

# Understanding MIT's Finances

---

Glen Shor  
Executive Vice President and Treasurer



# Supporting 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



# Maintaining a balance

Allocate resources for immediate needs



Conserve resources to educate future generations of learners

Capitalize on strategic opportunities



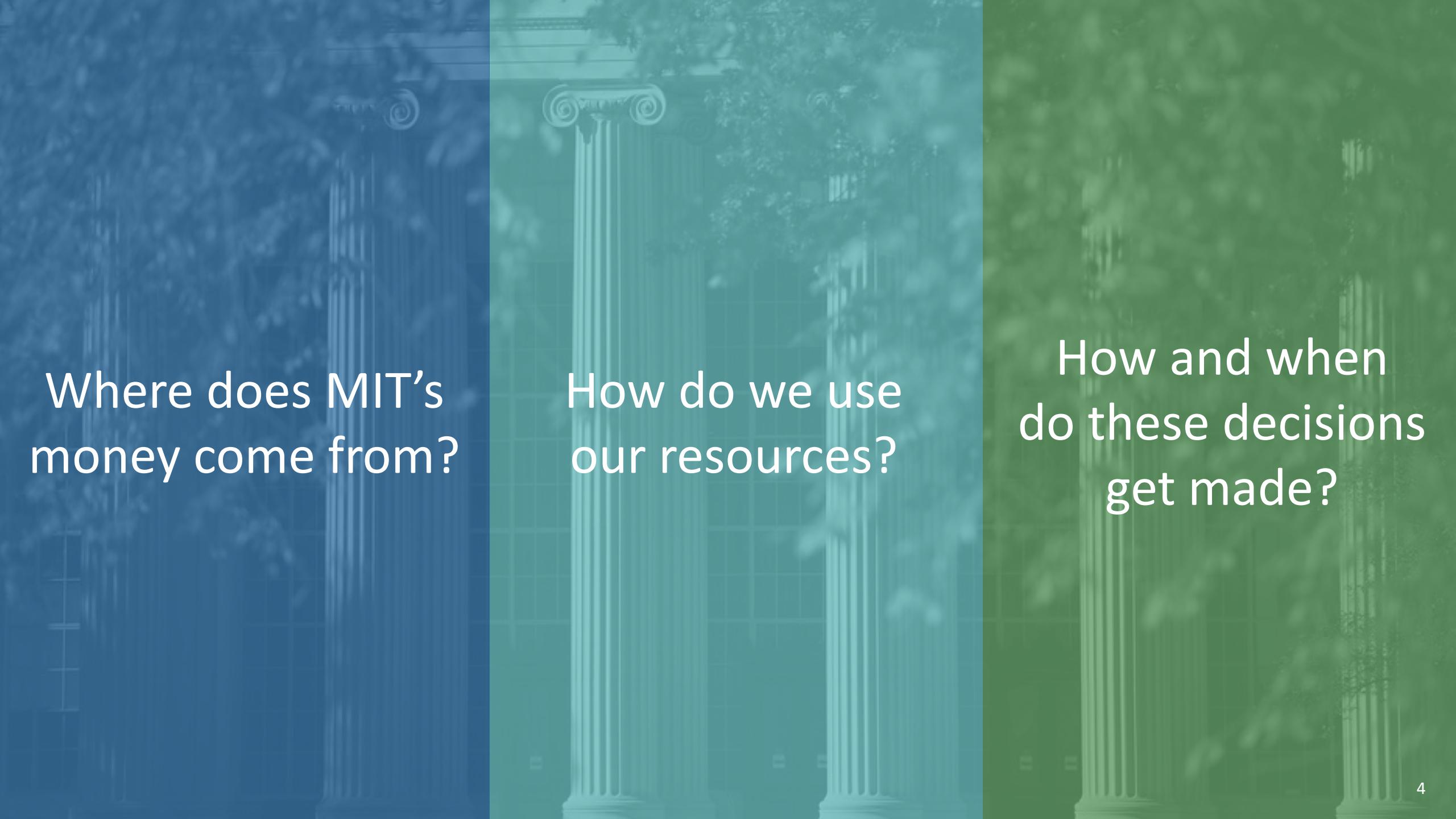
Be prudent in reserving resources to sustain the Institute's operations

Encourage innovation



Maintain a strong core to keep MIT safe, compliant, and resilient





Where does MIT's  
money come from?



How do we use  
our resources?

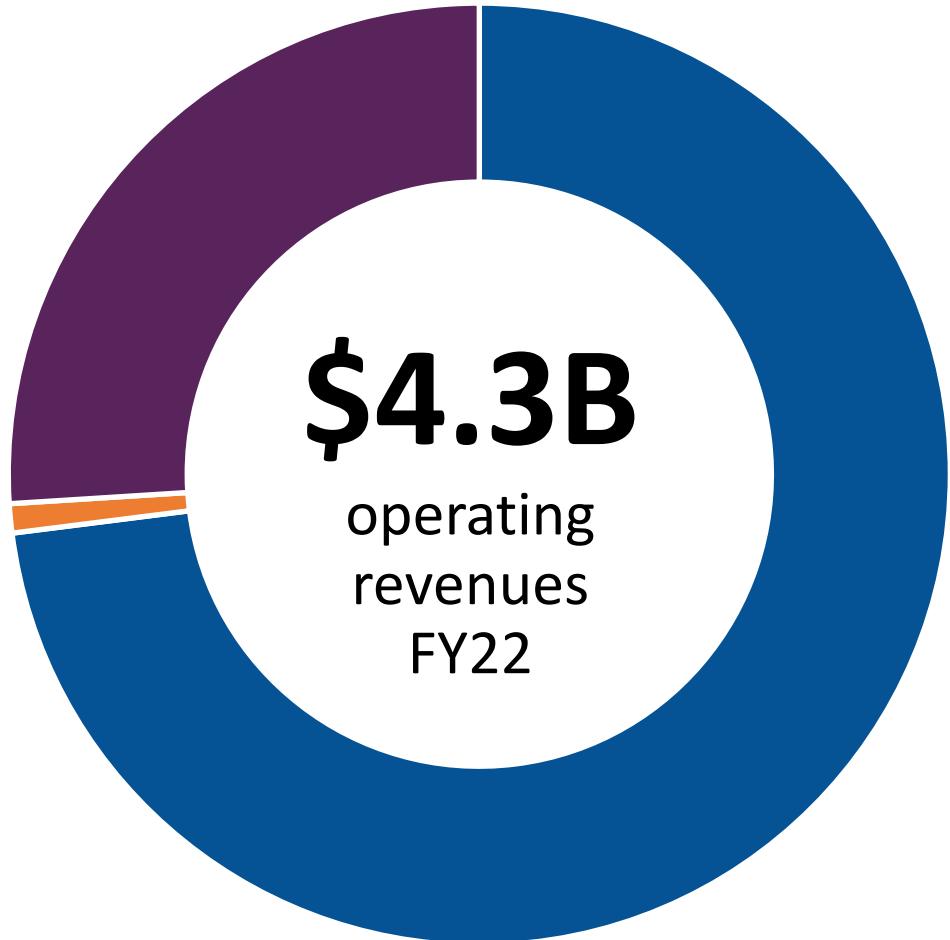


How and when  
do these decisions  
get made?

A photograph of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) campus. In the background, the iconic Great Dome is visible, surrounded by green trees. In the foreground, there's a large, classical-style building with columns and large windows. A street lamp post stands in the lower-left foreground. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing the text "Where does MIT's money come from?".

Where does MIT's  
money come from?

