Communication Requirement, Subcommittee on the

The Subcommittee on the Communication Requirement shall maintain a membership consisting of one faculty co-chair from the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) and one faculty co-chair from the School of Engineering or the School of Science; and in addition, one faculty member from each of the five Schools; two undergraduates; and ex officis, the Dean for Undergraduate Education, the Dean of SHASS, and the Head of the Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies, or their designates. The Subcommittee shall work towards the high-level goals of:

- Supporting, encouraging and monitoring the development of new, innovative subjects and changes to the Communication Requirement; and
- Ensuring regular review of new and existing subjects to ascertain that the educational goals of the Communication Requirement are met while maintaining MIT’s high educational standards.

In doing so and subject to final review by the CUP, SOCR acts with power to:

- Set guidelines for Communication Intensive subjects in each undergraduate major program (CI-M); review and approve designation of these subjects through a process that includes collaboration with the Committee on Curricula (CoC).
- Establish guidelines for CI-H and CI-HW subjects and adjust them as appropriate; review and approve designation of these subjects through a process that includes collaboration with the CoC.
- Maintain the official list of CI subject designation in consultation with the CoC.
- Oversee the evaluation of the writing abilities of entering undergraduates and establish the standards to exempt students who display competency in expository writing from being required to enroll in designated CI-HW subjects during their first year at the Institute.
- Define priorities for instructional support of CI subjects throughout the Institute.
- Monitor policies associated with the Communication Requirement and revise or develop new ones as necessary.
- Working with the CoC, oversee individual student requests for exceptions or substitutions to the Communication Requirement.
- Collaborate with the Committee on Academic Performance (CAP) to ensure student compliance with the pace of the Communication Requirement.
- Propose to the CUP limited educational experiments that the Subcommittee deems appropriate for assessing changes to the curriculum and educational policies and practices.
- In consultation with professionals in educational assessment, periodically review and assess the effectiveness of specific CI subjects as well as the overall efficacy of the Communication Requirement and its administration. SOCR will report to the CUP yearly.

Prof. Chris Kaiser, SoS Co-Chair  (June 30, 2019)

Biology

Prof. Rosalind H. Williams, SHASS Co-Chair  (June 30, 2019)

Prog in Science, Technology, & Society

Prof. Adam Albright, SHASS Representative  (June 30, 2021)

Linguistics & Philosophy

Prof. Lauren Jacobi, SA+P Representative  (June 30, 2019)

Architecture

Prof. Jesse Kroll, SoE Representative  (June 30, 2020)

Civil and Environmental Engineering

Prof. Ray Reagans, MIT Sloan Representative  (June 30, 2020)

Sloan School of Management

(Appointment Pending), SoS Representative

Ms. Elizabeth Harkavy, Student ’20  (June 30, 2019)

Ms. Matisse Peppet, Student ’20  (June 30, 2019)

Prof. Paola Cappellaro, Designated Representative, Vice Chancellor *  (June 30, 2019)

Nuclear Science and Engineering

Dr. Suzanne T. Lane, Designated Representative, Head of CMS/W *

Comparative Media Studies/Writing

NOTE: Date in parentheses indicates term expiration.

LEGEND:  *  Ex Officio Voting  ^  Non-MIT Member  1/7/2019
          #  Ex Officio Non-Voting  L  On Leave
Current Committee Membership

Communication Requirement, Subcommittee on the
SHASS Department Heads

Prof. Agustin Rayo Fierro, Designated Representative, Dean of SHASS *

Registrar

Dr. Kathleen MacArthur, Executive Officer #

Registrar

Mr. Jason Donath, Staff to Committee #

Registrar

Mr. Tom Scahill, Staff to Committee #

Registrar

NOTE: Date in parentheses indicates term expiration.

LEGEND: * Ex Officio Voting ^ Non-MIT Member 
# Ex Officio Non-Voting L On Leave