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**MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY.
TASK FORCE ON STUDENT LIFE AND LEARNING.**

Records, 1860-1998 (bulk 1996-1998)

Archival Collection - AC 509

19 manuscript boxes
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Accession numbers: 2000-58, 2003-07

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ACCESS

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AGENCY HISTORY

In July of 1996, President Charles Vest appointed the Task Force on Student Life and Learning to undertake a comprehensive review of MIT's educational mission and student life as the Institute approached the 21st century. The last review of this scope was carried out in 1948 and 1949 by the Committee on Educational Survey, known as the Lewis Committee, which examined MIT's educational system in the aftermath of World War II¹.

The Task Force on Student Life and Learning was modeled after the Lewis Committee and, like the Lewis Committee, it looked back to the earliest years of MIT's existence to study its founding principles as outlined by the Institute's first president, William Barton Rogers.

The Task Force held meetings with MIT administrators, sponsors, and faculty members, and conducted surveys of students, staff, alumni, and parents to gather opinions on strategic issues related to student life and learning. The Task Force also met regularly with the Student Advisory Committee, obtaining substantial information and feedback from the students' perspective. The collected data enabled the committee to identify the elements of the MIT "educational triad": research, academics, and community interaction.

Some of the recommendations made by the Task Force included the expansion of UROP (Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program) and the creation of Freshman Advisory Research subjects (FARs) to make participation in Institute research activities an integral part of undergraduate education. A recommendation to house all freshmen in residence halls on campus was immediately implemented.

The Task Force published a final report titled *Task Force on Student Life and Learning* (<http://web.mit.edu/committees/sll/tf.html>). The Task Force recommendations guided many decisions at MIT after its issue.

Members of the Task Force:

Co-chairs: R. John Hansman, Jr. (Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics)

Robert J. Silbey (Professor of Chemistry)

Jesus del Alamo (Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science)

Sallie W. Chisholm (McAfee Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering)

Iddo Gilon (Graduate Student)

Hermann A. Haus (Institute Professor)

June L. Matthews (Professor of Physics)

Mario Molina (Institute Professor)

Luis A. Ortiz (Graduate Student)

Jeremy D. Sher (Undergraduate Student)

Charles Stewart III (Associate Professor of Political Science)

Marcus A. Thompson (Taylor Professor of Music and Theater Arts)

¹ *Task Force on Student Life and Learning, final report*, September 1998, p. 7.

J. Kim Vandiver (Professor of Ocean Engineering)
Rosalind H. Williams (Metcalf Professor of Writing; Dean for Students and Undergraduate Education)

Members of the Student Advisory Committee:

Erik Balsley '96
Alexander Cahill '01
Ernest Cuni '98
Jason Dailey '99
Michelle Evans '99
Iddo Gilon G
Arlene Hahn '97
John Hollywood G
Anders Hove '96
Kai-Yuh Hsiao '99
Anthony Ives '96
Steven Jens '98
Timothy K. Layman '97
Michele Micheletti '00
Amalia Miller '99
Paul Njoroge '00
Luis Ortiz G
Jacob Seid G
Jeremy Sher '99

PROVENANCE NOTE

Records were transferred from the Office of Academic Services in February 2000. Additional records from the office of the co-chair, Robert J. Hansman, were received in June 2002.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The records of the MIT Task Force on Student Life and Learning (TFSSL), 1996-1998, document the activities of the committee from its creation in July of 1996 until its final report was issued in the summer of 1998.

The background information gathered by the committee is a highlight of the collection. Among the data collected are photocopies of MIT financial documents dating back to 1860. Other documents examined by the committee are the MIT charter and mission. The collection also contains meeting minutes and notes of the Task Force, as well as minutes of the Task Force sub-group, the Student Advisory Committee. Also in the collection are data collected in surveys and questionnaires, including surveys on housing and classrooms, and comments from parents, faculty, alumni, and students. The data cover the Institute's evolution and represent the committee's vision of the future of MIT.

SERIES LIST

- SERIES I. MINUTES, 1996-1998
- SERIES II. CORRESPONDENCE AND SURVEY REPORTS, 1981-1999
- SERIES III. ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS, 1996-1998
- SERIES IV. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND FILES, 1860-1998
 - MIT publications, 1860-1998
 - Non-MIT publications, 1977-1998
- SERIES V. J. ROBERT HANSMAN RECORDS, 1996-1998

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

SERIES I. MINUTES, 1996-1998

This series consists mainly of meeting minutes, arranged in chronological order, from a retreat held at Woods Hole on 11 August 1996 to the last meeting on 8 May 1998. This series also includes a file on meeting updates with other groups and a file on the faculty committee chairs' monthly meetings.

