News recap: key summer stories
Abelson’s Swartz report, dorm security changes, and more

As you settle onto campus, you may wonder what changes happened over the summer. Here’s a summary of some of the topics The Tech has covered to get you up to speed.

Swartz report released
On July 30, MIT released its highly anticipated report on the Institute’s involvement in the federal prosecution of the late Internet activist Aaron Swartz. The report found that the Institute maintained “neutral” during Swartz’s prosecution, but missed a chance to show “leadership” in the two years before his suicide in January.

The report came six months after MIT president L. Rafael Reif asked computer science professor Hal Abelson PhD ’73 to conduct an independent investigation into the Swartz case.

Following Swartz’s death, MIT came under fire for about an hour as a result of the service being significantly delayed that the woman “did not fall, nor was she pushed” on the tracks. Service was repeatedly delayed for about an hour as a result of the incident.

—Stan Gill

PAC formed; PTAC report is available
First 8-member ‘Presidential Advisory Cabinet’ is created

In July, the Presidential Transition Advisory Cabinet (PTAC) released its public report with recommendations for MIT president L. Rafael Reif. Formed in July 2012 and operating since August 2012, the PTAC centered its recommendations around three themes — “The MIT Educational Experience,” “Community — Places, Resources, People” and “Support and Engagement,” and “The Residential Campus of the 21st Century.” With the release of the report, the Graduate Student Council (GSC) and Undergraduate Association (UA) began soliciting applications for a new Institute Committee, the Presidential Advisory Cabinet (PAC), of four undergraduate and four graduate representatives.

This first PAC consists of graduate students Maria A. Berestina G, Aapul S. Dahle G, and Jason J. Gonzalez G, and undergraduate students Thomas D. Alcorn ’14, Caitlin A. Mackey ’15, and Elise M. Myers ’14, with GSC president Caleb J. Waugh G and UA president Sidhanth P. Rao ’14 serving ex officio. Members were selected through the GSC nominations board and UA nominations committee, and will serve for one-year terms, beginning on July 1 of each year. The cabinet will serve the MIT president in a “purely advisory capacity on various issues iden-

Join the Tech!


Passing of Kenneth Stevens
EECS professor emeritus, 89, died on Aug. 10.

Historian Maier dies at 75
MIT faculty since 1978, Pauline Maier died on Aug. 12.

East vs. West: Water War 2013
The East and West sides of campus engage in the annual battle.

My Stolen Toothpaste
And an ensuing moral dilemma — the travails of living in a dorm.

Campus Life

Sections
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Outdoor registration is now open! Input and confirm your choice of classes and meet with your advisor anytime between now and Friday, Sept. 6 to avoid a late fee.

FYI: Applications are open until Wednesday at 2 a.m. for freshmen wishing to switch living groups. Enter the lottery at https://odysseyhms-web.mit.edu/hmsweb stu/. Results will be available on Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Taking an Advanced Standing Exam for freshman classes? Here are the dates for the next four: 8–10 and 8–11, Sunday, 8–11 a.m., Chemistry; Sunday 8–11 a.m., Biology, Friday 8–11 a.m.

The freshmen orientation swim test is this Thursday at the Z Center pool. Time slots are every hour from 1–4 p.m. Check your orientation materials for your assigned time slot. Be sure to bring your MIT ID!

PE Registration opens Wednesday at 8 a.m. Visit mitpe.com to register. Wake up early to ensure you get the class that you want!

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

Weather, p. 2
TUE: 79° Chance showers WED: 79° Chance showers THU: 79° Chance showers
Treasury warns Congress over raising debt ceiling

WASHINGTON — Unless Congress raises the debt ceiling, the Treasury Department said Monday that it expected to lose the ability to pay all of the government’s bills in mid-October. That means a recession-size drop in government spending could result.

The statement, which was released within a few hours of a Treasury announcement that it had two cash reserves that would be depleted in the next 60 days, set the stage for a possible debate over whether the nation’s government should be allowed to borrow more money.

Members of Congress are sharply divided over what to include in any legislation to allow the government to borrow more money.

The United States is one of the few major industrial nations that have not yet reached their debt ceilings.

But on Tuesday, the White House said that it was “not going to raise the debt ceiling” for the second time in a week.

