



**Letter of support for President Kornbluth  
Signed by the deans, department heads, and senior faculty leaders  
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

December 12, 2023

To whom it may concern,

We write to express our unreserved support for MIT's President Sally Kornbluth. The job of holding a university community together in trying times such as the present is a responsibility that all of us share as academic leaders and faculty members. We are grateful for the strong bonds that have been forged within and especially across communal lines at MIT, thanks to President Kornbluth's support, and we commit to ensuring that our great diversity remains a source of our great strength. Similarly, the task of defending the principles of academic freedom and free expression, as expressed in the MIT statement adopted by the faculty in December 2022, is a responsibility that we all share.

As President Kornbluth has observed, part of that responsibility includes recognizing the difference between what we can say and what we should say. In the words of the faculty statement, "[a]t the intersection of the ideal of free expression and MIT community values lies the expectation of a collegial and respectful learning and working environment." Finally, the moral imperative to address the pernicious influences of antisemitism and Islamophobia/anti-Palestinian racism can only be undertaken successfully as a community. We will not allow these burdens to be carried out by one person alone. President Kornbluth has ably led this institution through an enormously challenging moment. We look forward to working with her in the years ahead to carry out MIT's mission: "to advance knowledge and educate students in science, technology, and other areas of scholarship that will best serve the nation and the world in the 21st century."

**Department Leadership**

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H.N. Slater Professor in Aeronautics and Astronautics

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Professor of Physics

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Head, Department of Architecture  
Professor, Department of Architecture



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Korea Electric Power Professor of Nuclear Engineering

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Anshen-Chomsky Professor in Language and Thought

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Professor of History

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RSA Professor of Mathematics

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Ford Professor of Economics

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Professor of Mechanical Engineering

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Schlumberger Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences

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Haslam and Dewey Professor of Chemistry

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Clarence J. LeBel Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

Chris Zegras  
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Professor of Mobility and Urban Planning



## **School Leadership**

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Sloan Management Review Professor of Management

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Head, Music and Theater Arts Section  
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**Additional Leaders**

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Abraham Siegel Professor of Operations Research, MIT Sloan School

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Cynthia Breazeal  
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Thomas A. Frank Professor of Physics

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Professor of Literature

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Stephen Graves  
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Abraham J. Siegel Professor of Management



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Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics

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Interim Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement  
Cecil and Ida Green Professor in Education

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