

## **Chancellor for Academic Advancement**

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 supports MIT's current capital campaign, with primary responsibilities including serving as a liaison to link the campaign with 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 especially in interacting extensively with potential domestic and international donors.

### **Activities within the Chancellor for Academic Advancement's Office**

As the campaign ramps up towards its official launch in May 2016, the Chancellor has extensively engaged with deans of the academic schools, student life deans, department heads, and faculty members to gather information about department, school, and institute needs and aspirations. This information has been used in consultation with senior members of the administration to articulate campaign themes, identify and refine major initiatives for the campaign, and to set targets for campaign categories. Additionally, the Chancellor has been 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.

As priorities and needs for the campaign have emerged, ranging from capital projects to scholarships and fellowships, to faculty support, to emerging research opportunities, the Chancellor has worked with development staff and others to develop strategic plans for fundraising. These include plans for specific projects, as well as strategies for cultivating critical donors.

Since a primary objective of the position is to engage the Institute with prospective donors—both alumni/alumnae and others unaffiliated with MIT but who share its vision—the majority of the Chancellor's time has been spent meeting with such prospective donors. In addition to on-campus visits with prospects, the Chancellor has travelled extensively to represent the President and the Institute to alumni groups, individual alumni/alumnae, parents, and other friends of the Institute. Travel within the United States over the past year included visits to New York City, Connecticut, Long Island, Florida, Chicago, Northern California, Southern California, Seattle, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Texas, and the greater Boston area.

In addition to domestic travel, international visits over the past year have included London, Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Hong Kong, Singapore, Madrid, Venice, Taipei, Bangkok, Italy, Australia, and Canada.

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