By Scott Shane and Ben Hubbard
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Moving a step closer to possible U.S. military actions in Syria, a senior Obama administration official said Sunday that there was “very little doubt” that President Bashar Assad’s military forces had used chemical weapons against civilians last week and that a Syrian promise to allow U.N. inspectors access to the site was “too late to be credible.”

The official, in a written statement, said that “based on the reported number of victims, reported symptoms of those who were killed or injured, witness accounts and other facts gathered by open sources, the U.S. intelligence community, and international partners, there is very little doubt at this point that a chemical weapon was used by the Syrian regime against civilians in this incident.”

The statement, released Sunday morning on the condition that the official not be named, reflected a tougher tone after President Barack Obama’s meeting at the White House on Saturday with his national security team, during which advisers discussed options for military action.

While administration officials emphasized that Obama had not decided to take action, they said he determined not to be drawn into a protracted debate over gaining access for the U.N. inspectors, because of doubts that they could now produce credible findings.

Officials say that a list of possible targets for a military strike has been circulating in the White House since late last week. The list, which the Pentagon originally prepared months ago for Obama, includes both chemical-weapons sites and broader military and government targets, depending on the type of action the president orders. If strikes are carried out, the targets would probably be hit by cruise missiles fired from Navy ships.

The president, who warned a year ago that the use of chemical weapons by Syrian government forces would be a “red line,” has faced criticism from congressional Republicans and others for failing to respond more forcefully to evidence of earlier, smaller-scale chemical attacks. Obama, who in 2005 ran a costly war in Iraq and Afghanistan — has been extremely reluctant to commit U.S. military forces, even in the form of missile strikes, to another tangled conflict in the Middle East.

But on Sunday, the White House issued a clearer warning, dismissing the country’s promise of possible access by U.N. inspectors.

Obama spoke Sunday with the French president, Francois Hol-

landes, and the White House said they had expressed “grave concern” about the reported Syrian chemical attack and “discussed possible re-

sponses by the international com-

munity.” Obama spoke Saturday to the British prime minister, David Cameron.

Those discussions, officials said, were meant to gauge whether Brit-

an and France are on the same page as the United States, given that they could part of a coali-

tion — carrying out strikes against Syria.

Greece on track for more aid, Germany official says

BERLIN — With Greece and its continuing debt crisis an issue ahead of European elections next month, the highest-ranking German in the European Cen-

tral Bank said Monday that Athens could be eligible for additional aid and debt write-offs if it continued to fulfill promises made for assistance it is already receiving.

“The Eurogroup will support Greece for the lifetime of the cur-

rent program, and beyond,” said Jörg Asmussen, a member of the central bank’s policymaking exec-

utive board, referring to the group of eurozone finance ministers.

Asmussen took care to note in an interview here that he was not signaling new attitude toward Greece by its eurozone benefac-

tors. “There is no change of policy,” he said, explaining that eurozone leaders already decided in No-

vember they would re-examine Greece’s needs early in 2014.

But his comments fed into a debate set off last week when As-

mussen informed Germany’s foreign minister, Guido Westerwelle, that Greece might need more mon-

ey, and France is on the same page as the United States, given that they could be part of a coali-

tion — carrying out strikes against Syria.

Confident Syria uses chemicals US mulls action

By Scott Shane and Ben Hubbard
THE NEW YORK TIMES

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tion — carrying out strikes against Syria.

WEATHER

Several chances for rain and sunshine

A series of disturbances will move across southern New England this week, creating an unsettled pattern in the weather of October. Periods of sunshine and warm afternoons are expected, but there will be occasional chances of showers or thunderstorms.

The weather pattern is expected to settle down in time for the holiday weekend, however. A high pressure system will move in from the north-

west, creating sunny and calm afternoons, with periods of warm and sun-shine.

Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, high 80°F (27°C).

Tonight: Partly cloudy with a chance of showers, low 65°F (18°C).

Tomorrow: Partly sunny with a chance of afternoon showers or thunderstorms, high 79°F (26°C).

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny with highs around 80°F (27°C).
Iran's pick for nuclear talks carries hope of eased tensions

By Thomas Erdbrink

TEHRAN, Iran — Until this summer, Mohammad Javad Zarif, one of Iran’s most accomplished diplomats, was an outcast, exiled from the government by ultraconservatives for working too closely with the West. Rather than presenting the Iranian case to the world, as he had done so effectively throughout a 35-year diplomatic career, he was spending his days teaching at the Foreign Ministry’s training center on a quiet, leafy campus in North Tehran.

