Preliminary Survey Results

- As of Monday night: 909 responses
    - 851 completed responses from class years 2020-2023,
    - 128 responses in progress,
    - 58 completed responses from recent alumni, dually enrolled MEng and BS students, and unidentified MIT community members
- As of Wednesday 530pm: 936 responses
- 782 of the 909 respondents (86.03%) would prefer the old Commencement ceremony structure to the One-MIT+Schools structure.
- The most important aspects of Commencement according to most respondents were receiving degrees as a class (7.7), and receiving physical degrees/having names read aloud (7.2)
- The next most important aspects were the location of degree conferral (6.0/10) and number of guests (5.27/10), with the length of commencement (3.55/10) and personalization of the ceremony per department or school (1.88/10) being the least important.
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- We did not see any (preliminary) significant differences when broken down by class year/School

Faculty Meeting Speech, 9/18/2019

Good afternoon. My name is Mahi Elango and I am the President of the Undergraduate Association.

I feel sad because of the message our actions have sent to victims of human trafficking and sexual abuse, to women around the world, and to current and future members of our community. I feel angry because I expected the best from MIT. I trusted MIT leaders to be exemplars of how scientists, engineers, and humanitarians should conduct themselves and engage with the world.

I'm worried that what comes from this will address only this particular situation and fail to change the unjust power structures in which we are complicit. I'm worried that we won't demand answers to difficult questions about who we are and who we want to be. I'm worried that the proliferation of working groups and committees will be a substitute for including everyone in these critical conversations, and therefore real structural and cultural change. And I worry that even after we have weathered this storm, the same voices whose silencing has led us to this point will continue to be be silenced.

We must be willing to wholeheartedly accept that we have utterly failed in our values and responsibilities, and we must hold ourselves accountable for the consequences. This is our moral tipping point.

I have faith in our community. I'm optimistic that we will emerge clearer in our values and stronger in our commitment to them because we are willing to have difficult conversations. As students, we look to you, our faculty, to lead these conversations. Let's ask ourselves: How, as individual members of the community, do we meet our responsibilities to the Institute? Who is the Institute responsible to? What are those responsibilities?

If months or years from now, one victim looks back at our response, and feels recognized and confident that MIT is lifting those who have been disempowered, then we have risen to this moral challenge. Thank you, and we look forward to these conversations in the coming weeks and months.

Discussion Questions

- Series of moderated panels/forums
  - The facts; educating on process
  - Faculty + students (at-large)
  - What are MIT's values? discussion
    - What are we trying to solve?
  - Solutions for structural and cultural change
- How can we engage all members of our community to participate in conversations?
- What should be the role of student leaders?