initiatives, including the MIT 2030 activities, sitting on the Cooperative Program Steering Committee for the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, and serving as co-chair of the Information Technology Governance Committee.

CRSP managed the expenditure of a \$19.4 million budget for renovations in FY2011. Major projects in this fiscal year included the completion of the Rohsenow Kendall Heat and Mass Transfer Laboratory in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and continued major renovations of laboratory space in Building 35.

Working in cooperation with the Department of Facilities, the associate provost continued the development of MIT 2030, a long-range planning exercise for the campus. This planning framework helps to define priorities for renovation and renewal. This past year, the Institute initiated detailed studies on five major projects as a result of MIT 2030. These include: a new facility for micro/nano research, a new building for energy and environmental activities, a full-scale renovation of Building 2 for the Math Department, a full-scale renovation of E52, and an investigation of the renovation and repurposing of Walker Memorial to support Music and Theater Arts. In addition to these projects, an ‘enabling’ project was launched in E17/E18. Specifically, the spaces vacated by the Koch Institute’s coming on line are being repurposed to support expansion space for Chemical Engineering, as well as to create swing office space for the upcoming major renovations (e.g., Buildings 2 and E52). Looking to the next year, in addition to continuing these activities, a committee has been launched to study teaching and learning spaces on campus to assist in long-range planning.

Lastly, we continue two major efforts in response to recommendations from the task force of several years ago. First, we launched an internal assessment of project delivery and costs on medium scale (approximately \$100,000 to \$500,000) renovation projects to identify opportunities for improvement. A number of recommendations resulted from this study, and we will be working with the Office of the Executive Vice President and the Department of Facilities to assist in implementation of these ideas. Second, we launched an effort to implement a “space economy,” the first phase of which is the development of a web-based system that will allow departments, labs, and centers to accurately track and measure the utilization of their spaces. We anticipate a pilot effort with approximately six units this fall to test the system, followed by a more extensive rollout. Following this, we would initiate a study to propose mechanisms to motivate more effective utilization of space on campus.

Martin A. Schmidt
Associate Provost
Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science