Dear First Year Advisors,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for serving as an advisor for our first-year students. We recognize the important role you play in our students’ success, and I appreciate your commitment as both an advisor and mentor.

From student feedback, we know that early relationships with faculty are critical for helping students as they think through their academic plans, pursue internships and global experiences, engage in UROPs and public service, and even contemplate life beyond MIT.

With that in mind, I would like to encourage you to focus on the importance of exploration. Our historical data tell us that 30% of our students will end up changing majors. If they do pick a major and decide to change, for most students, it implies a transition cost of only zero, one, or two subjects out of the 36 that students take on average.

There are also new programs like NEET that are designed so students can pick a broad field and choose majors later. In short, students have far more options than they might think.

We hope that you find the following information a rich resource to assist in your advising efforts. If you ever have questions or need additional assistance, please do not hesitate to call upon our staff in the Office of the First Year.

Again, thank you again for your service to and participation in the first-year advising program. Best wishes for a successful academic year.

Sincerely,

Ian A. Waitz
Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate and Graduate Education and Jerome C. Hunsaker
Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics