Interview with Chancellor Grimson

Recently, Professor Eric Grimson was selected as the new Chancellor of MIT. Having served as the Department Chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Grimson hopes to add a new dimension to his MIT administrative duties. He is very excited to have this opportunity.

In a short interview, Grimson says:

“I firmly believe that MIT’s greatest “product” is its students. We do world class research, we spin out exciting companies, we have faculty that are world leaders in their areas, but the ultimate output of the Institute is our students. Thus, I am looking forward to helping make MIT an even better environment in which to enable our students to flourish and grow into the next generation of leaders.”

Grimson does hope that he can continue to teach, since he believes the best way to “stay in touch with the pulse of the students” is by interacting with them in the classroom. Many students enjoy his teaching, and many more look forward to Prof. Grimson serving as the new Chancellor of MIT.

Alec Lai
UA Secretary General

Elections Calendar

Candidates for UA President and Vice President as well as Class Council positions have begun their campaigning. There are a couple of dates we hope you will keep in mind:

Sun. 3/13/2011
UA President and Vice President Debate

Wed. 3/16/2011—Thurs. 3/17/2011
Electronic Voting

Fri. 3/18/2011 (9am—5pm)
Paper Balloting in Lobby 10

Professor Eric Grimson, the new MIT Chancellor to take the position in early March.
Community Service Challenge

New to student life this year is the FSILG&D Community Service Challenge designed to encourage fraternities, sororities, independent living groups, and dorms to *serve the community as a community*. The MIT Public Service Center is excited to be hosting this challenge with the sponsorship of the UA's Committee on Student Life and the 484 Phi Alpha Foundation. Twenty teams have registered with service themes ranging from education to poverty to children's advocacy. Teams will be tracking service and philanthropic endeavors between February 28 and April 1, 2011. The program will culminate on April 20 with a catered celebration for all participants at which the most outstanding team will be awarded the Service Cup. For more information about this challenge, visit web.mit.edu/FSILGDrchallenge or e-mail servicechallenge@mit.edu.

Amanda David
Member of Public Service Center

Libraries Visiting Committee

The Corporation Libraries Visiting Committee will be conducting its biennial review on March 7 and 8. Corporation Visiting Committees were established at MIT in 1875 as advisory groups to the Corporation and the administration. They offer advice and insight to all major activities of the Institute, including all academic programs, the Libraries, DAPER, Sponsored Research, and the offices of the Dean for Undergraduate Education and the Dean for Student Life.

As part of the process, the committee will interface with students to gain a holistic perspective on MIT's Library system. The committee will compile its recommendations into a report, which will be conveyed to the Corporation and relevant administrators.

Since the 2009 review, several changes have occurred including budget cuts and staff reductions, the closing of Lindgren and the Aeronautics and Astronautics Libraries, and a joint library initiative with Harvard.

Daniel Hawkins
Chair of the Committee on Housing

ASA Update

At the start of the semester, the Association of Student Activities (ASA) has worked on reforming its Exec Board and completing bulletin board allocations. ASA will also continue to work on advocating for student groups with regards to Walker and related space issues. Unique to this semester, ASA is collaborating with various DSL offices on student programming for the MIT150 celebration, in particular the April 30th Open House. Additionally, this semester's agenda has the "standard" activities including two cycles of new group recognition, LEF/ARCADE allocations, the CPW Activities Midway, and more.

Rachel Meyer
President of ASA
Athena Printing Update

As the printing trial continues, we have garnered new feedback on the Pharos system. Most of the feedback has been positive, and all of it has been constructive. However, we still want more input from all sides of campus. The next time you need to print something, I recommend trying Building 12, W20, or 56 to get a feel for the new system. IS&T only stands to gain from getting student feedback, and I believe concerns and complements will be taken seriously. If you would like to email us a comment, send something to ua-printing@mit.edu, and if you have time fill out our short survey please do so at http://tinyurl.com/45ueh4e.

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Student-Alumni Dinners

The Alumni Association has generously provided $1000 in support of the Student-Alumni dinners. This pilot program will be launched this month as a way to increase interactions between students and alumni. The UA hopes that more students will begin to use the Alumni database and will benefit from stronger relationships with alumni.

Senator Testimonial

As we ask senators to reflect on their experiences so far, Benjamin Shaibu, Senator for New House, shares: "Being on Senate has been a great experience. I've learned a great deal about the ins and outs of Student Government and I've had a chance to be involved in issues that affect Student Life. Plus, I learned the value of a Snap."

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Enough Food at Midnight Study Break

The Public Relations (PR) committee worked together to throw the first UA Midnight Study break of the semester on Wednesday, February 16. In honor of Valentine's day, the study break's theme was chocolate fondue. People from all around campus, including hard-working students from the Reading Room, gathered in the Coffeehouse to dip fruits and other treats into delicious melted chocolate. The UA collected feedback from students through some very quick surveys, much of which was very helpful in seeing which issues are currently most important to undergrads. The PR committee will continue to throw Midnight Study Breaks throughout the semester, so keep on the lookout for more!

Janet Li
Chair of the Committee on Public Relations

“The Alumni Association has generously provided $1000 in support of the Student-Alumni Dinners.”

“The UA collected feedback from students...which was very helpful in seeing which issues are currently most important.”
Sustainability Update

Over the past few weeks, the sustainability committee has taken on two new initiatives - Recyclemania and a pamphlet that provides information on recycling and composting at MIT.

On Recyclemania, the Sustainability Committee is working with MIT EHS, which is a nationwide 10-week competition among universities. 630 schools, representing 6 million students, compete in various categories including Largest Amount per capita, Largest Total Amount of Recyclables, Least Amount of Trash per capita, and many more. Schools track and categorize the amount that they recycle and then report to the competition organizers. Statistics are available at recyclemania.org.

“The goal is to have freshmen know what to recycle and how...There was room for improvement in terms of recycling awareness.”

Alix de Monts
Chair of the Committee on Sustainability

Athena Printing Update

(Continued from page 3.)

Currently our committee is working with IS&T to address student responses as they come in as well as planning future details we would like to see the system have. The technology behind the new system, Pharos, is capable of adaptation to numerous applications which we would like to see develop for. Over the next couple years, we would also like to see IS&T invest savings from this system into new technology like color printers and scanners. If there are any additions you would like to see happen, please let us know.

I believe that the new hold and release printing will push an antiquated system into the future. With current flexibility from IS&T, students should be able to have the experience they desire.

Allan Miramonti
Chair of the Committee on Printing

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