That changed with the election of the moderate president, Hassan Rouhani, in June. Now, Zarif is the country’s new foreign minister and seems virtually certain to lead Iran’s delegation in nuclear negotiations with the West — further indications, analysts say, that Rouhani is serious about reducing tensions with the United States and other Western countries.

“Mr. Zarif is the new face of a new policy,” said Davoud Hermidas-Bavand, a professor of international relations at Allameh Tabatabaee University in Tehran, who knows Zarif personally. “Our foreign policy obviously did not yield any results and was clearly doomed. We need to revise our foreign methods and soften our stances in order to find a solution to the nuclear problem and reduce the sanctions.”

Previous negotiations over Iran’s nuclear program have broken down over the West’s insistence that the country’s government first stop enriching uranium, which world powers suspect is a first step to developing nuclear weapons. The Iranians have maintained just as steadfastly that they have the right to enrich uranium for fuel to power reactors and other peaceful uses. Now, this diplomatic logjam may be giving way, analysts say.

“We can be sure that Mr. Zarif — if he gets to handle the nuclear issue — will quickly and officially propose ideas such as Iran ending enrichment up to 20 percent as a compromise,” said Francois Nicoullaud, a former French ambas- sador to Tehran who often met with Zarif.

Romance adds to intrigue at ex-Chinese leader’s trial

JINAN, China — Concluding a trial that has riveted China, Bo Xilai, the former elite Communist Party official, attacked elements of the prosecution’s case Monday and said his former top deputy and his wife, both of whom provided evidence against him, had a passionate relationship with each other.

Bo said the charges of bribery, embezzlement and abuse of power against him were deeply flawed because they depended on evidence from his wife, Gu Kailai, and his former top deputy, Wang Lijun, who he suggested were themselves involved with the abusers. Bo was accused of committing — and with each other.

Wang and Gu “were stuck together as if by glue,” he said in his closing comments.

Bo’s final testimony added to the soap opera-like twists in a trial that provided an unusual showcase of how China manages its legal system. Bo, 64, who was stripped of his membership in China’s ruling Politburo last year, is nearly certain to be found guilty.

But he was given considerable leeway to defend himself in ex- tended and colorful testimony, according to transcripts of the trial that were circulated by the court and that appeared widely in state media.


Fresh charges for famed thief of great silver pieces

ATLANTA — Even before a thief carefully removed a window-pane from a mansion here one rainy June night and slipped away with a $734 silver mug that had belonged to George II, it was clear to detectives that a singular obsession was stealing the great silver pieces of the Old South.

For months, exquisite sterling silver collections had been disappearing, taken in the dead of night from historic homes in Charles- ton, S.C., and the wealthy enclaves of Belle Meade, Tenn. Nothing else was touched.

The police in different states did not at first connect the thefts, but their timing and pattern were eerily similar.

The burglaries piled up, a retired New Jersey detective watching re- ports on the Internet recognized a familiar pattern. At about the same time, the police in Washington, D.C., were piecing together the story of a 64-year-old boater who had stolen silver during a summer cruise and was being flushed out of hiding.

He was charged with burglaries in Atlanta and most likely is facing charges in other states.


Under Obama, little progress on high-level jobs for women

By Annie Lowrey

WASHINGTON — Behind the rollicking conversation over whether President Barack Obama might make Janet L. Yellen the first female leader of the Federal Reserve, there has been a quiet and defining push from the government to increase gender diversity, including the proportion of women in senior roles.

Women are becoming more prominent in the executive branch, including as Cabinet secretaries and in the White House.

Susan E. Rice as national security adviser. But by most measures of gender diversity, including the proportion of women at Cabinet level, the executive branch looks little different from 20 years ago, even as the House of Representatives, the Senate and corporate America have placed significantly more women in senior roles.

“There’s room for improvement, and we’ve seen some missed op- portunities,” said Debbie Walsh, the director for the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers Uni- versity. “We’re all watching the Fed to see what will happen there.”

Obama is choosing from a small pool of candidates for the Federal Re- serve position — probably the most important economic appointment he will make in his second term. The finalists include Yellen, the Fed’s cur- rent vice chairwoman and a former Clinton administration official. The favored candidate among several top Obama aides is Lawrence H. Sum- mers, the former Treasury secretary and Obama economic adviser.