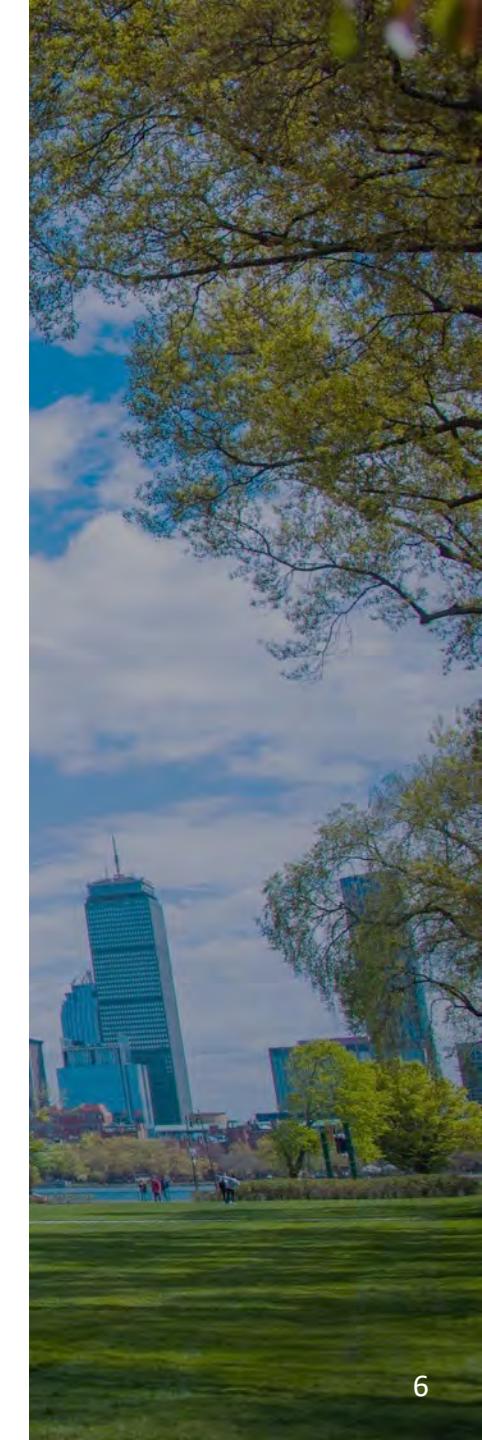
# Annual operating revenues



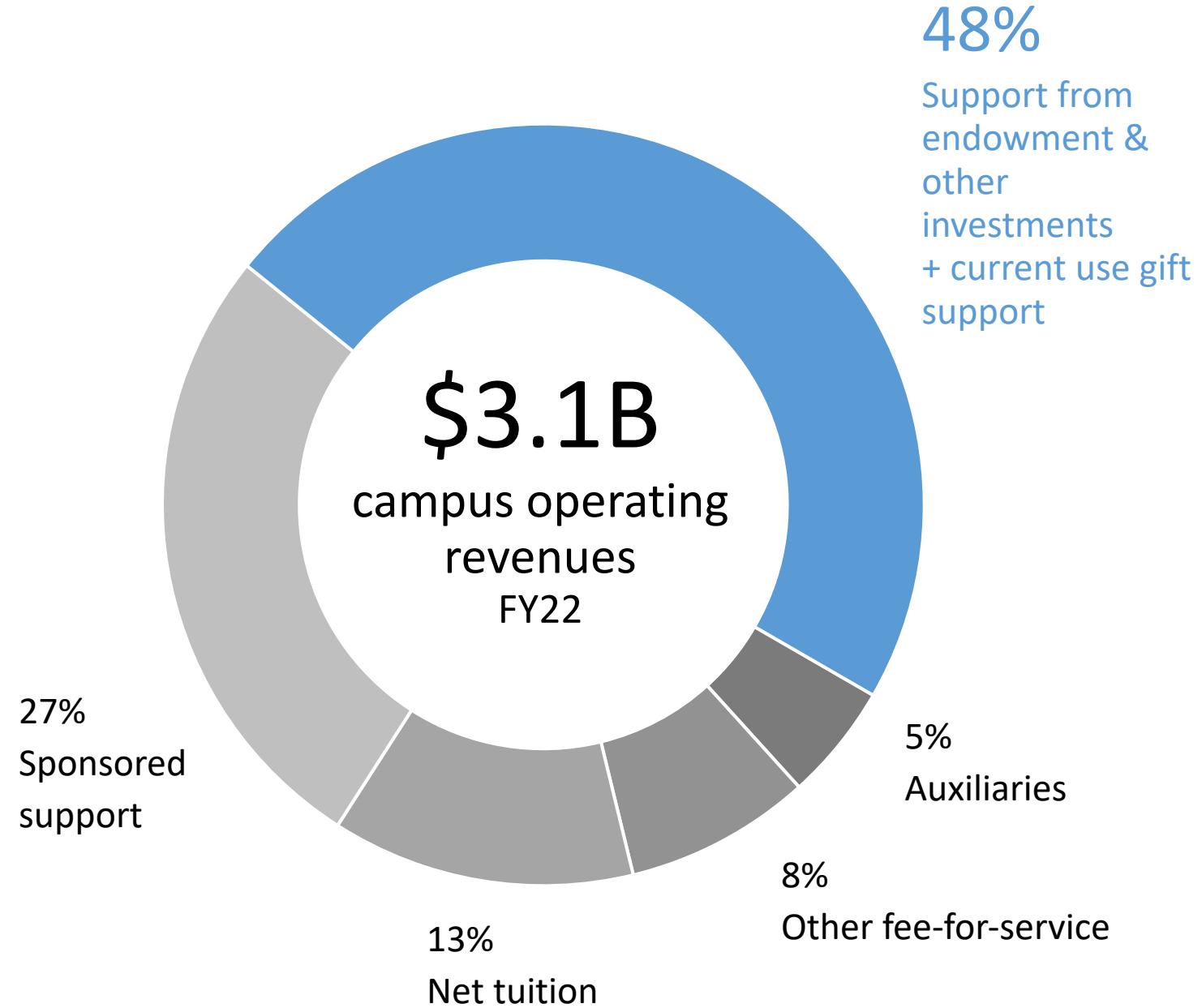
■ **Campus**  
\$3.1B / 73%

■ **Lincoln Laboratory**  
(direct research)  
\$1.1B / 26%

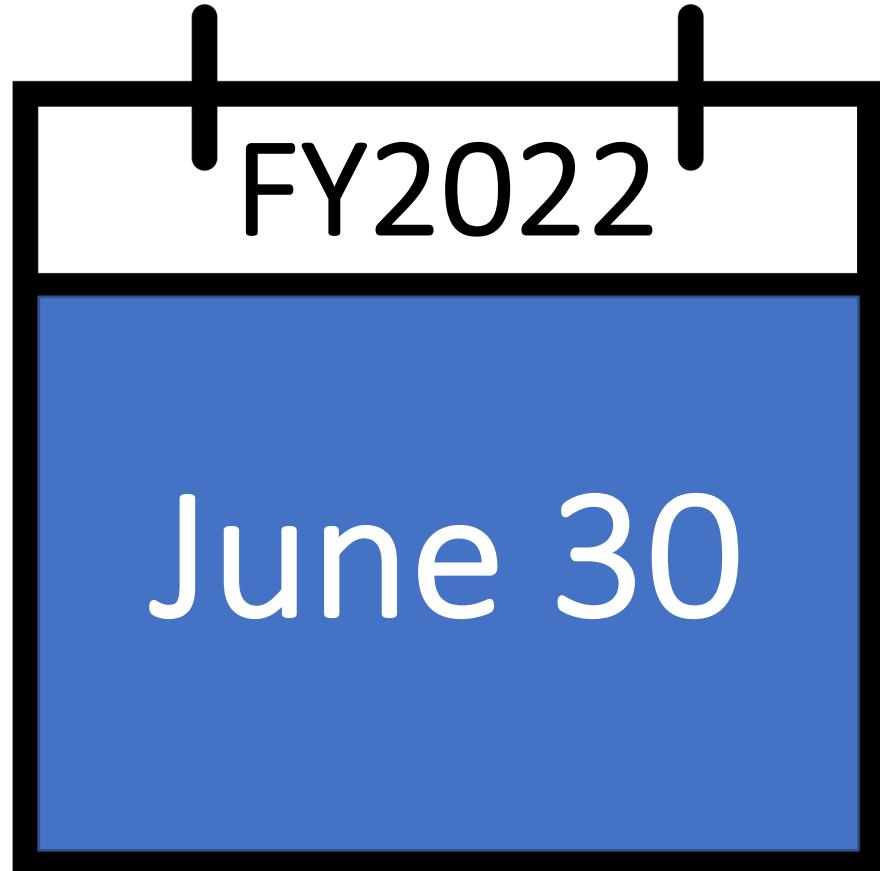
■ **Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART)**  
(direct research)  
\$0.02B / 1%



Support from the endowment and other investments, plus current use gifts, comprise about half of MIT's campus annual operating revenues



# MIT's endowment is structured like a mutual fund



**\$24.6 billion**

Market value of endowment

**~4,450**

Unique  
endowed funds

**99%**

of endowed funds invested  
in MIT's unitized  
investment pool (Pool A)

**9.1 million**

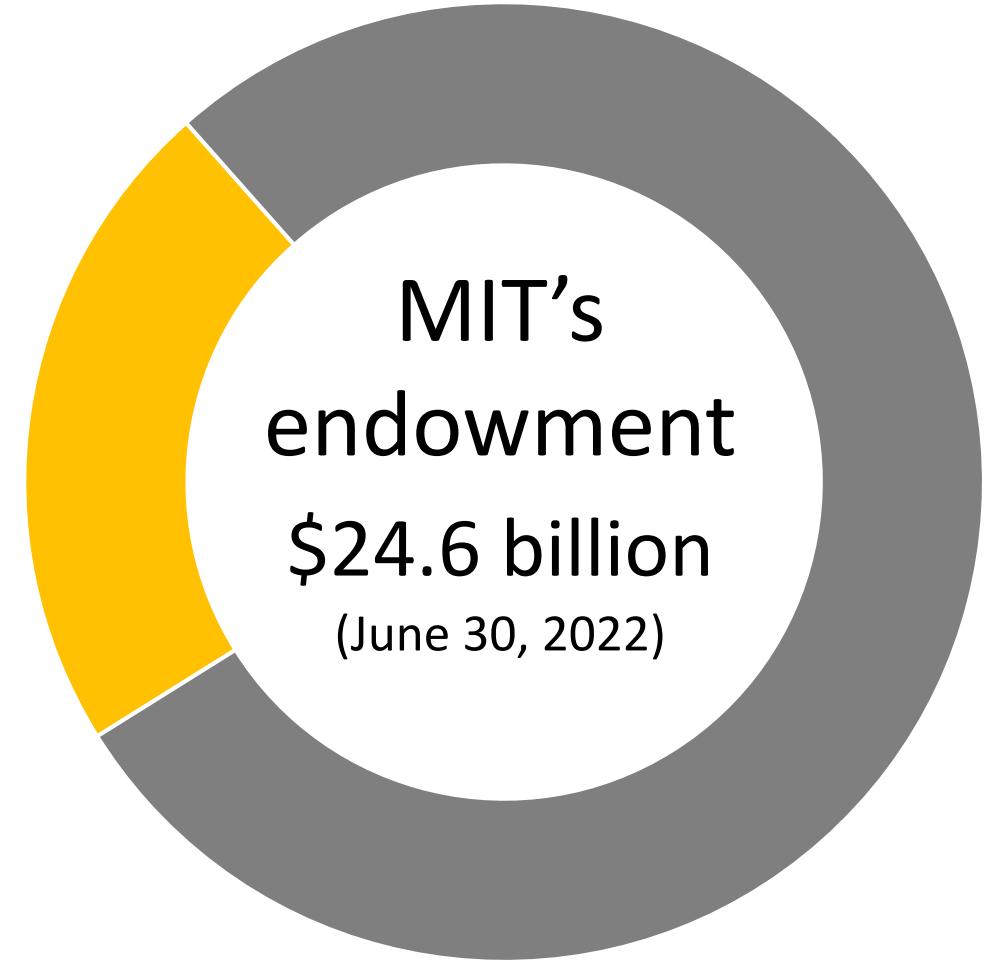
Units (shares) of Pool A  
owned by endowed funds

**\$2,688**

Value of each unit  
at June 30, 2022

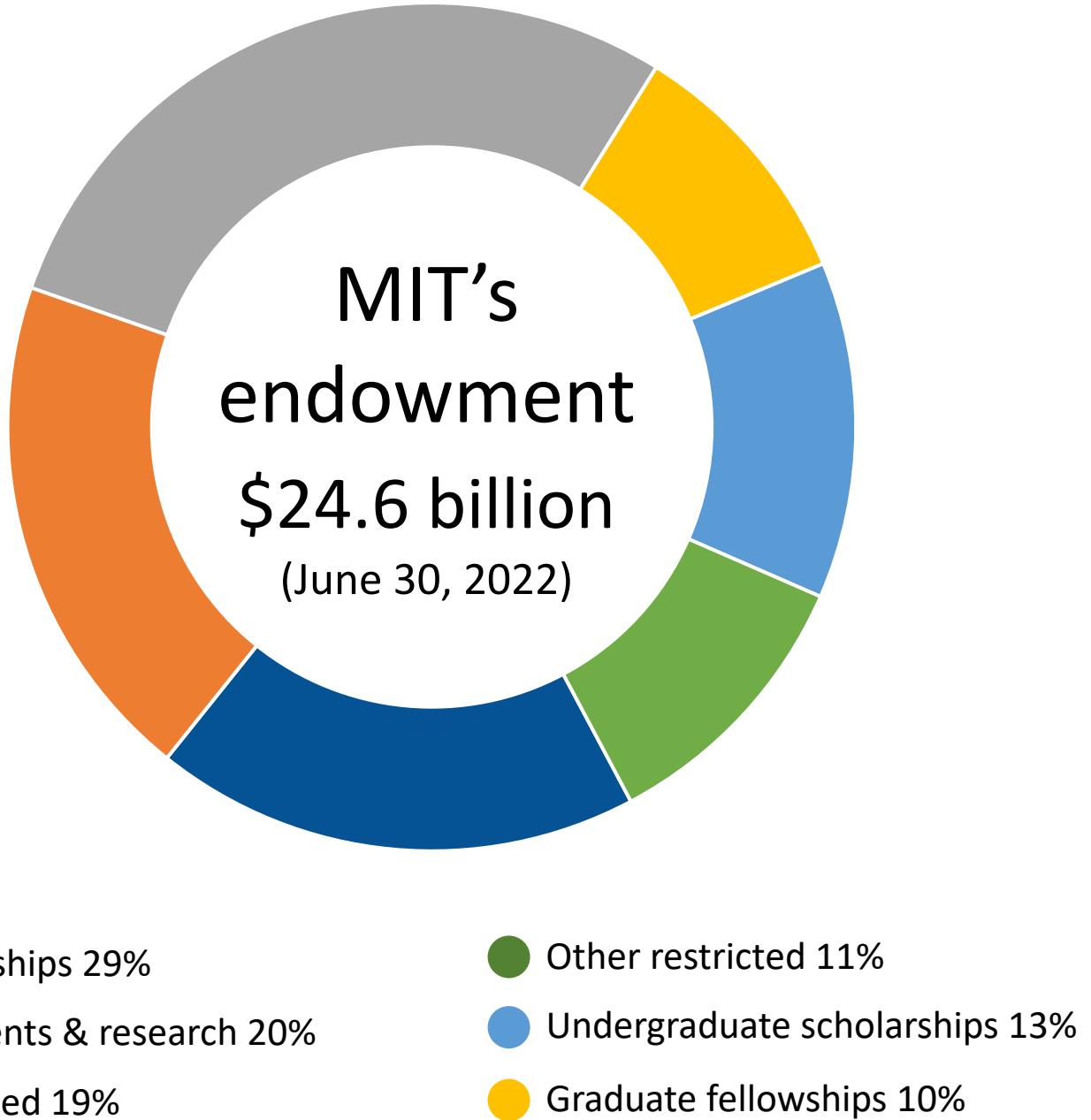
## Constraint:

MIT cannot spend  
donor principal, and  
liquidating units  
endowed by MIT  
would reduce  
operating revenues



