

Vice President for Institute Affairs and Secretary of the Corporation

One of the Institute's four corporate officers, the vice president for Institute affairs 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 for Institute affairs has management responsibilities for Government and Community Relations, the Events and Information Center, the Conference Services Office, the News Office, the Publishing Services Bureau, and the Reference Publications Office. 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.

Similar to many other colleges and universities across the country, the global economic downturn continues to present MIT with serious challenges. As our nation works to solve its financial and global problems, MIT continues to find ways to operate more efficiently than in years past. During 2009-2010, MIT achieved a five percent reduction in general spending. Moreover, the office of the vice president for Institute affairs and secretary of the Corporation achieved its own goal of integrating Institute communications to maximize internal transparency and collaboration, while sharing MIT news and innovations with the world at large. The *TechTalk* publication was officially retired on September 16 and a new daily website, MIT News, was launched in its place. This new site invites readers outside of the Institute to better understand the Institute, and informs the community with web, video, mobile, and social technologies. The multimedia platform also offers groups around campus a way to communicate with each other, and provides the News Office the means to inform the general public about the Institute. These changes were made after an Institute-wide communications survey that followed an eight-month period of consultation with faculty, students, staff, and senior administrators. In addition to providing a powerful new communications tool, these changes have allowed the News Office to cut its budget by 11 percent. During this time frame the Institute also earned its re-accreditation for a period of 10 years from the Higher Learning Commission.

While financial stability was an important concern for the Institute, it did not get in the way of planning the Institute's sesquicentennial celebration, which is slated to begin in January of 2011. The Institute also welcomed a number of prominent visitors to campus, including President Barack Obama, who toured several labs and learned about the innovative work currently taking place through the MIT Energy Initiative.

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