Awards for the Arts at MIT

Council for the Arts at MIT

GRANTS FOR THE ARTS

DEADLINE SEPT 27, 2013

All currently registered MIT students, faculty, and staff are eligible to apply

arts.mit.edu/participate/grants/

WORLD & NATION WORLD & NATION WORLD & NATION WORLD & NATION WORLD & NATION WORLD & NATION
OPINION

Suppose this...

I HAVE A DREAM

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. Email is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by emailing editor@tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors to news@tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@tech.mit.edu. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at http://tech.mit.edu.

OPINION POLICY

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Chairman Sarah Ritter, Editor in Chief Anne Cai, Managing Editor Ian M. Gorodisher, Executive Editor Deborah Chen, and Opinion Editor Jacob London.

Guest columns can be submitted by members of the MIT or local community.

To REACH US
Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun
Fun Fun Fun Fun
Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun
Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun
Fun Fun Fun

And thus was smallpox introduced to the previously Undying Lands.

A WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE, SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE
by Randall Munroe

Where my best ideas usually come from

SITTING IN MY OFFICE
DOING THE DISHES
WALKING TO LUNCH
TALKING TO SOMEONE
TAKING A SHOWER

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

Saturday Stumper by Anna Stiga
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16 A Toy Is Born subject
17 Its state seal has a covered wagon and steamer
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20 Language that gave us “boondocks”
21 About a kilogram of mixer
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Somewhere on the Search for Meaning... by Letitia Li

Greetings, I am the programming assistant!

Tip of the day: Variety is the spice of life! It’s best to use as many programming languages as possible in your project!

It looks like you’re writing an infinite loop! But maybe it’ll only be as infinite as the infinite corridor!

Don’t make your program so efficient! You won’t have time to go on the internet while it runs!

What’s with all these descriptive variable names? Work on your memory by naming them v1, v2, etc and maybe you’ll get on Jeopardy!

What are you doing providing good documentation?! The next developer is going to be so disappointed about not having a puzzle to solve!

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Sudoku

Solution, page 8

6 8 1
5 4 1 9 6 8 3
3
7 2 1
3 7
1 5 4
9
7 8 6 2 1 5 3
9 7 6

Techdoku

Solution, page 8

96× 3x 5+ 6
6 5x 2
30× 30x 12×
2 288x 5
60× 6+ 1
6x 3

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.
1. West Campus forces rally behind their wooden duck as they rush the forces from the East.
2. An East Campus resident announces their arrival by blowing a vuvuzela.
3. Forces from the East arrive en masse shortly before the beginning of the war, sporting handmade signs and a variety of water-flinging devices.
4. A West Campus resident rallies morale from other participants running and waving a flag.
5. The war wages fiercely as both sides rush forward and begin throwing water in earnest.

Photos by Jessica L. Wass and Bruno B. Faviero—The Tech
How a theft in Senior House altered my worldview

By Leon Lin

Sometime in June, a discovery in Senior House threw me briefly into a personal crisis. Someone had used my toothpaste.

The thief had not only squeezed the toothpaste from the middle of the tube, but had also managed to smear it all over the outside of the opening.

I finished brushing my teeth, went back to my room, fished out my Sharpie, and wrote a note saying that an unwelcome mixture of water and toothpaste had been observed trapped underneath the cap. The note also advised residents to use their own toothpaste, if possible.

At the end of the note, I included a sad face. (This part required some fiddling with the eccentricity of the oval face in order to make it as endearing as possible.) I left the second draft of the note by my toothpaste in my little cubby shelf in the bathroom.

I found later that week that the entire tube of toothpaste had been stolen.

In the next 48 hours, I missed several chances to buy another tube, which was good news for certain populations of streptococci, staphylococci, and lactobacilli.

The thief had not only squeezed the toothpaste incident, alas, was not related to the subject of a seminal treatise by any eminent philosopher or economist.

And suddenly I felt it within me. I was going to Do Something About It. Suddenly I knew what it was to march, what it was to burn a draft card, what it was to occupy something.

I declared that it was an example of the free rider problem.

A full orchestra and a throng of French horn players lifted up by the spirit of Seneca Falls, Selma, and Stonewall; the spirit of the Arab Spring, indeed, of humanity, with all its liberating spirit of Flower Power and Pocahontas.

