Associate Provost

The associate provost has oversight of MIT's noncurricular arts programs and institutions, international strategic issues, and the OpenCourseWare initiative.

Arts

The arts, including Arts Initiatives, the List Visual Arts Center (LVAC), the MIT Museum, and the Office of the Arts, are among several areas for which associate provost and Ford International professor of history Philip S. Khoury is responsible. During the 2008–2009 academic year, a comprehensive vision of the history and future of the arts was articulated, encompassing and building upon the strengths of these units and the academic programs in the arts in the School of Architecture and Planning (SA+P) and the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS).

Programs in the arts at MIT have achieved their stature through creative adaptation to the Institute's distinctive culture as a center of innovation in science and engineering and through entrepreneurial endeavors in decentralized contexts. It may now be time for a shift toward greater coordination and aggregation of the artistic communities at MIT to enable them to flourish and meet the challenges of the present cultural moment, which is characterized by an unprecedented dissemination of technologies for producing art, creating music, making moving pictures, and creating other art forms as yet unimagined.

A presentation to the Academic Council in December 2008 and a draft white paper on the history and future of the arts, written in collaboration with the new director of arts initiatives and reviewed by the Creative Arts Council in April 2009, identified a set of goals for each sector in the arts. Among the overarching goals are to:

- Extend MIT's legacy of inventing new artistic and performative languages and the technical innovations that enable them

- Create exhibition, performance, and research facilities appropriate for teaching, presenting, and exploring the media-rich art forms of the present and future

- Serve the core curriculum requirement in the arts recently approved by the faculty (a General Institute Requirements [GIR] Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences [HASS] category devoted exclusively to the arts) and the interests of the majority of entering freshmen (75% of the class of 2012) with formal training in the arts in high school (music, dance, theater, and/or visual arts)

- Design communications and development strategies that raise awareness that MIT is a center of excellence in the arts and nurtures creativity and innovation across many disciplines, most prominently at the intersection of art, science, engineering, and technology

The Central Square Theater, a building owned and leased by MIT, opened in October 2008 with a production of *QED*, a play about MIT alumnus Richard Feynman produced by the Catalyst Collaborative at MIT (CC@MIT). CC@MIT continued to commission new works and enjoyed record attendance and positive reviews during a very successful six-week run of Bertolt Brecht's *The Life of Galileo* in April and May 2009. A science theater

initiative launched six years ago by MIT and the Underground Railway Theater, CC@ MIT has produced to date eight staged readings, three full productions, and three new plays, all collaborations between theater artists and scientists. MIT faculty have participated in 42 public events surrounding readings and productions, including post-performance conversations, pre-show symposia, and community workshops.

The Creative Arts Council welcomed several new members: Kenan Sahin distinguished professor of music Evan Ziporyn, professor and director of the Comparative Media Studies program William Uricchio, senior lecturer in the Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies Edward Barrett, graduate student in the Media Lab Ryan O'Toole, and undergraduate in Architecture Sam Kronick. The associate provost continued to invite members of the senior administration to address the council in an effort to strengthen the centrality of the arts to the Institute's mission and principal endeavors. The council's advisory role was enhanced through extensive discussions of priorities for the arts, which informed the content of the white paper.

Cooperation among the associate provost and the deans of SA+P and SHASS is crucial to the effort to create consensus about goals for the creative arts at the Institute. Their newly formed working group, which includes the director of arts initiatives and the assistant deans for development in the schools, will facilitate the process.

The associate provost led the Creative Arts Council and the CC@MIT Advisory Board. He is a member of the advisory boards of LVAC and the MIT Museum and continues to serve as MIT's representative on the Board of Trustees of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Finances and Funding

Fundraising initiatives in the arts are currently focused on the Campaign for Students and, in particular, on LVAC's Student Art Loan Program, the Student Art Association, and the MIT Glass Lab. Other initiatives include a new endowment fund for conservation of the permanent collection of art, the Percent-for-Art Program, and CC@MIT. The draft white paper also recommends areas in which fundraising for the arts needs to focus, including much-needed new and rehabilitated facilities for the performing arts.