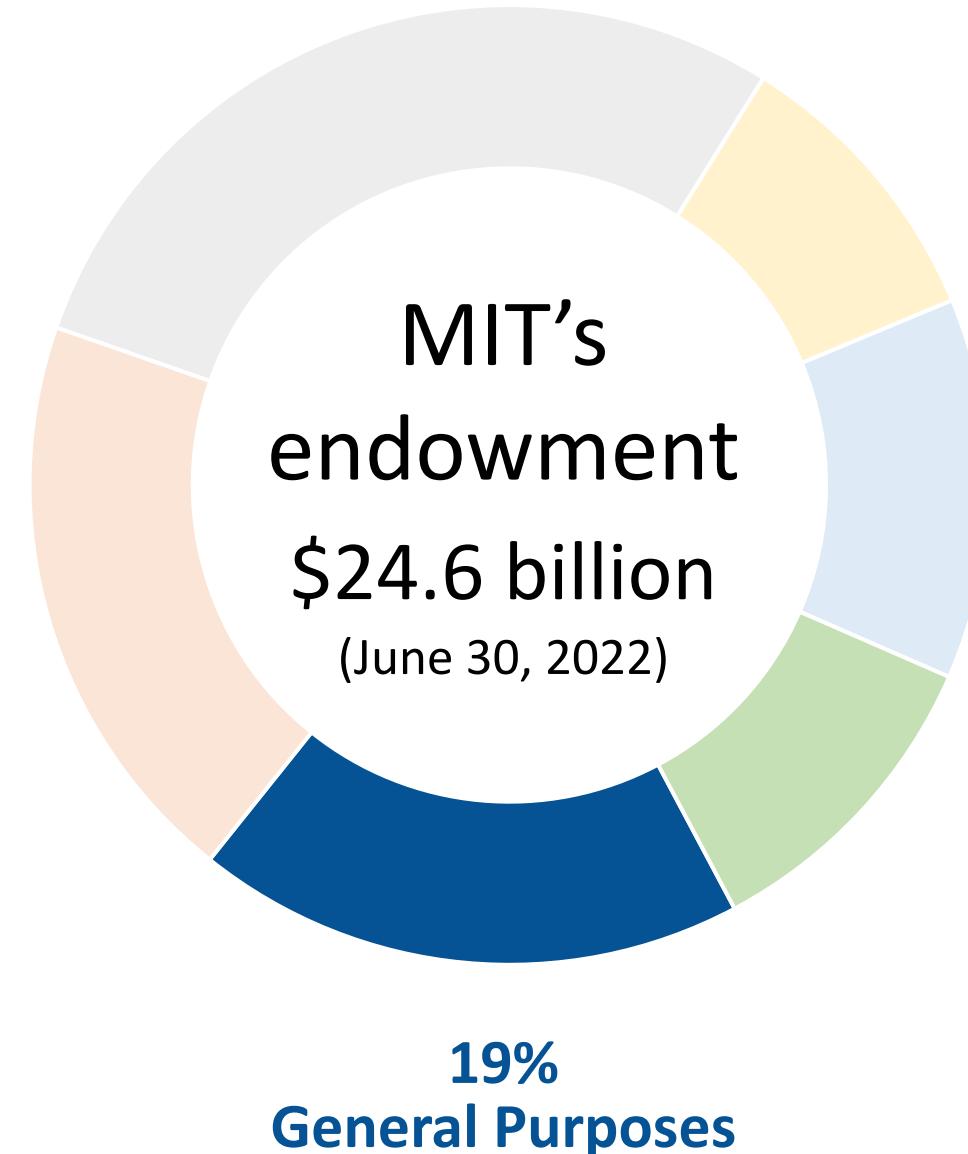
- Principal 23% (Donor- and MIT-endowed)
- Undistributed gains 77%

**Constraint:**  
MIT must use  
endowment  
consistently with  
its established  
purpose



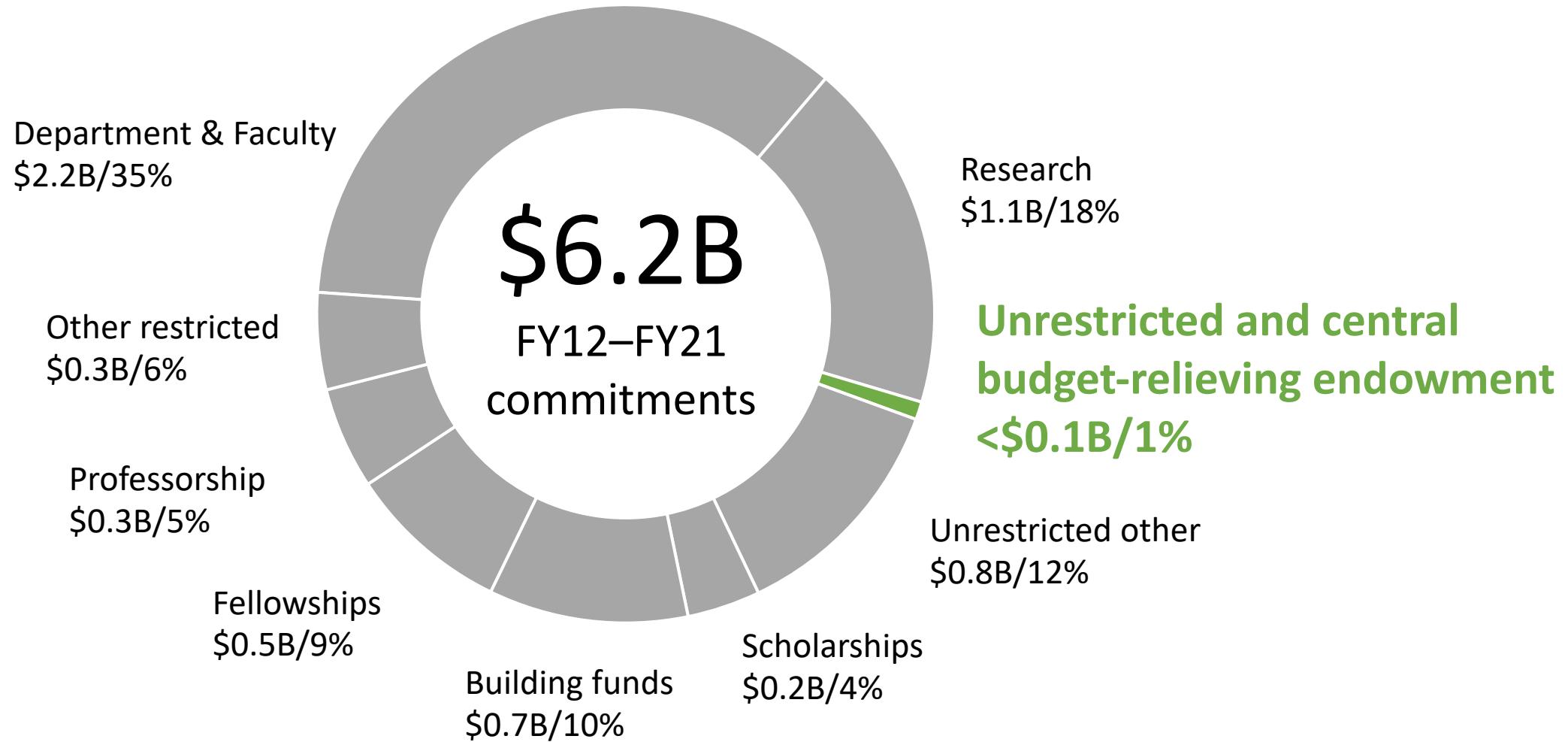
## Constraint:

Just 19% of the endowment is for general purposes, meaning we can use it for any purpose consistent with our mission



# Constraint: Most philanthropy is restricted

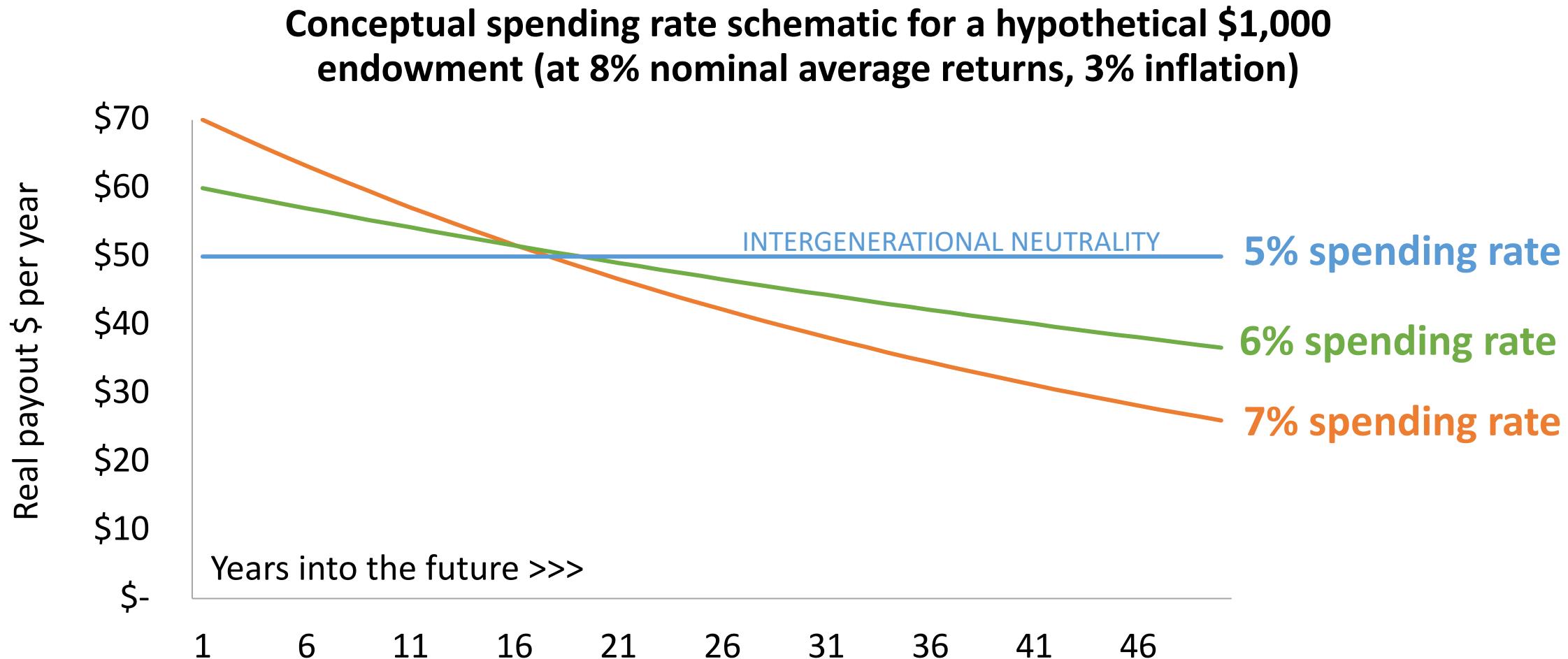
## Makeup of Campaign for Better World commitments



MIT's spending policy is based on  
the concept of **intergenerational**  
**neutrality** – ensuring that we can  
offer the same support to today's  
scholars and future generations