And suddenly I felt it within me. I was going to Do Something About It. Suddenly I knew what it was to march, what it was to burn a draft card, what it was to occupy something. Suddenly I was one of We Fried, We Happy Few — suddenly I was lifted up by the spirit of Seneca Falls, Selma, and Stonewall; the spirit of the Arab Spring, indeed, of humanity, with all its liberating spirit of Flower Power and Pocahontas.

The thief had not only squeezed the toothpaste from the middle of the tube, but had also managed to smear it all over the outside of the opening.

I left the second draft of the note by my toothpaste in my own room. And though I was too lazy to keep the shampoo in my room as well, I did check that it position in the cubby was unchanged whenever I was about to use it.

Why in the world would you keep your stuff in a common bathroom? Yeah, I don’t know anyone who does that. I have a caddy that I keep all my stuff in. It’s so convenient! Yep, I have my own fridge for toothpaste!

Back to my room, fished out my Sharpie, and wrote the note saying that an unwelcome mixture of water and toothpaste had been observed trapped underneath the cap. I left the second draft of the note by my toothpaste in my little cubby shelf in the bathroom.

I was trapped in my own living quarters among people I could not trust. I eyed my mouth. I was trapped in my own living quarters among people I could not trust. I eyed my mouth.

Lactobacilli.

There was a gooey clear substance, which may or may not have been body wash, smeared all over the outside of the opening. I dropped the bottle.

Whatever. The arc of the moral universe is long — like, really long. Don’t even bother. The proper reaction to anything is “Meh.” “Psshhhh.” You will graduate and get a job and marry and retire and die.

Exercise: Write your own definition of moral universe, in the space provided. I guess the toothpaste made some sense.
Proposed the quantal theory of speech, earning him the National Medal of Science.
Path-breaking historian Pauline Maier dies at 75

Her work illuminated the richness and complexity of the origins of democracy in the U.S.

By Peter Dizikes MIT News Office

The eminent historian Pauline R. Maier, whose award-winning books cast new light on Revolutionary-era America and the foundations of U.S. democracy, died Aug. 12 in Cambridge, Mass., after a battle with lung cancer. She was 75.

Maier, who served as the William Kenan Jr. Professor of History at MIT, had been a member of the Institute’s faculty since 1978. Her work often recast conventional wisdom about 18th-century America, reconstructing long-forgotten public debates over the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution while bringing crucial figures in American political history into sharper focus.

Maier’s best-known books include “American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence” (1997), a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, and “Ratification: The People Debate the Constitution, 1787-1788” (2010), winner of the George Washington Book Prize. Both works demonstrated the vitality of local and state-level political debates at the nation’s founding.

Even as Maier’s work brought textbook accounts of American history into question, she herself engaged the greater public by writing new history textbooks for college students and younger students alike — part of a career-long commitment to making history vivid and accessible for all.

“We are deeply saddened to hear of the death of Pauline Maier,” said Deborah K. Fitzgerald, the Kenin Foundation Professor of the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences at MIT. “One of the key intellectual figures in her field, Paulina was also a leader at MIT — a great historian and scholar who understood the pulse of the Institute and helped guide and improve our community in profound ways. Through her research, award-winning publications, and superb teaching, Pauline inspired generations of young historians of the Colonial period. Her classes for MIT undergraduates — for example, on the U.S. Constitution — were learning experiences that her students still remember decades later. In her classroom, Pauline brilliantly embodied our mission to empower MIT students with cultural and historical perspectives, and an understanding of the world’s complexities. We will miss her enormously.”


After receiving her degree, Maier joined the history faculty at the University of Massachusetts at Boston, where she taught from 1968 until 1977. Maier then served on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin for one year before accepting a position as professor of history at MIT. Maier led MIT’s history faculty from 1979 to 1988.

Maier’s second book, “The Old Revolutionary Politics: Political Lives in the Age of Samuel Adams,” appearing in 1980, looked in depth at the lives of five Revolutionary leaders, including Adams, in the years leading up to 1776. “American Scripture” drew widespread praise for its re-casting of the public debates over the Declaration of Independence. In it, Maier presented a deep analysis of the founding document’s evolution — from statement of revolutionary intent into one of national principles — and discussed dozens of local “declarations of independence” issued in America during 1776; “American Scripture” was named one of the 11 best books of 1997 by The New York Times Book Review.

