Vice President and Secretary of the Corporation

One of the Institute’s four corporate officers, the Vice President and Secretary of the Corporation is responsible for MIT’s communications, including the coordination of policy issues with the senior administration and trustees of the Corporation. The Vice President has management responsibilities for Government and Community Relations, the Events and Information Center, the Conference Services Office, the News Office, and Communication Production Services. Responsibilities include providing direct support to the President on communications and relations with internal constituencies; coordinating activities and communication among senior staff; and advising the President on policy issues. The Secretary of the Corporation oversees the operations of MIT’s board of trustees and its committees, including the 31 visiting committees that conduct biennial reviews of the Institute’s academic and research programs.

This year the Office of Institute Affairs continued to support the advancement of President Reif’s guiding themes for the Institute. In the fall, MIT introduced the Preliminary Report of the Institute-wide Task Force on the Future of MIT Education, which articulated a pathway to future education at the Institute. The Environment Initiative was introduced in the spring and the Abdul Latif Jameel World Water and Food Security Lab, the first component of the Environmental Initiative, was also announced in the spring. There were also several important commemorations across campus this year. In the fall, the Institute renamed Lobby 10 under the Great Dome as Memorial Lobby and held a dedication ceremony in honor of MIT's fallen veterans. In the spring, MIT mourned the loss of its 15th president, Charles M. Vest, and held a widely attended memorial service in his honor. The Institute also named the main concourse in the Stata Center the Charles M. Vest Student Street in his memory.

What follows is a report of the work of the Office of the Vice President and the Office of the Secretary of the Corporation.

Kirk D. Kolenbrander
Vice President and Secretary of the Corporation