

Guide to the Records of the Alumni Association of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1874-1968 AC.0024

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September 30, 2013

Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Institute Archives and Special Collections
MIT Libraries
Building 14N-118
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02139-4307
617.253.5690
mithistory@mit.edu

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Summary Information

Repository	Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Institute Archives and Special Collections
Creator	Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Alumni Association
Title	Alumni Association of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology records
Date [inclusive]	1874-1968
Extent	3.3 cubic feet (10 manuscript boxes)
Location	Materials are stored off-site. Advance notice is required for use.
Language	English

Citation

Alumni Association of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Executive Committee and Alumni Council Minutes, AC 24, box X. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Institute Archives and Special Collections, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Historical note

In 1875, seven years after the first class graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1868, an Alumni Association was formally set up to foster contact between the Institute and its graduates. Members of the class of 1873 first discussed a formal organization at their first annual dinner in 1874, leading to the formation via a Constitution in 1875, "to further the well-being of the Institute and its graduates by increasing the interest of members in the school and in each other."

A small Executive Committee was established and first met in January 1897 to oversee the general interests of the Alumni Association. A broader Alumni Council was created by a revision of the By-laws of the Association in 1909 which provided a mechanism for closer collaboration with the Association of Class Secretaries, which then served as an adjunct group to the Alumni Council. The first meeting of the Alumni Council was held on May 12, 1909, and the 401st and last meeting of the Alumni Council was held on May 28, 1968. On July 1, 1968, it was reconstituted as the Alumni Advisory Council.¹

The Association of Class Secretaries was formed as a distinct group in 1896 to promote class spirit and to systematize all matters pertaining to class organization and record. This group initiated several activities which continue today. The Association of Class Secretaries formed a three-member Committee on Publications, made up of Arthur D. Little, class of 1885, C. Frank Allen, class of 1872, and James P. Munroe, class of 1882. They conceived the plan to publish a quarterly alumni magazine. The first issue of *Technology Review* was published in January 1899. In 1910, the magazine began to be published monthly during the academic year. Oversight of *Technology Review* was later turned over to the Alumni Association. Another project of the Class Secretaries was the tradition of the annual sponsorship of Technology Night at the Pops. The Class Secretaries were also important in organizing and focusing alumni support against the Harvard-MIT merger proposed by MIT President Henry Pritchett.

The Executive Committee last met on June 11, 1968, and ceased to exist on June 30, 1968, as specified by the amendments to the Constitution and By-laws. Most of its functions were taken over by the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association, which first met in October 1968. The Board of Directors sets policy for the Association, and is overseen by an Executive Vice President. A National Selection Committee nominates alumni and alumnae for appointment to the MIT Corporation, under whose by-laws at least one-third of term members must be alumni or alumnae. In 1990 the name of the Association was changed from the Alumni Association to the Association of Alumni and Alumnae of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Note

1. From the Executive Committee and Alumni Council Minutes.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

This collection includes the earliest records and minutes of the Alumni Association, dating from 1874 discussions of its formation to the formal minutes and report from 1875, when the Alumni Association was organized. There are records of association reports of departments and instruction, as well as the separate Committee on the School; Committee on the William Barton Rogers Scholarship Fund; the Committee on the Walker Memorial; and the Publications Committee.

It also contains a complete set of Executive Committee minutes, January 5, 1897, through June 11, 1968, and a complete set of Alumni Council minutes, from the first meeting May 12, 1909, though the 401st and last meeting, May 27, 1968. Minutes of both groups are bound together from 1909 to 1961; starting in 1962 they are housed separately.

Topics include athletics, musical clubs, the Tech Show, *The Tech*, *Technology Review*, cooperation with Harvard, the move to the Cambridge campus and other alumni events and celebrations, and interactions with the MIT Corporation.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Institute Archives and Special Collections

Revision Description

2013

Access note

The collection is open for research.

Intellectual Property Rights

Access to collections in the Institute Archives and Special Collections is not authorization to publish. Separate written application for permission to publish must be made to the Institute Archives.

Related Materials

Related Materials in the Institute Archives

The Association of Alumni and Alumnae of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Records (AC 224).

Alumni Association of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Board of Directors records (AC 25).

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Alumni Association

Function(s)

- advisory bodies

Subject(s)

- alumni and alumnae
- alumni and alumnae funds
- alumni and alumnae social life and customs
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology--History

Collection Inventory

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Report on the Department of Chemistry by William R. Nichols undated	10
Report on chemistry courses for mining engineers and metallurgists undated	10
Report on the Department of Civil Engineering undated	10
Report on the Department of Mathematics by Webster Welles undated	10
Report on the Department of Mining Engineering undated	10

Report on the Department of Philosophy undated	10
Report on drawing undated	10
Report on drawing at the Institute undated	10
Resolution regarding William Barton Rogers circa 1870	10
Alumni meeting January 27, 1876	10
Report on drawing circa 1876	10
Report on the Department of Mining Engineering 1877	10
Report on the Department of Mechanical Engineering, by Richard Soule January 6, 1877	10
Report of the Department of Mechanical Engineering 1877	10
Report on the Department of Metallurgy 1877	10
Subscriptions to the Permanent Fund of the Alumni Association 1878	10
Report of the Committee on the School, includes the 1878 Report on the Women's Laboratory by Ellen S. Richards 1882	10
Report of the Committee on the School 1884	10

Report of the Committee on the School January 14, 1885	10
Report of the Committee on the School 1898	10
Committee on the William Barton Rogers Scholarship Fund records 1885-1898	10
Committee on the Walker Memorial 1898	10
Views of the Institute by a manufacturer and a graduate of the class of 1892 circa 1898	10
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Microfilm of Executive Committee and Alumni Council Minutes, February 1912 through June 1968 (nine reels), includes <i>Technology Review</i> , October 1965-January 1969 and Advisory Council Minutes, 1968-January 1969 1912-1969	8