“Ratification.” Maier’s most recent book, reconstructed and examined the often-tempestuous state-level debates over the ratification of the U.S. Constitution — which greatly strengthened the nation, then financially weak, by adding elements such as taxing powers, while also generating opposition for the same reasons. As Maier detailed, amendments recommended in the course of the ratification debates in the states helped form the Bill of Rights.

The work was named one of the top 10 books of 2010 by The Wall Street Journal, Gordon Wood, an American historian at Brown University, called it a “wonderful contribution” to the field, while Richard Beeman, a historian at the University of Pennsylvania, said it “will stand as the definitive account of the story of the ratification of the Constitution for many decades to come.” The work also won the Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award.

History for everyone

Maier’s books were intended for both general and scholarly audiences, and she invested additional effort in furthering public understanding of history. She authored “The American People: A History” (1980), a middle-school textbook covering American history from its beginnings through 1844. She also co-authored a 2002 college textbook, “Inventing America: A History of the United States,” with Marrett Roe Smith of MIT, Alex Keysar of Harvard, and Daniel Krevis of Yale University.

In addition to her books and textbooks, Maier produced more than 30 articles published in scholarly journals, edited volumes, and other publications, and wrote book reviews for publications including The New York Times Book Review and the William and Mary Quarterly.

Maier received prestigious fellowships and grants including the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship and multiple fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 1998, Maier won MIT’s James R. Killian Jr. Faculty Achievement Award, which recognizes extraordinary professional accomplishment and is given to one faculty member each year.

Maier’s work, prodigious energy for teaching, and commitment to frank truth-seeking in the public sphere made a lasting impression on those who knew her. “Her scholarship, perspective, personality and dedication made her a remarkable MIT citizen,” former MIT President Charles M. Vest said. “Her historical writing did play first-rate research but also was highly accessible and readable. I used to kid her because she once gave a lecture at the University of Virginia. (‘Mr. Jefferson’s University’), the thesis of which was that Jefferson is our most overlooked president. Now that is sticking your neck out.”

Presidential Advisory Committee published report

Recommendations to Reif center around three themes to improve the MIT experience

The PTAC report recommended prioritization of deferred maintenance of current MIT residences.

For graduate students, the cabinet urged action to “ensure sufficient affordable housing,” a topic that has been debated throughout the course of MIT’s Kendall Square rezoning petition. With Kendall Square, the PTAC also suggested an improved east entrance to the MIT campus, both “aesthetically and metaphorically.” Steps have already been taken on that front by a faculty design committee, and design firms will vie for the opportunity to work with an MIT working committee to create an eastern MIT gateway.

Additionally, in line with increased mental health concerns in the MIT community over the past couple years, the PTAC reported that students are often unclear on mental health policies, the report read, and their experiences with Student Support Services (S3) vary widely. As such, the cabinet recommended the creation of a Standing Committee on Mental Health and initiatives to remove campus stigma around asking for help.

Regarding the design of MIT’s campus, the report discussed the availability and quality of both undergraduate and graduate housing. As several dormitory buildings have suffered from HVAC, structural, and facade problems, for under- and graduate skepticism of Institute policy and administration and perception of recent Institute-wide policies that result view with great skepticism.

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Summer news stories: what you missed while away

Developments in the Swartz case, new backup childcare program, dorm security changes

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the defense for documents and witnesses.

However, the report acknowledged that “neutrality in responses was not consistent with neutrality in outcomes,” and explained that MIT also voluntarily handed over some documents to the prosecution but not the defense, operating under the asymmetric assumption that the defense would get documents from the prosecution.

But critics of MIT are troubled by more than the specifics of the report’s narrative, with some arguing that MIT’s overall inaction was negligent, or worse.

Taren Sinibouched-Kauffman, Swartz’s partner, called the report a “whitewash,” saying in a statement that MIT did actually pick a side — the wrong one. “MIT’s lawyers gave prosecutors total access to witnesses and evidence, while refusing access to Aaron’s lawyers to the exact same witnesses and evidence,” she wrote. “That’s not neutral.” Others, including Ethan Zuckerman, director of MIT Center for Civic Media and Charlie Furman, campaign manager at the Progressive Democratic Network, criticized the report as an opportunity for MIT to avoid negative attention.

