

Vice President

Mission

The Office of the Vice President was established in January 2013, with the appointment of professor Claude R. Canizares. In addition to retaining his oversight of MIT Lincoln Laboratory (through June 30, 2014), he was tasked with overall responsibility for MIT's international engagements. The office helps to establish, monitor, and coordinate Institute-level engagements and to establish and review policies and practices for global interactions. The vice president actively oversees, among other programs, the Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART), the MIT Skoltech Initiative, the MIT-Singapore University of Technology and Design Collaboration (SUTD), and the MIT and Masdar Institute Cooperative Program. The office provides strategic and organizational leadership and works closely with the International Advisory Committee (co-chaired by the vice president and associate provost Philip Khoury) and the International Coordinating Committee. It serves as the primary liaison to high-level delegations from international governments, universities, and funding agencies. It also maintains communication with the US Department of State and other federal entities.

Personnel

Effective September 9, 2013, Bernd Widdig joined the office as director of international affairs to support Vice President Canizares.

Activities

Strategic Thrusts

The office worked with the International Advisory Committee and others to explore potential engagements in major regions of the world, including China, India, Africa, and Latin America. Faculty were recruited to form ad hoc regional working groups, and several specific engagements were pursued in each of the regions. The office also began seeking potential relationships with selected peer technical universities in Europe and Asia.

Visiting Delegations

After consultations with different entities at the Institute, the Office of the Vice President, in close cooperation with Institute Events, has developed new procedures on how to interact with high-level delegations from around the world. The office now serves as a central resource and helps triage many of the international requests for visits. The office hosted and organized visits for a total of 37 international delegations. In addition, Vice President Canizares and Director Widdig participated in 16 delegation visits that were organized outside the office.

International Advisory Committee

The office organizes the meetings of the International Advisory Committee (currently 23 members) that take place monthly during the two semesters. During the reporting year, a total of 18 presentations about new and ongoing international projects were discussed.

International Coordinating Committee

In bimonthly meetings with key members of the International Coordinating Committee, Vice President Canizares, Associate Provost Khoury, and Director Widdig review new international projects that are in different stages of exploration or negotiation, address specific issues related to contract terms and conditions, and discuss policies and procedures. About 30 new projects were discussed during the reporting year.

Lessons Learned and Best Practices Project

Director Widdig, with the help of Cecelia Wardle of the Office of Major Agreements, interviewed 15 faculty members and administrators who were or are involved in leading large international projects at MIT about their experiences and resulting best practices. The findings were presented to the International Advisory Committee in June 2014. The creation of a document is planned that will help guide future principal investigators and administrators through different stages of international projects.

New Global MIT Website

MIT's global website, [Global MIT](#), has been moved from the Office of Resource Development to the Office of the Vice President. It was decided that the site needed a major overhaul to better reflect the diversity and range of MIT's global engagements. In spring 2014, the web designer firm Sametz Blackstone was hired to work on a new design for the site. The development of the site is under way, and the launch is planned for spring 2015.

Claude Canizares
Vice President