Chancellor for Academic Advancement

MIT president Rafael Reif created the position of chancellor for academic advancement in October 2013, naming professor Eric Grimson to this post. This ad hoc position will support MIT's current capital campaign, with primary responsibilities including serving as a liaison between the campaign and faculty and students, gathering information on departmental and school needs and goals, providing strategic advice to the president and other senior leadership on campaign priorities and efforts, and interacting extensively with potential donors both nationally and globally.

Activities within the Chancellor for Academic Advancement's Office

During the early stages of the campaign, the chancellor has actively engaged with deans of the schools, department heads, and faculty members to gather information about department and school needs and aspirations. This information has been used in consultation with senior administration to articulate campaign themes, to identify major initiatives for the campaign, and to set targets for campaign categories. Additionally, the chancellor has engaged in discussions with departments and with individual faculty, gathering information to be used in discussions with prospective donors and arranging for contact between individual faculty and donors as appropriate.

Since a primary objective of the position is to engage the Institute with prospective donors—both alumni and others unaffiliated with MIT but who share its vision— considerable time has been spent in meeting with such individuals. In addition to on-campus visits with prospects, the chancellor has traveled extensively to represent the president and the Institute at visits with alumni groups, individual alumni, and other friends of the Institute. Along with travel throughout the United States, these activities have included visits over the past year to the Middle East, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Australia, Japan, England, Spain, and Canada.

W. Eric L. Grimson
Chancellor for Academic Advancement
Bernard Gordon Professor of Medical Engineering