Future Plans

The Creative Arts Council will review a final draft of the white paper in fall 2009, and the primary focus in the year ahead will be to develop a plan of action based on priorities outlined in the document and to translate the report into formats useful for development, communications, and dissemination to alumni. Strengthening the commitment of the Council for the Arts to the Institute's priorities for the arts and aligning the various artist-in-residence programs more closely with the academic departments are the top near-term goals.

International Initiatives

Associate Provost Khoury is responsible for overseeing international strategic initiatives for the Institute. He cochairs with vice president for research and associate provost

Claude Canizares the International Advisory Committee (IAC). IAC spent much of the academic year drafting its international strategy document for the Institute, with an anticipated release date of late summer 2009. Effective July 1, 2009, IAC will review either annually or at reasonably frequent intervals all active major international programs and report its findings to the president and provost. IAC will continue to report regularly on the status of MIT's international programs and related activities to the president, provost, and Faculty Policy Committee and to the MIT faculty whenever appropriate.

IAC invited presentations on a number of ongoing and prospective international programs during the year, including the possibility of a major cooperative agreement with the New University in Singapore.

IAC continues to oversee country and regional faculty strategy working groups focused on India, Greater China, and the Middle East. The India Strategy Working Group, which is the oldest working group and has remained organized on an informal basis since 2006, will be formally organized with codirectors and an executive committee in the summer of 2009. It prepared to launch an India Forum in September 2009 that will bring distinguished experts on and from India to campus, and it worked on designing an India Innovation Seed Fund for research and educational projects. The China Strategy Working Group, under the leadership of Delta professor of electronics Victor Zue, continued to host the China Forum on campus, which supports four lectures a year, and to prepare its strategic document, which will include several new research and educational initiatives with China. The newest of the three working groups, the Middle East Group, chaired by TEPCO professor of nuclear engineering Mujid Kazimi, spent the past year surveying the range of Middle East–related activities at MIT and concentrated on the prospects for launching a major water initiative in the region.

The Global MIT website was improved upon this past year by regularly featuring a variety of ongoing and new international initiatives and creating new links to these activities. Lily Burns, Global MIT and IAC coordinator, left the President's Office in June 2009 to take up a new position in the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology, and Gail Monahan, from the Office of the Vice President for Research, will replace her in both tasks. The associate provost, vice president for research, and IAC wish to thank Lily Burns for her excellent service these past two years and wish her well in her new post.

IAC and various faculty strategy working groups received excellent logistic and strategic support from the Office of Global Initiatives in MIT Resource Development. This office also worked directly with Associate Provost Khoury on a variety of development issues, including an $18 million endowment that the Egyptian government established at MIT in June 2009 to support Egyptian graduate students in engineering and other fields.

OpenCourseWare Initiative

The associate provost worked closely with OpenCourseWare (OCW) executive director Cecelia d'Oliveira, OCW staff, and key faculty to develop a funding model for OCW that will permit it to continue providing free to the world MIT's curriculum online. For further information, see the OpenCourseWare report to the president.

Personnel

Leila Kinney was appointed director of arts initiatives on October 1, 2008, upon the departure of Lori Gross. She works with the associate provost on strategic planning, cross-school coordination, and development and communications for the arts. The director is a member of the Creative Arts Council and the advisory boards of CC@MIT, LVAC, and the MIT Museum. She chairs the Arts Communication and Arts Development Committees and serves on the grants and Eugene McDermott Award committees of the Council for the Arts as well as the Kennedy Center Festival Steering Committee.

Philip S. Khoury
Associate Provost

More information about the associate provost can be found at http://web.mit.edu/khoury/www/. Also see http://global.mit.edu/, http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/office/index.html, and http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/web/home/home/index.htm.