

Risk Management and Compliance Services

Established in July 2013, and based on the principle of informed risk taking, [Risk Management and Compliance Services \(RMCS\)](#) continues to refine and implement the framework that guides members of the MIT community in taking risks appropriate to MIT. Through assessment of risks, collaboration in risk analysis and mitigation, and education and outreach, RMCS is an Institute resource for staff, heads of departments, laboratories and centers, and senior leadership. Reporting to the vice president and general counsel, the office is led by Institute Risk Officer Deborah Fisher.

The past year has seen significant developments in the risk management framework. An expanded structure for stakeholder involvement and advisory capacity was accomplished through introduction of a senior administration steering group to help oversee assessment, reporting, and risk mitigation activities, as well as an advisory team to help guide the office as a community resource. Additionally, the Risk and Audit Committee witnessed the transformation of a conceptual framework for informed risk-taking into useful reporting to senior leadership and the committee.

As the Institute's awareness of risk broadens and deepens, there are now many examples of appropriate management of risks at the Institute. These range from expanded practice for the conduct of criminal background checks of individuals in sensitive roles to formulating policy for safe and compliant use of unmanned aerial systems on campus and in MIT's pursuits.

Risk Management and Compliance Services includes responsibility for a centralized focus on compliance, carried out through the responsibilities of the manager of institutional compliance. Consistent with this role, administrative responsibility for the Institute's anonymous reporting hotline was transferred to the office.

These developments demonstrate that the risk management system is solidly in place. The RMCS office is now focused on deeper analysis of top risks, standardizing and streamlining assessment practices, and continuing to increase awareness of risk. Staff look back on the past year with satisfaction gained from continued efforts in building on the principle of informed risk taking.

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Risk Management and Compliance Services