SERIES II. CORRESPONDENCE AND SURVEY REPORTS, 1981-1999

This series contains correspondence among the members of the Task Force, input from groups that met regularly with the Task Force, and some alumni correspondence. This series also contains the Task Force membership list and the committee's charge, as well as completed surveys and questionnaires collected from faculty, students, and alumni, along with response analysis. The original order of the files was maintained.

SERIES III. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS, 1996-1998

This series consists of meeting minutes arranged chronologically. In addition, it contains MIT departmental mission statements, a membership list, a letter from Women's Collective in response to the preliminary report produced by the committee, and an undergraduate student paper addressed to the Corporation regarding recommendations to the Task Force on Student Life and Learning.

SERIES IV. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND FILES, 1860-1998

This series is composed of two sub-series: MIT publications and Non-MIT publications.

MIT publications, 1860-1998

This series contains MIT historical data, reports issued at MIT, including the Lewis report, and anonymous papers by MIT students.

Non-MIT publications, 1977-1998

This series contains books, articles, newspaper clippings, and publications issued by various agencies and by peer institutions regarding higher education and student life.

SERIES V. J. ROBERT HANSMAN FILES, 1996-1998

This series consists of the files of committee co-chair Professor Hansman. It contains Professor Hansman's handwritten notes and data resulting from classroom surveys, and aeronautics department, alumni, and faculty surveys. It also contains transparencies from presentations given by the Task Force and newspaper clippings pertaining to the history of MIT.

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9	9	"Report of the Committee on Student Housing," June 1956	
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9	13	“Changing the Curriculum at MIT,” report of the Committee on Educational Policy, 1964	
9	14	“How Can MIT Best Prepare Its Students for Future Careers?” Alan R. Millner, December 1966	
9	15	Task Force on Education Review of Experimental College Study, 1968	
9	16	Task Force on Education Innovation, 1968-1969	
9	17	“Creative Renewal in a Time of Crisis,” report of the Commission on MIT Education, November 1970	
9	18	Benson R. Snyder, <i>The Hidden Curriculum</i> (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1971)	
10	1	Report to the Ford Foundation, Engineering Education final report, January 1971 (photocopy)	
10	2	“Report of the Special Task Force on Education,” MIT, 8 December 1971	
10	3	Discussion of the Report of the Special Task Force on Education (CEP), 1971-1972	
10	4	Excerpts from the <i>Report of the President and the Chancellor</i> , 1976-1977	
10	5	Basic Requirements at MIT, prepared for New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. (NEASC) in connection with re-accreditation, April 1979	
10	6	Inaugural address of President Paul E. Gray, 26 September 1980	
10	7	Report of the Committee on Educational Policy: Status of the Review of MIT’s Educational Policy, February 1981	
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10	11	Report by Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (CIHE/NEASC) after MIT’s self-evaluation and report, 1989	
10	12	Planning Office, “A Meeting of Minds: An Assessment of Classroom Facilities Needs at MIT,” July 1987	
10	13	Report of the Ad Hoc Student Committee on the First Year, 29 February 1988	
10	14	Report of the Freshman Housing Committee (Potter Committee), October 1989	
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10	19	Arthur P. Mattuck, “The Torch or the Firehose: A Guide to Section Teaching,” 1995	
10	20	<i>MIT Rules and Regulations of the Faculty</i> , revised September 1995	
10	21	Student papers from Urban Studies 11.125 (1996-1997) related to MIT experience (anonymous)	
10	22	Student Services Reengineering Final Report, April 1996	
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10	27	Arif Husain, "MIT Shows Disdain for Undergraduates," <i>The Tech</i> , vol. 116, no. 59 (15 November 1996)	
10	28	<i>Tech Talk</i> articles regarding Task Force, 1996-1997	
10	29	Council on Educational Technology, draft, 10 January 1997	
10	30	Comments from MIT Colorado Alumni Holding by William Dix, Jr., February 1997	
10	31	National Electrical Engineering Department Heads Association (NEEDHA) president's message, "Time Constants," Paul Penfield, Jr., April 1997; "Mission Statements," August 1997	
10	32	"MIT Education in the Age of Information," <i>Faculty Newsletter</i> , May 1997 (Alan Lightman)	
11	1	MIT report of the treasurer for the year ended 30 June 1997	
11	2	<i>MIT Rules and Regulations of the Faculty</i> , revised September 1997	
11	3	Joel Moses, "Two Structures," September 1997	
11	4	Joel Moses, "Dual Degrees," 22 September 1997	
11	5	The Leadership Program at MIT: Education for the Twenty-First Century (Anthony Ives, chair), November 1997	
11	6	The Boyer Commission on Educating Undergraduates in the Research University, "Reinventing Undergraduate Education: A Blueprint for America's Research Universities," 20 April 1998, MIT feedback, April 1998	
11	7	Jeremy Sher, "Academic Choices: Improving the Process of Choosing Majors at MIT," 23 October 1998	

