Understanding MIT 2019
11.914S      Tuesdays 4-6 Room 9-217
Seminar Leader      O. Robert Simha
Department of Urban Studies and Planning
MIT

Schedule of Meetings

9/10/19  Introduction to the Seminar.  O. Robert Simha
The seminar seeks to introduce students, faculty and staff to how a modern
research university has developed, how it is governed, financed, and operated.
Speakers will range from MIT historians to the Chairman of the MIT Corporation

9/17/19  MIT History  Deborah Douglas
Deborah Douglas Director of Collections at the MIT Museum brings a rich
perspective on how the Institute has developed from its founding days.

9/24/19  MIT Admissions - How we choose our students  Stuart Schmill
Stuart Schmill, Dean of admissions and Student Financial Services will share
how MIT chooses the undergraduate student body, the criteria that drives the
process and the ways in which MIT compares to its peers. The thoughtful way in
which this vital process is managed is impressive.

10/1/19  Institutional Research and its Role in Decision Making  Lydia Snover
Lydia Snover the Director of the Office of Institutional Research in the Provost's
Office is one of those extraordinary people at MIT that provides
information for decision making. Her office provides comprehensive and reliable
information on both MIT and our peer institutions. Her work touches all of us
and has had considerable impact on the management of MIT.

10/8/19  The MIT Corporation  Robert Millard
The Charter issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that established
MIT holds the members of the MIT Corporation responsible for the academic,
financial and proper management of the Institute and its assets. The current
Chairman of the Corporation Robert Millard will describe the functions of the
Corporation, how the members participate in holding MIT to the highest
standards and insure that its financial health and stability will continue to
support MIT's academic and research mission.
This session will be held from 3-5 Pm

10/15/19  MIT Facilities Operations  Joe Higgins
MIT is a small city that operates 24/7, 365 days a year. The range of services
and the organizations that are responsible for keeping the Institute humming in
all weathers and circumstances is one of MIT's major assets. Given the large
volume of scientific and engineering research that is dependent on reliable
systems we will see how these functions shed light on understanding MIT. Joe
Higgins Director of Campus Operations will present a picture of the wide array of
essential campus services that keep MIT running.

10/22/19  MIT Financial Planning and Operations  Glen Shor and Allen Marcum
Financing MIT is an awesome task and the management of this process is the
responsibility of the Executive Vice President and Treasurer and his associates.
Direct responsibility for budgeting and financial operations lies with Glen Shor,
Vice President for Finance. Responsibility for insuring that MIT has adequate capital resources to manage its growth and development lies with Allen Marcum, Director of Treasury and Planning. They will, together, provide a comprehensive picture of how MIT is financed.

10/29/19  MIT Student Life  Suzy Nelson
Responsibility for managing all of the services that support student life at MIT falls under the Office of the Chancellor. Direct responsibility for planning and delivering those services lies with Vice President and Dean of Student Life Suzy Nelson. With deep experience in these matters Dean Nelson will share with us the challenges of her office and the ways in which she and her staff seek to create and maintain a supportive and high quality of life for both undergraduate and graduate students at MIT.

11/5/19  The MIT Alumni Association  Whitney Espich
The MIT Alumni Association provides MIT alumni with the connections that provide a lifetime of network opportunities, career development resources, continuing training and access to opportunities for leadership and service to the Institute. It is an important source of support for MIT and has always played a significant role in helping to shape the Institute's direction. The Chief Executive Officer of the Association Whitney Espich will share her views about the role the Association plays in the life of MIT.

11/12/19  The MIT Faculty
The MIT faculty is self selected and progress in its ranks is a very demanding process with tenure granted only after a major review of performance, productivity teaching and community service. We will follow that process in order to understand how MIT maintains the highest quality in its teaching and research staff.

11/19/19  MIT Campus Planning
We will explore the planning agencies that participate in and are responsible for the physical development of the campus. The Office of the Vice Provost, the MIT campus planning Office and the Faculty Campus Planning Committee all play a role in guiding the development of MIT's academic campus. In addition, MIT has for some years been a major player in the economic development of the City of Cambridge. It has currently assigned to the MIT Investment Management Company responsibility for the economic development of MIT properties in the vicinity of the campus.

11/26/19  MIT and Cambridge
Town Gown relations are a perennial challenge in university communities. We will hear from a Cambridge public official just how MIT is perceived as a partner and neighbor in the city of Cambridge.

12/3/19  Reflections of an MIT Student Leader and Corporation member
We will have the opportunity to meet with Erich Caulfield, a former member of the seminar, who served as the President of the Graduate Student Council, a term membership as a recent graduate on the MIT Corporation, a White House fellow and term member of the Corporation and the incoming President of the MIT Alumni Association. His reflections of his journey to and through MIT are a rather special experience and a memorable one that will complete the presentations for this year's seminar.
12/10.19 Final meeting for Q and A and presentation of papers.