

Date: Mon, 05 Feb 2007 09:32:01 -0500

To MIT Faculty, Students, and Staff:

As many in the community know, our colleague Professor James L. Sherley began a fast on campus this morning. We are deeply concerned for Professor Sherley's well being, for that of his family, and for the MIT community. The President and Provost have encouraged Professor Sherley to seek other means to voice his concerns, and we continue to hope that he will do so. Should he continue with his fast, however, MIT will respect his right, as a member of our community, to express his views in a manner that does not disrupt the work of the Institute.

We understand that this situation raises complex issues for many in our extended community, most especially Professor Sherley's colleagues and friends. In this difficult time, it is our sincere hope that those who hold diverging views on the issues that Professor Sherley has raised in his public statements, and in the method he might choose to express his position, will nonetheless continue to speak and act in the spirit of mutual respect and dialogue that marks the Institute at its best.

Sincerely,

Kirk D. Kolenbrander
Vice President for Institute Affairs and
Secretary of the Corporation