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11	10	David Warsh, “The Odd Couple: Harvard and MIT’s Curious Relationship,” <i>The Boston Globe Magazine</i> , 1 December 1991	
11	11	Conference on America’s investment in liberal education, College of William & Mary, Charles Vest, 11 February 1993	
11	12	“Report of the Commission on Undergraduate Education,” Stanford University, 1994	
11	13	Nancy Sommers, “A Study of Undergraduate Writing at Harvard,” 1994	
11	14	Stephen C. Ehrman, “Responding to the Triple Challenge: Facing Post Secondary Education: Accesibility, Quality, Costs,” <i>The Annenberg/CBP</i> , 18 September 1994	
11	15	“Engineering Education for a Changing World,” A joint project by the Engineering Deans Council and Corporate Roundtable of the American Society for Engineering Education, October 1994	
11	16	Stephen C. Ehrmann, “Asking the Right Question: What Does Research Tell Us about Technology and Higher Learning?” <i>The Annenberg/CBP Projects</i> , March/April 1995	
11	17	Survey of Undergraduate Education Activities, Association of American Universities, September 1995	
11	18	Eli M. Noam, “Electronics and the Dim Future of the University,” <i>Science</i> , vol. 270, 13 October 1995	
11	19	Program in Science, Technology, and Society memorial colloquium for Elting Morison [1996]	
11	20	National Research Council, “National Science Education Standards,” Washington, D.C., National Academy Press, July 1996	
11	21	Anne Matthews, “Hazing,” <i>New York Times Magazine</i> , 3 November 1996	

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11	23	Sara Rimer, "A Shy Scholar Transforms Dartmouth into a Haven of Intellectuals" <i>New York Times</i> , 4 January 1997	
11	24	Kelly McCollum, "In Tests, Students Taught Online Outdo Those Taught in Class," <i>Chronicle of Higher Education</i> , 21 February 1997 Neil L. Rudenstine, "The Internet and Education: A Close Fit," <i>Chronicle of Higher Education</i> , 21 February 1997	
11	25	University Crime Statistics, <i>Chronicle of Higher Education</i> , March 1997 (California, Massachusetts, and Connecticut)	
11	26	Rene Sanchez, "Turning Virtual Classrooms into a Reality," <i>Washington Post</i> , 27 March 1997 Paul Busch, "N.H. College Creates 3-year Degree Plan," <i>Boston Globe</i> , 9 March 1997	
11	27	Neil Rudenstine, "Making College Affordable to All Is a National Priority," <i>Boston Globe</i> , 4 April 1997	
11	28	Peter Passell, "Economic Scene," <i>New York Times</i> , 1 May 1997	
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11	30	Burton R. Clark, "Modern Integration of Research Activities with Teaching and Learning," <i>Journal of Higher Education</i> , May-June 1997	
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11	33	"Using Technology for Education: Panel Recommendations," <i>The American Institute of Physics Bulletin of Science News</i> , 4 September 1997	
11	34	William F. Massy, "National Commission on the Cost of Higher Education," Stanford University, 7-8 September 1997	
11	35	"Universities: Inside the Knowledge Factory," <i>The Economist</i> , 4 October 1997	
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12	2	The Harvard Assessment Seminars, second report: Explorations with Students and Faculty about Teaching, Learning, and Student Life, 1992	
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12	4	Technology for All Americans: A Rationale and Structure for the Study of Technology (International Technology Education Association, 1996)	
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12	10	“Adviser, Teacher, Role Model, Friend: On Being a Mentor to Students in Science and Engineering,” 1997	
12	11	Reports of the Bowdoin Commission on Residential Life, February - May 1997	
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13	1	Jack S. Goldstein, <i>A Different Sort of Time: The Life of Jerrold R. Zacharias</i> (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1992)	
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18	7	Copy of memo to Karl Compton from James Killian, 5 August 1946 (Institute Archives, MIT Office of the President, AC 4, box 47, folder 12)	
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19	1	"MIT: The Impact of Innovation," a BankBoston Economics Department Special Report, March 1997	
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19	3	National Science Foundation, "Shaping the Future. New Expectations for Undergraduate Education in Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Technology"	
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