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Additional Swartz evidence released

On Aug. 12, the Secret Service released 104 pages of its files on Swartz, at the request of a journalist. Delayed from the July 19 date initially ordered by the court, the pages chosen for release do not include any reference to MIT or JSTOR, as both had filed motions intervening in the public-records request in mid-July, asking the court to allow MIT and JSTOR to review the documents and propose redactions.

The motions are similar to MIT and JSTOR’s March 29 requests in U.S. v. Swartz that some information, including the names of employees, be redacted in publicly released documents. The judge in that case ruled to allow the redactions.

The papers released by the Secret Service are but a sliver of its files on Swartz. The Secret Service has said that it has at least 14,500 pages possibly related to Swartz, and that it will take six months or more to review them.

Authorities seized Swartz’s blue metallic iPod during their investigations, among other electronic devices, one document shows. Another document, a heavily redacted interview report, suggests that the Secret Service probed into Swartz’s Guinnell Open Access Manifesto, which argues for open access to scientific journals.

So far however, the largest collection of released documents related to the investigation and prosecution of Swartz is the one released on July 30, as promised by President L. Rafael Reif in March after calls for transparency. The collection includes 3,756 pages of emails and materials shared with state and federal prosecutors, and 154 pages of emails and materials shared with Swartz’s defense.

The documents, in which most names of MIT employees are blacked out, include pictures of Swartz in the Building 16 closet where he hooked his laptop up to a network switch and downloaded millions of JSTOR research papers using a Python script in 2010 and 2011. Those actions, which disrupted MIT’s access to JSTOR for three days, led to 13 felony charges, pursued by more than one as an egregious federal prosecution.

Dorm security changes

This fall, residents of Baker, Masobe, McCormick, Next House, Simmonds and the graduate dorms Tang Hall and Westgate will see several changes to their dorms’ security policies. The security changes came about as a result of the 2010 security report authored by Professor Iain W. Stewart and Police Chief John DiFino.

The changes are in response to a home invasion that occurred on Aug. 6 at Baker House.

As part of the first phase of security updates, students and guests will be required to undergo visual verification before entering the dorm. To facilitate this, each building’s card scanner will be moved to the front desk. Before being permitted to enter the dorm, a student must scan their MIT ID, at which point their face will appear on a monitor for visual inspection. If a student does not have an ID, they may enter the dorm after providing their name and being compared to their photo.

Additionally, MIT Residential Life and Dining has hired professional desk attendants from security company Allied Barton to handle all security responsibilities including tracking guests, and security cameras will be installed at the perimeters of each dorm. According to Henry J. Humphreys, senior associate dean of residential life and dining, the professional desk attendants will be at desk from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. Students will still work at desk to deliver services such as checking out equipment. “We did not take away the student employment opportunity,” said Humphreys.

According to Humphreys, the hiring of outside security will have no impact on the existing Nightwatch program. “Nightwatch serves a slightly different function than the desk attendants,” said Humphreys. The desk attendant is a stationary post, whereas Nightwatch, in addition to sitting at the desk, have to make two rounds through the building. Plus, if there’s an emergency from inside the building, [the Nightwatch] has to go respond to the emergency,” said Humphreys. “The desk attendant, if there’s an emergency in the building, would contact the house team (and/or) call MIT police, but they would never leave their post.”

New backup child care program live

Starting July 1, 2013, undergraduates and graduate students with children were able to pre-register for the new subsidized backup child care program. The new program provides students with access to caregivers on a short notice through Parents in a Pitch, a national vendor for child care services. The program will run as a pilot until June 30, 2014, when it will be evaluated for renewal.

For up to 10 days of the fiscal year, students can use the backup child care service, which provides a nanny at a subsidized rate of $5 per hour. Any days beyond the ten days cost $18.50 per hour and a daily placement fee ranging from $25 to $50.

The program aims to give students more flexibility and relieve some of the stress that comes with balancing academics and disruptions to normal child care.

The Office of the Provost, MIT Work-Life Center, and Graduate Student Council (GSC) will fund the five-figure program. The GSC will provide $38,000 from Career Fair profits, with additional funding provided by the provost. The GSC worked through the Office of the Dean of Graduate Education (ODGE) and Dean Christine Ortiz to obtain the additional funding needed from the provost, with support of Chancellor Eric Grimson PhD ’90.

“Hopefully it will be a long-term program. We think it will be able to touch everybody in a way other programs don’t do as easily,” said Simons. “I think it’s going to be one of those programs that will be kept.”

Summaries compiled by Debra Chen.