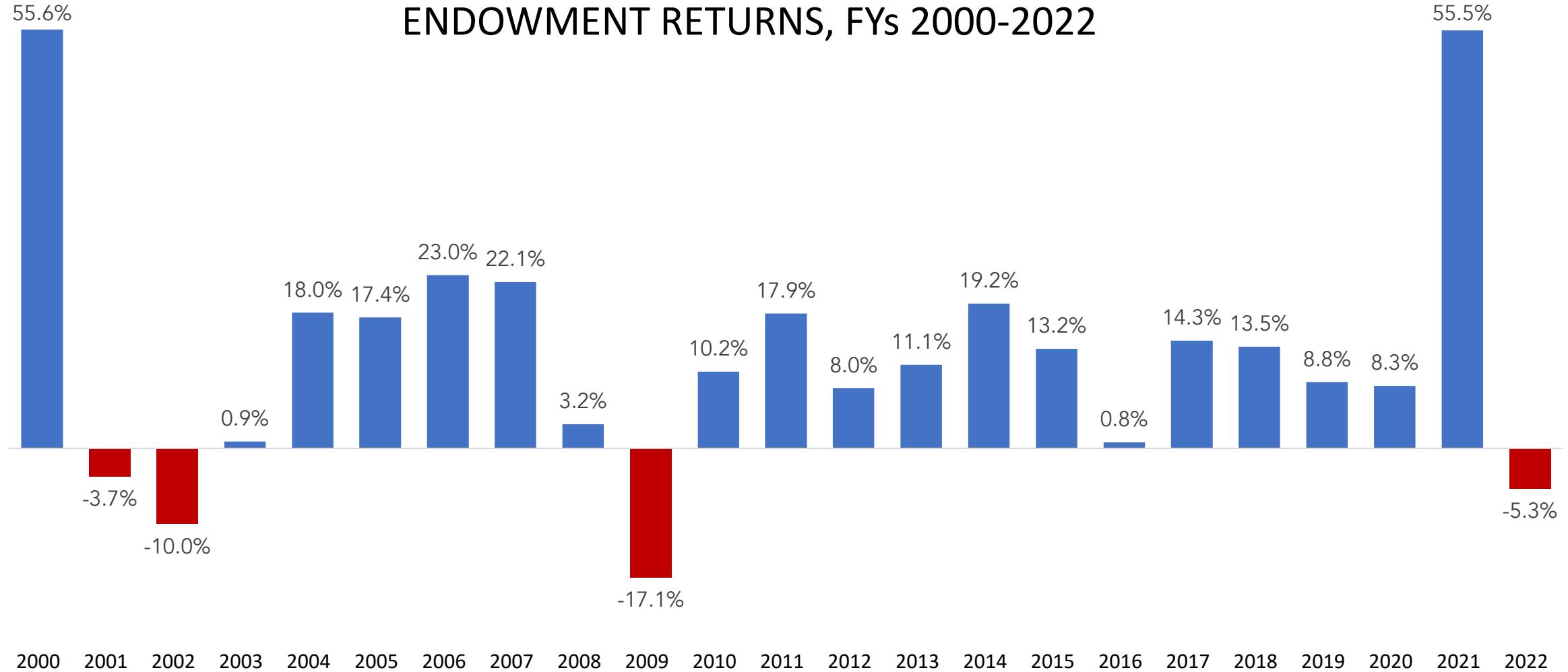


# Constraint: We must maintain endowment's purchasing power



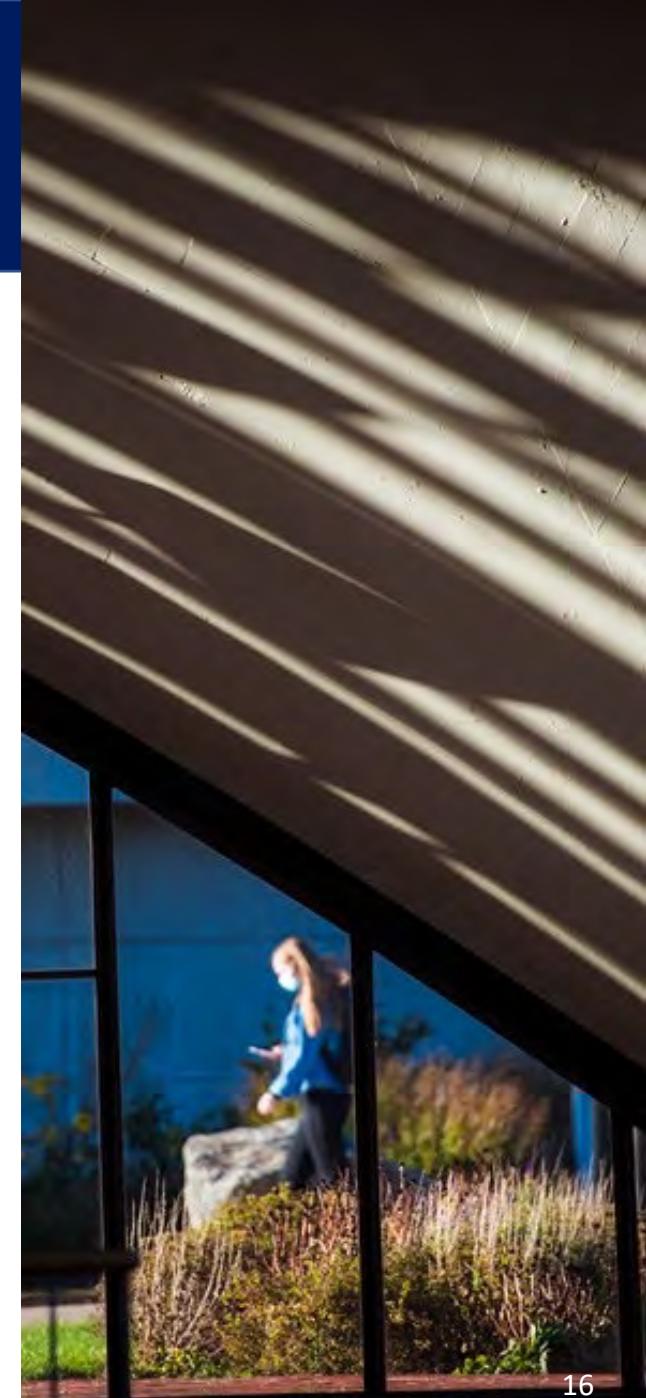
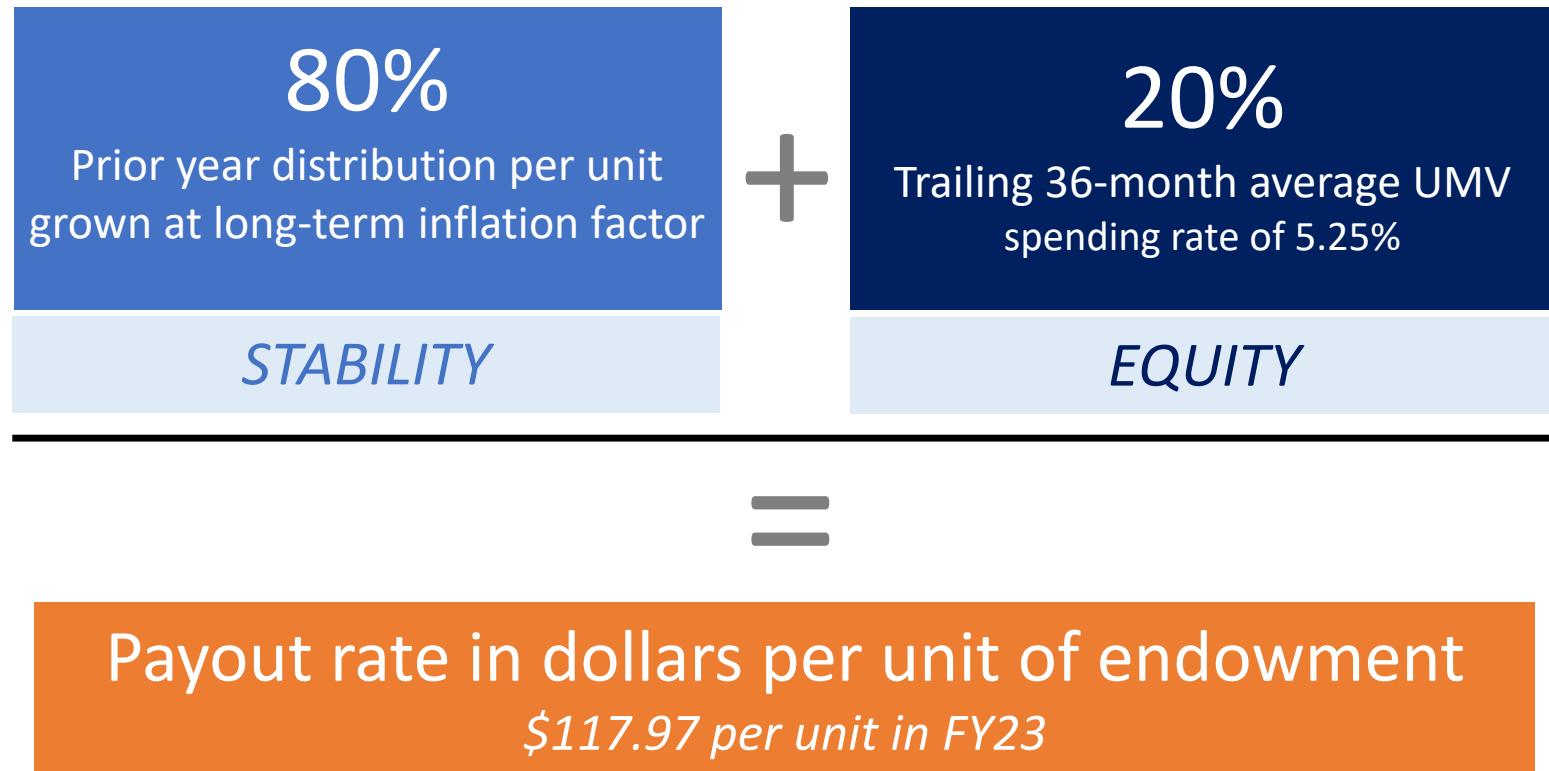
(1) Schematic is a conceptual depiction of spending rates, in general, and portrays payout per year on a \$1,000 initial endowment (inflation-adjusted) while assuming investment results of 5% in real terms per year (which would translate into roughly 8% nominal if inflation was 3%).

**Constraint:** We must avoid “feast or famine” fluctuations in endowment support for current operations



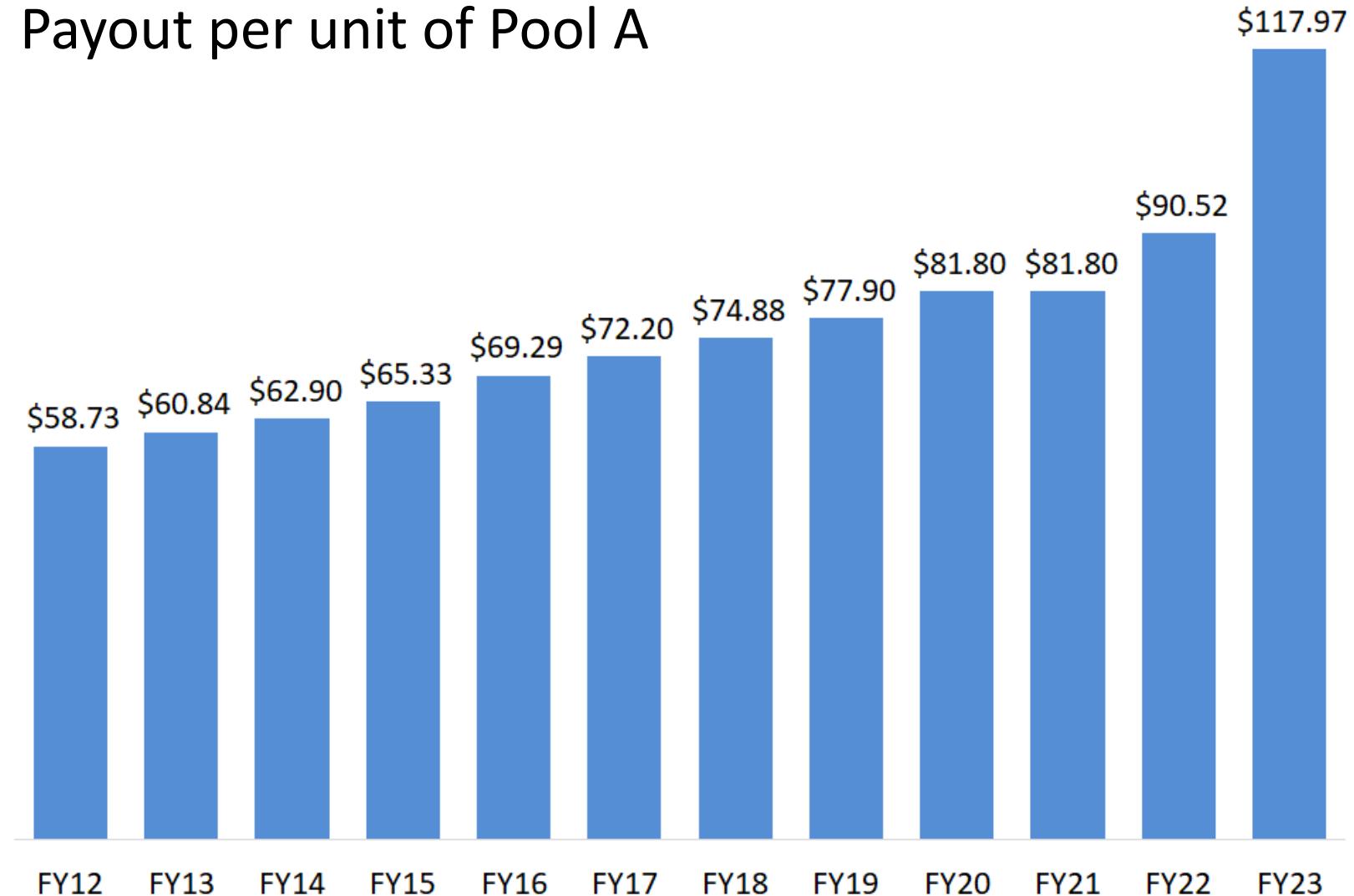
# Annual endowment payout balances stability and intergenerational equity

## THE TOBIN RULE



MIT's payout rate per unit of endowment has increased 6.5%, on average, from FY12-FY23 (4.4% not including FY23's 30.3% increase)

Payout per unit of Pool A



# FY23 budget addressed important needs

## Research



- Relieved pressure on grants by centrally funding NSF tuition shortfall (addressing stipend and insurance shortfall in FY24)
- Increased RA tuition subsidy to 55%
- Increased central funding for under-recovery
- Investments in RAS/OSATT
- Launched new, faculty-led Office of Research Computing and Data

## Community



- Supplemented annual merit increases
- Graduate student stipend +8.7% over prior year
- Matched peers on tuition-free status for undergraduates
- 12-month funding for base budget-funded PhD programs for entire time to degree
- New childcare benefit
- Enhancements to faculty mortgage program
- New DEI programming and staffing

## Infrastructure



- 2030 capital plan forecasted to spend \$473M on building projects in FY23 (including on construction of new West Campus graduate residence)
- Provided capacity for critical cybersecurity enhancements
- Funded debt service for \$500M bond issuance @ 3.06% to fund future capital plan investments in academic, student life, and research facilities and other needs

## Innovation

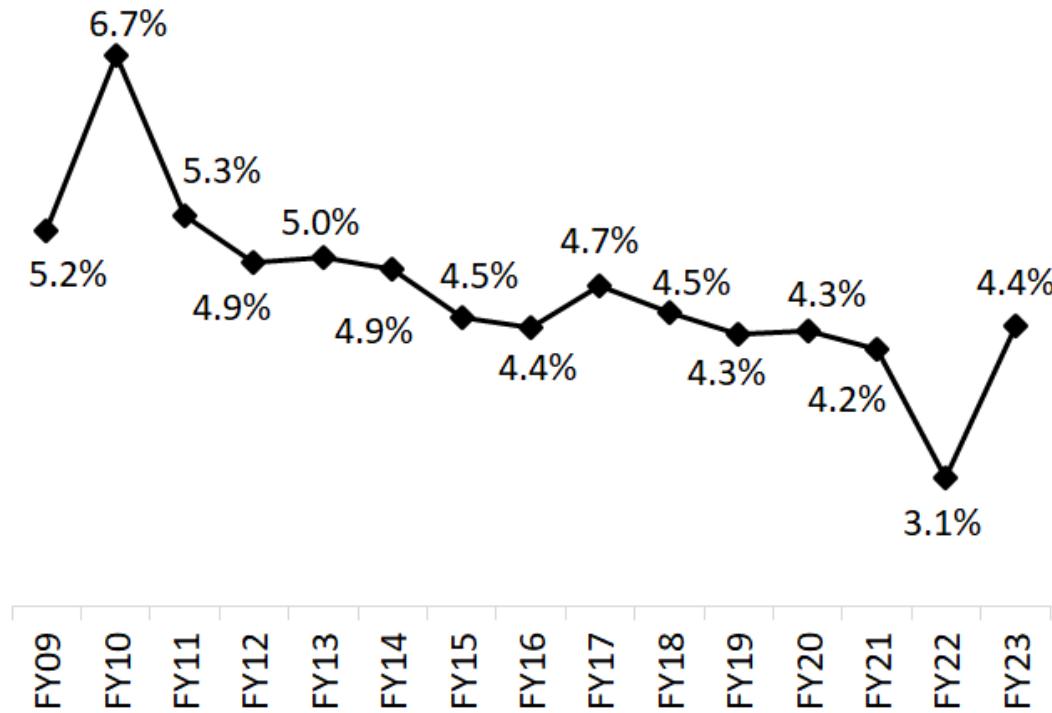


- Supported launch of new MITx online platform to fulfill commitment from edX sale
- Provided one-time funding to enable initial Climate Grand Challenges awards as bridge to securing philanthropic commitments

# MIT's distribution rate fluctuates with endowment performance

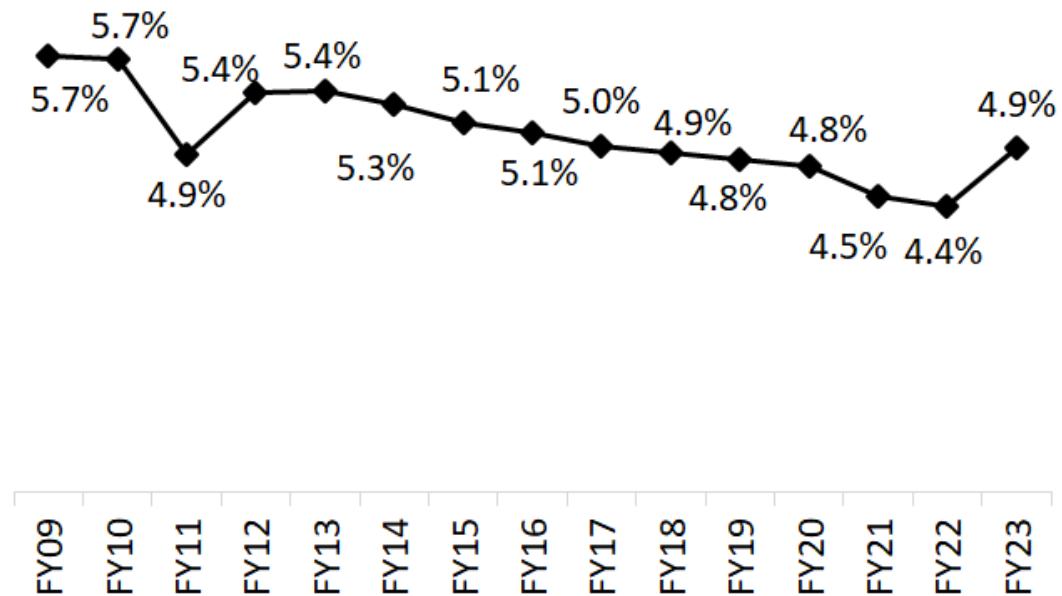
## Spot distribution rate

Payout per unit of Pool A as a percentage of the market value of a unit of Pool A *at the end of the prior fiscal year*.



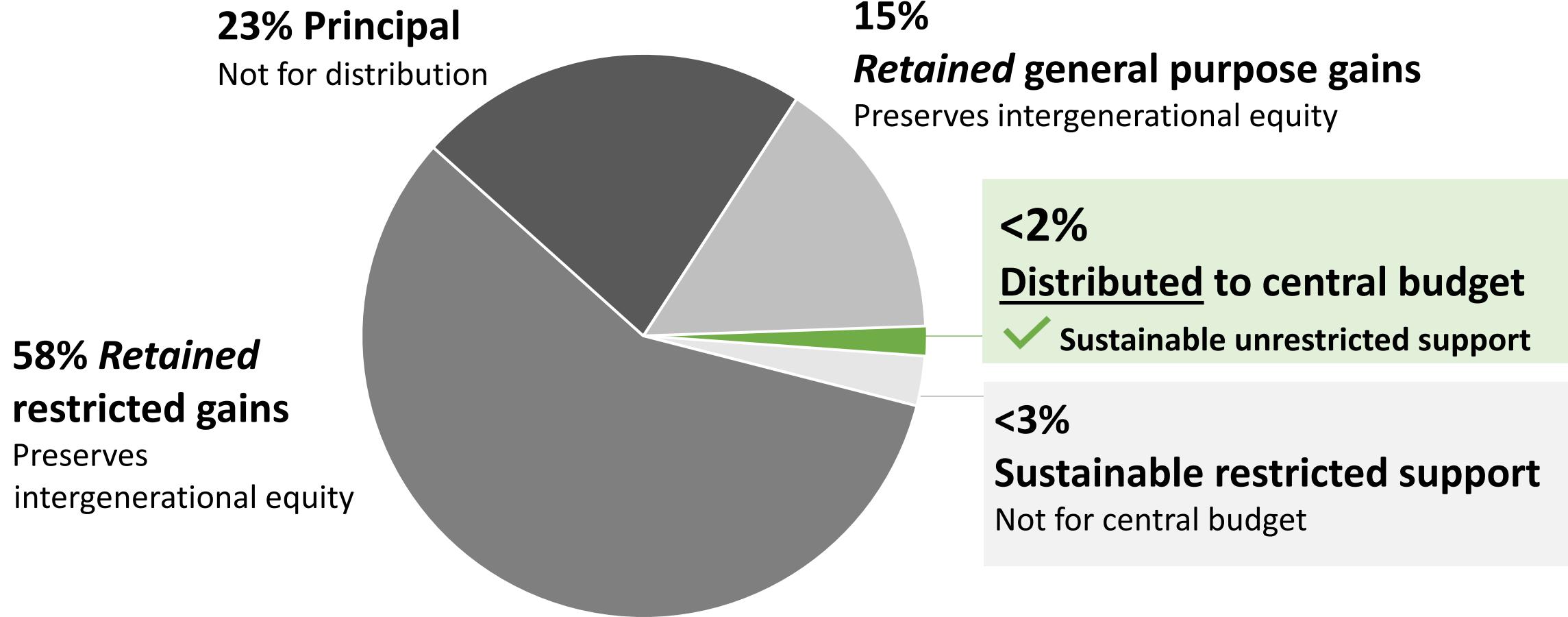
## 36-month average distribution rate

Payout per unit of Pool A as a percentage of the *trailing 36-month average market value* of a unit of Pool A



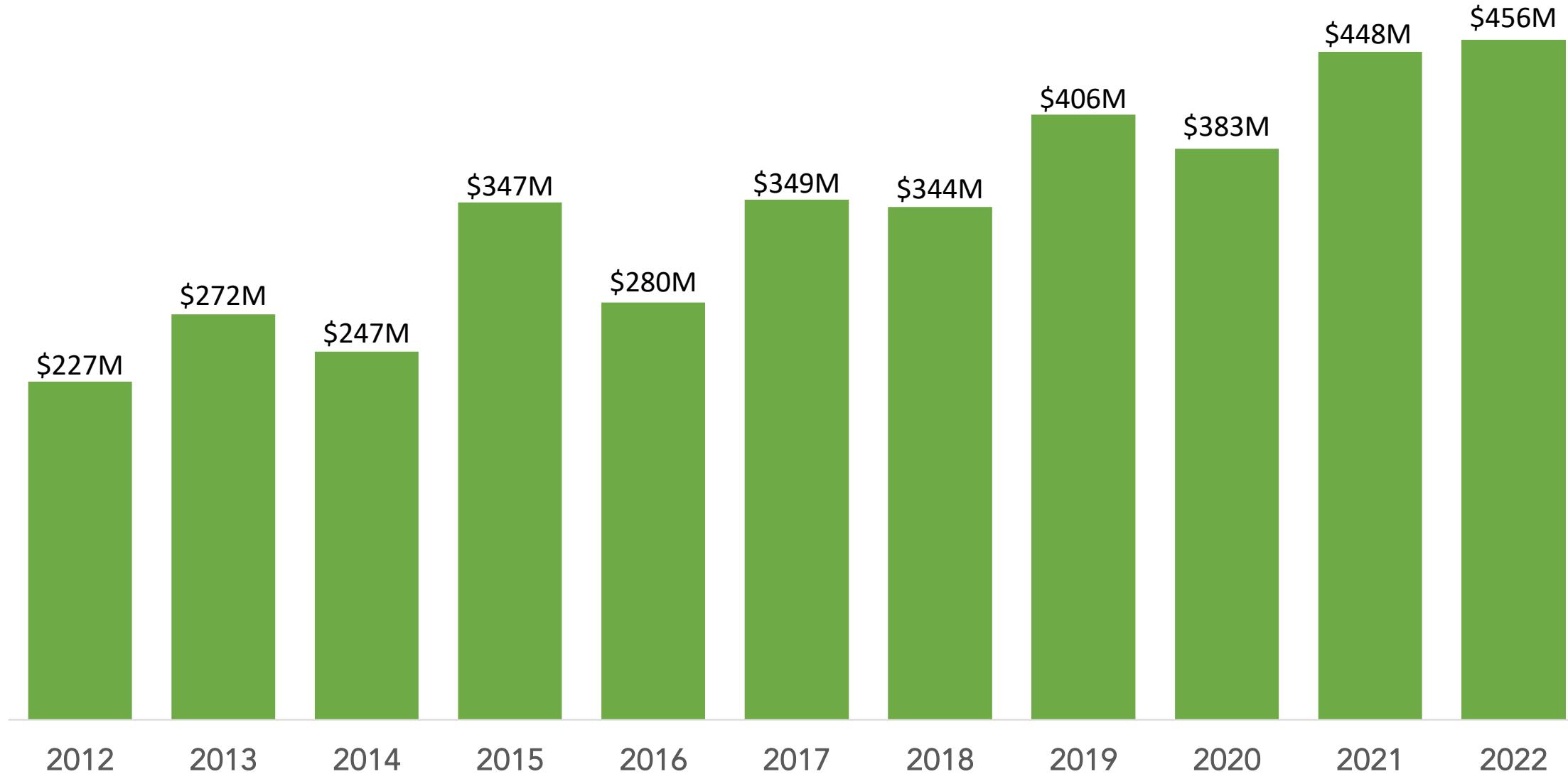
*Distribution rate increasing in FY23 (and likely in FY24) due to 5.6% increase in endowment payout for FY24, continued stress on endowment performance*

# Putting it all together: Less than 2% of endowment is available to fund central budget

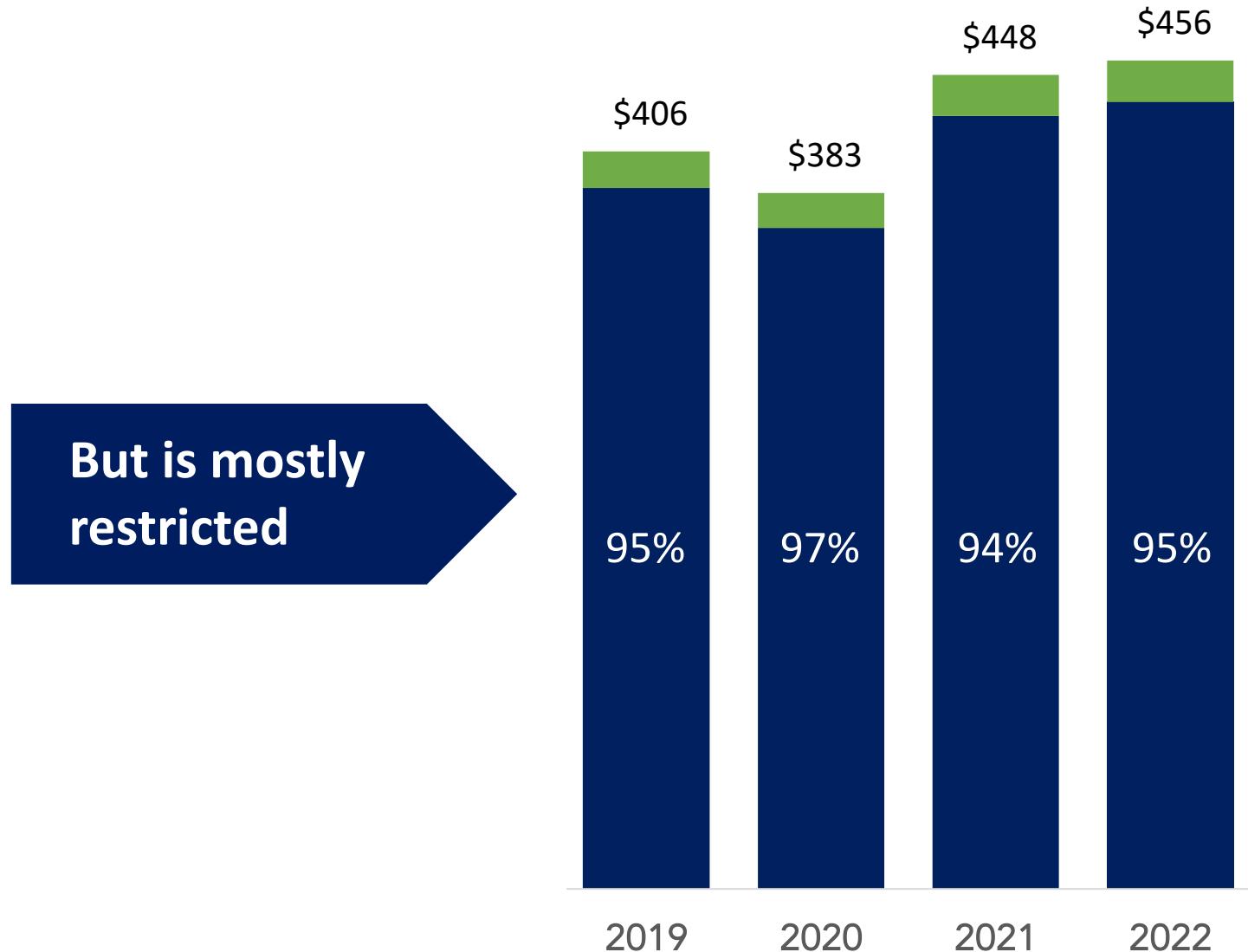


Notes: Endowment composition in this presentation is a conceptual view of FY23 projected size and use of endowment based on adjusting FY22 year-end endowment value (total and components) assuming 0% returns, no new endowed gifts, and payout to support operations, with payout based on FY23 approved payout per unit of endowment. Endowment for central budget is comprised of direct payout to endowed funds that support the central budget and recovery of service costs to the central budget from restricted endowed funds.

# Current-use philanthropy (non-endowed) has grown significantly over 10 years



# Current-use philanthropy (non-endowed) has grown significantly over 10 years



But is mostly  
restricted

# Research volume includes direct activity and billed indirect costs

Campus research volume: \$784M in FY22

## *Research Direct Costs*

\$592M in FY22

- Generated through **research grants**
- Awarded to PIs to support **direct costs of research activity**
- Examples: Salaries, **RA tuition and stipends**, equipment, subcontracts

## *Indirect Cost Recovery*

\$192M in FY22

- Charged to **subset of direct costs** at on/off campus rates negotiated with federal oversight agency
- Funds central costs **to support research** (e.g., buildings, general and departmental administration)

# The federal research dollar on the MIT campus

**30¢ OF EACH DOLLAR  
IS FOR INDIRECT COSTS**

*(two-thirds for space)*

OPERATIONS &  
MAINTENANCE .... 8¢

EQUIPMENT .... 1¢

UTILITIES .... 3¢

BUILDINGS .... 6¢

LIBRARIES .... 2¢



**70¢ OF EACH DOLLAR  
IS FOR DIRECT COSTS**

39¢ .... RESEARCH SALARIES  
& EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

9¢ ..... MATERIALS,  
SERVICES & TRAVEL

6¢ ..... EQUIPMENT

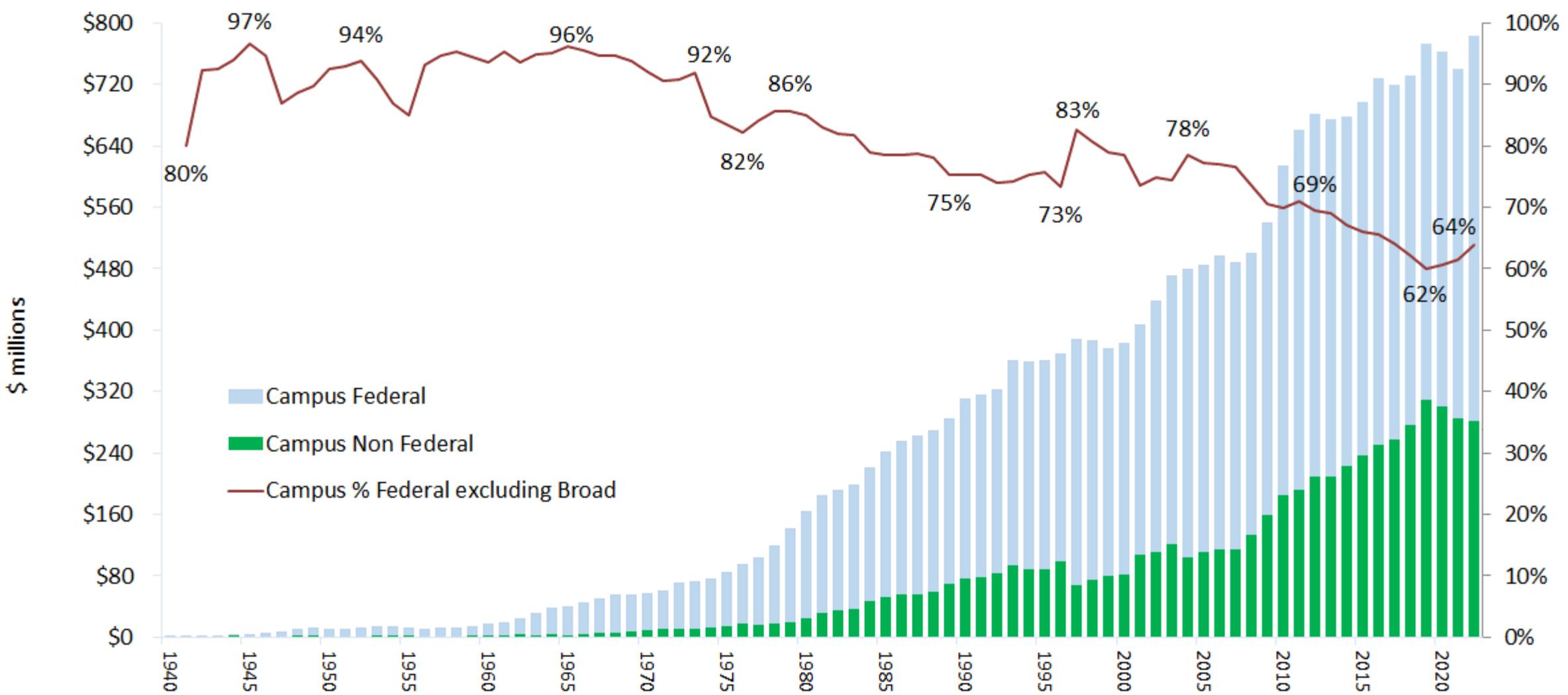
6¢ ..... GRADUATE STUDENT  
SUPPORT

10¢ .... ALL SUBCONTRACTS  
& OTHER DIRECT  
CHARGES



Image: MIT Assistant Professor Farnaz Niroui and her team have devised a way to arrange arrays of nanoparticles onto a surface without damaging the material's surface.  
MIT Photo: M. Scott Brauer. Source: MIT Office of the Vice President for Research FY22. Chart: MIT, November 2022

# Campus research volume trending toward non-federally sponsored



## Constraints on sponsored support:

- Supports specific activity per terms set by source
- Size defined by source – does not/cannot necessarily flex with added cost
  - MIT's trying to add cost impacts competitiveness of proposals
- F&A revenue limited to costs allocated to overhead supporting sponsored activity
- Sponsors may not pay full overhead – has to be absorbed by central budget/units



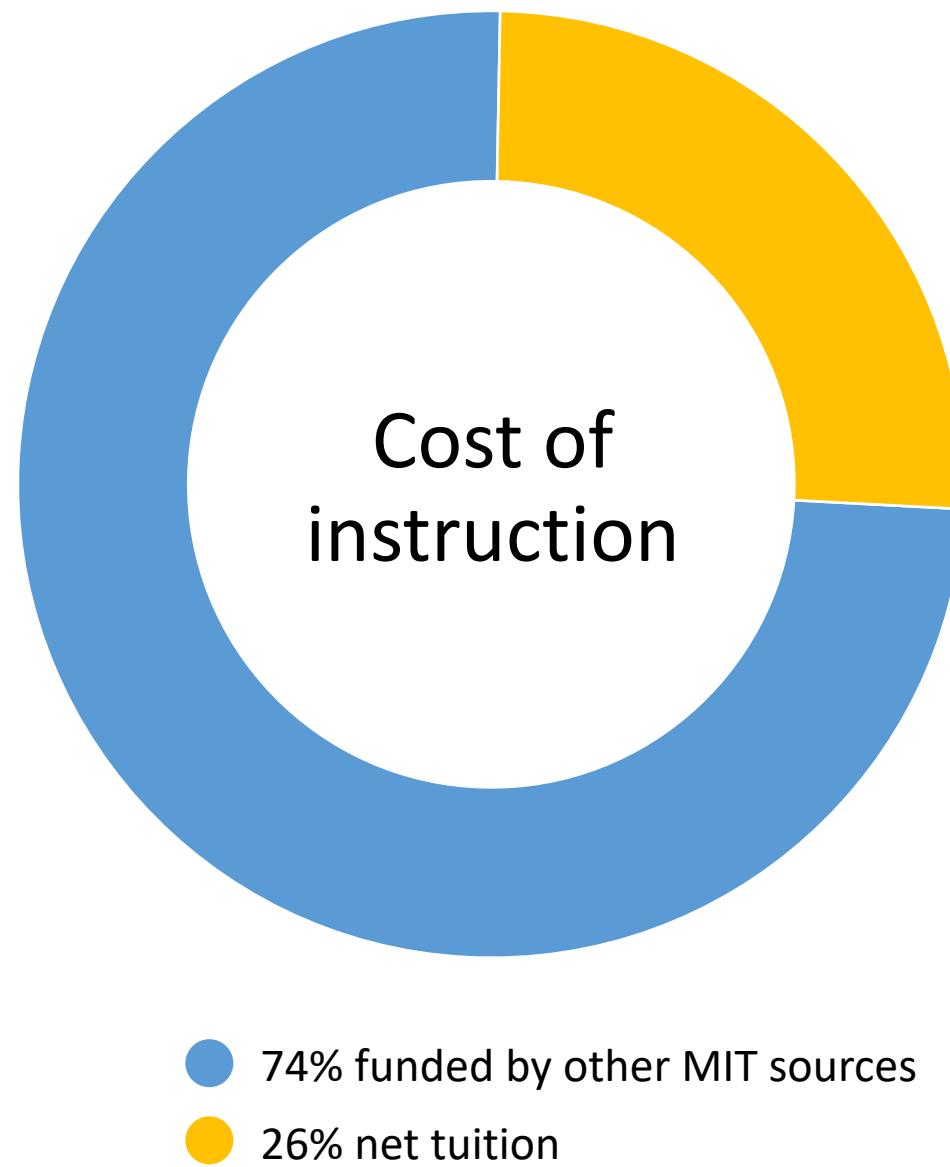
# Net tuition: Background

- Tuition rate generally the same for undergraduates and graduates
- Some graduate programs have a separate tuition rate (e.g., Sloan)
- Undergraduate financial aid funded by scholarships (largely endowed) and central funds, designed to make tuition and other charges/costs affordable
- Levels of support and sources for graduate financial aid vary program to program



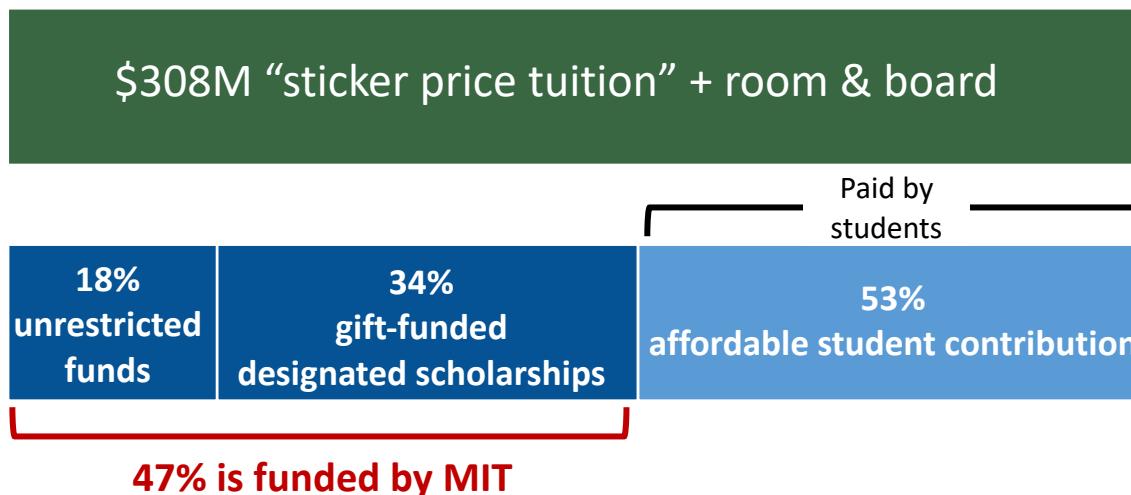
Just a quarter  
of the cost of  
instruction is  
funded by net  
tuition – the  
tuition charge net  
of financial aid

**Instruction costs = ~4x net tuition**

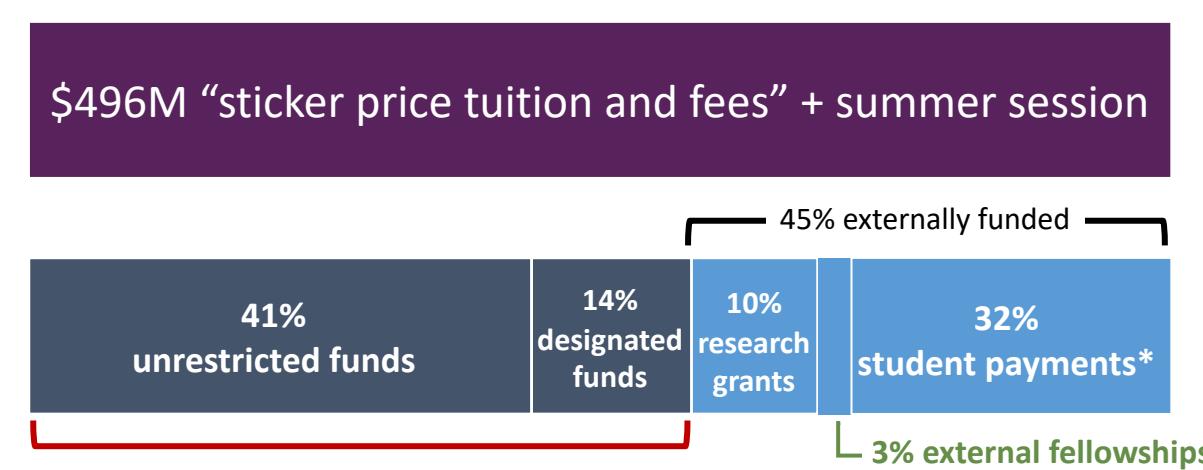


# Different funding models for undergraduate vs. graduate students

**+45% of undergraduate tuition, room & board charge is absorbed by MIT**



**+50% of graduate degree tuition charge is also absorbed by MIT**

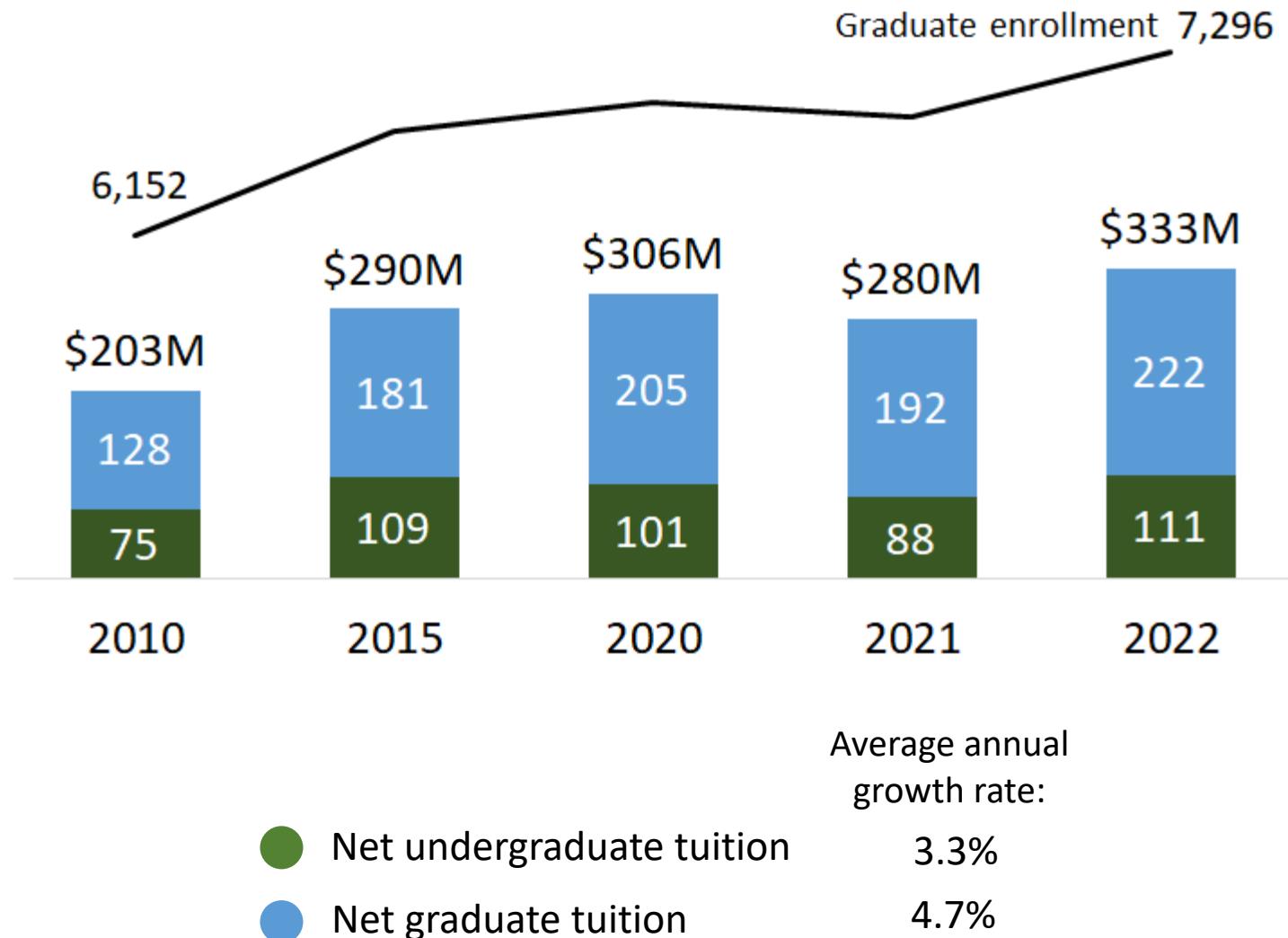


Based on FY22 actuals

\*Student payments principally driven by graduate students without appointments

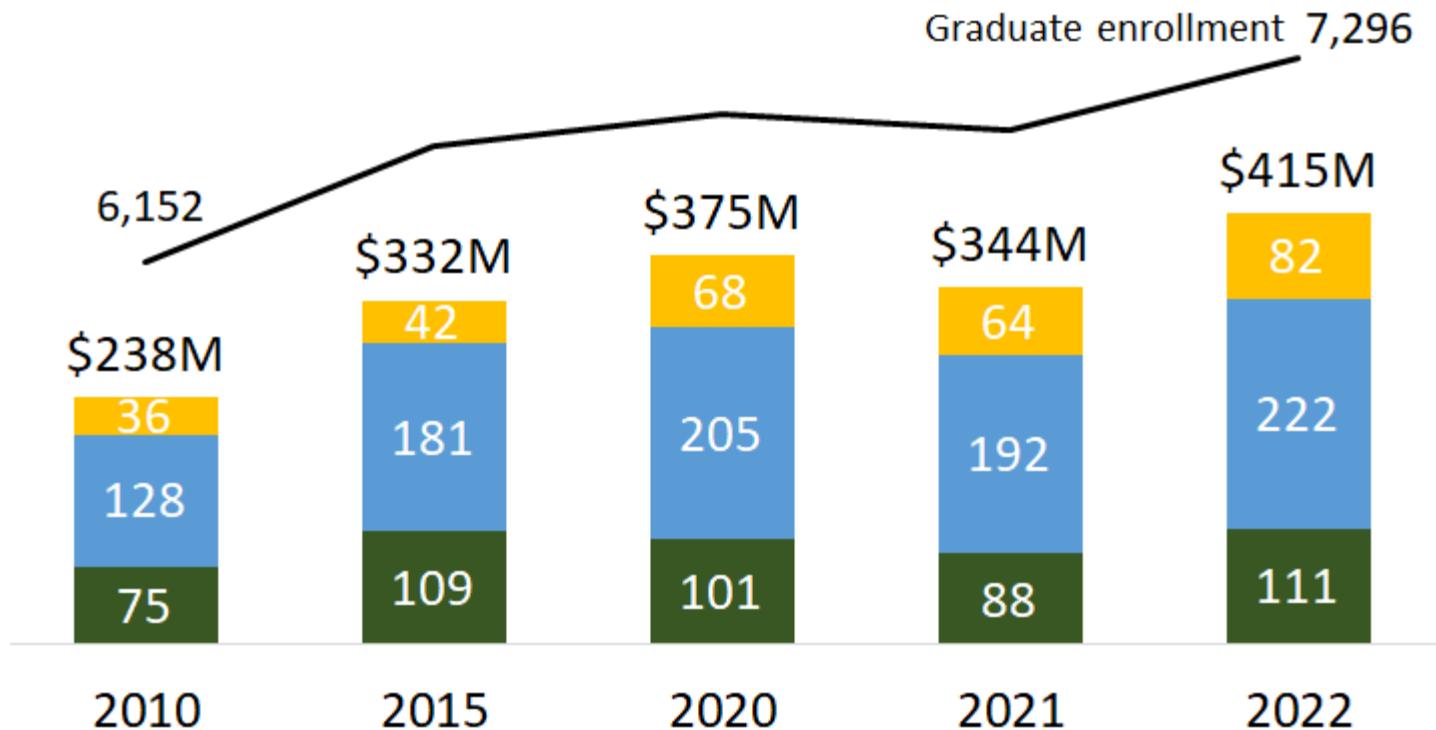
Increases in student enrollment are major factor in recent growth in net tuition...

## Tuition and financial aid dynamics over time



...in addition to  
more non-degree  
learners

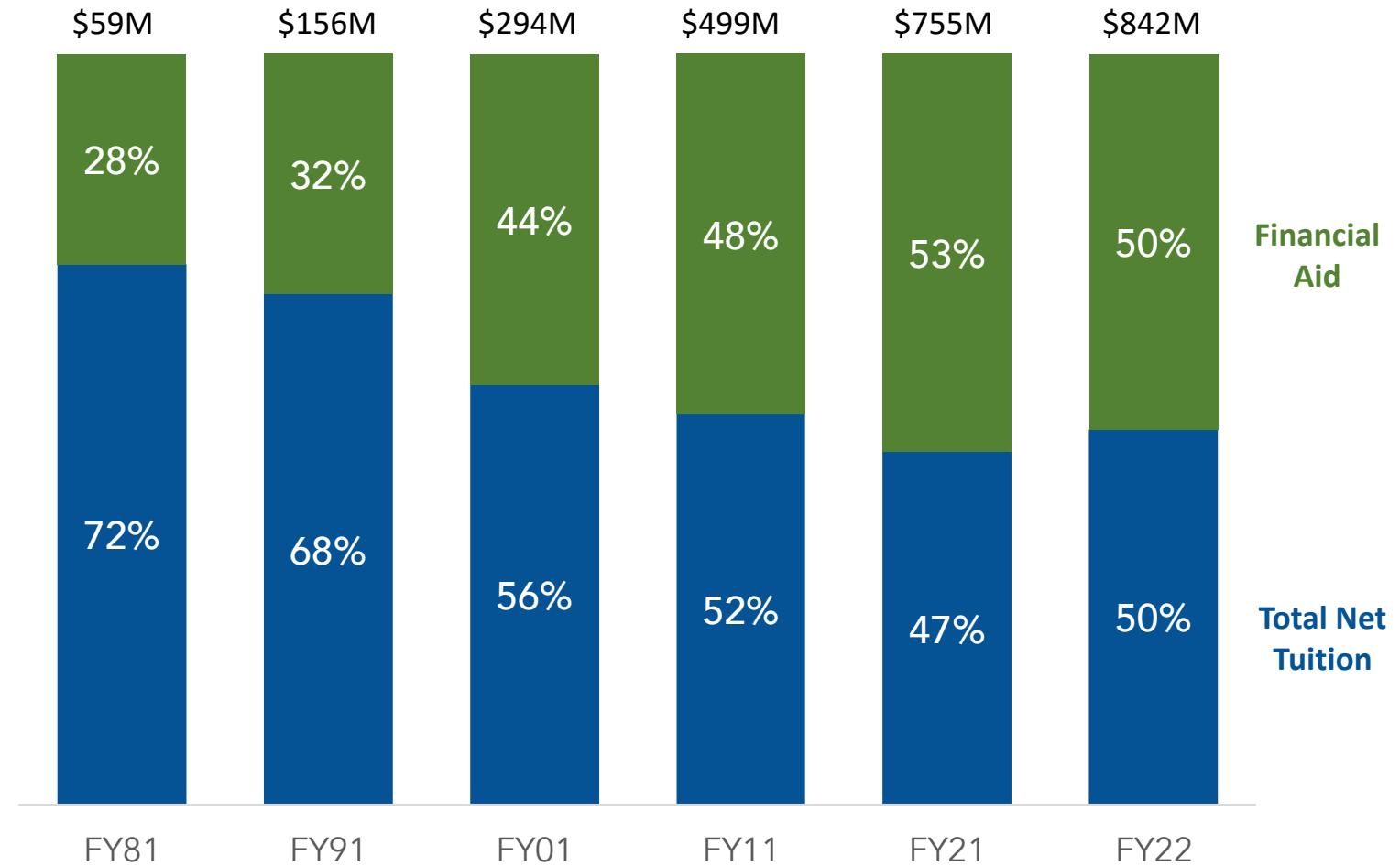
## Tuition and financial aid dynamics over time



Average annual  
growth rate:

- Net undergraduate tuition 3.3%
- Net graduate tuition 4.7%
- Non-degree programs 7.2%

Institute financial  
aid has been  
growing since the  
1980s



Note: Percentages before external tuition transfers

## Constraints on raising tuition:

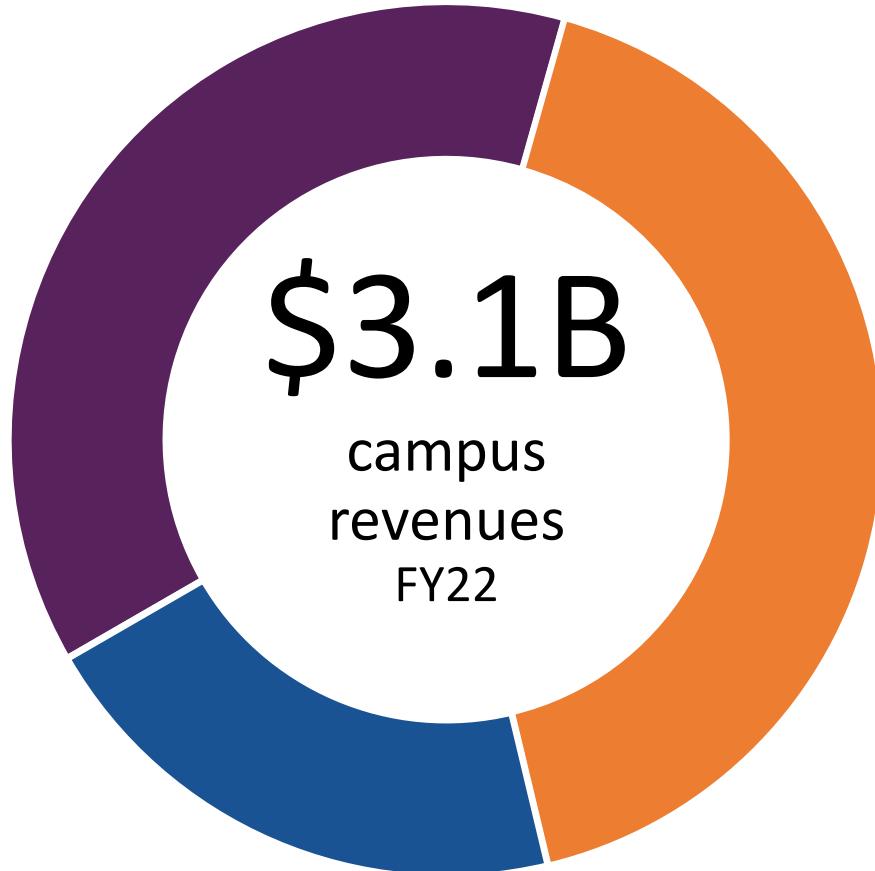
- Affordability to students
- Affordability to grants
- MIT's competitiveness



A photograph of the Pratt Library steps and entrance. The steps are made of light-colored stone and lead up to a large glass-paned entrance. Above the entrance is a plaque that reads "ELECTED FROM THE ESTATE OF CHARLES HERBERT PRATT DOMINA MDCXXV".

# How do we use our resources?

# Colors of money: Use is restricted by the source



## ● Unrestricted 42%

Allocated through central, or general Institute budget (GIB)

- Degree tuition
- Unrestricted endowed and expendable philanthropic support and other investment support
- Reimbursement of overhead costs that support research
- Central fees and services
- Internal transfers from restricted sources

## ● Designated 38%

Allocated for specific purposes

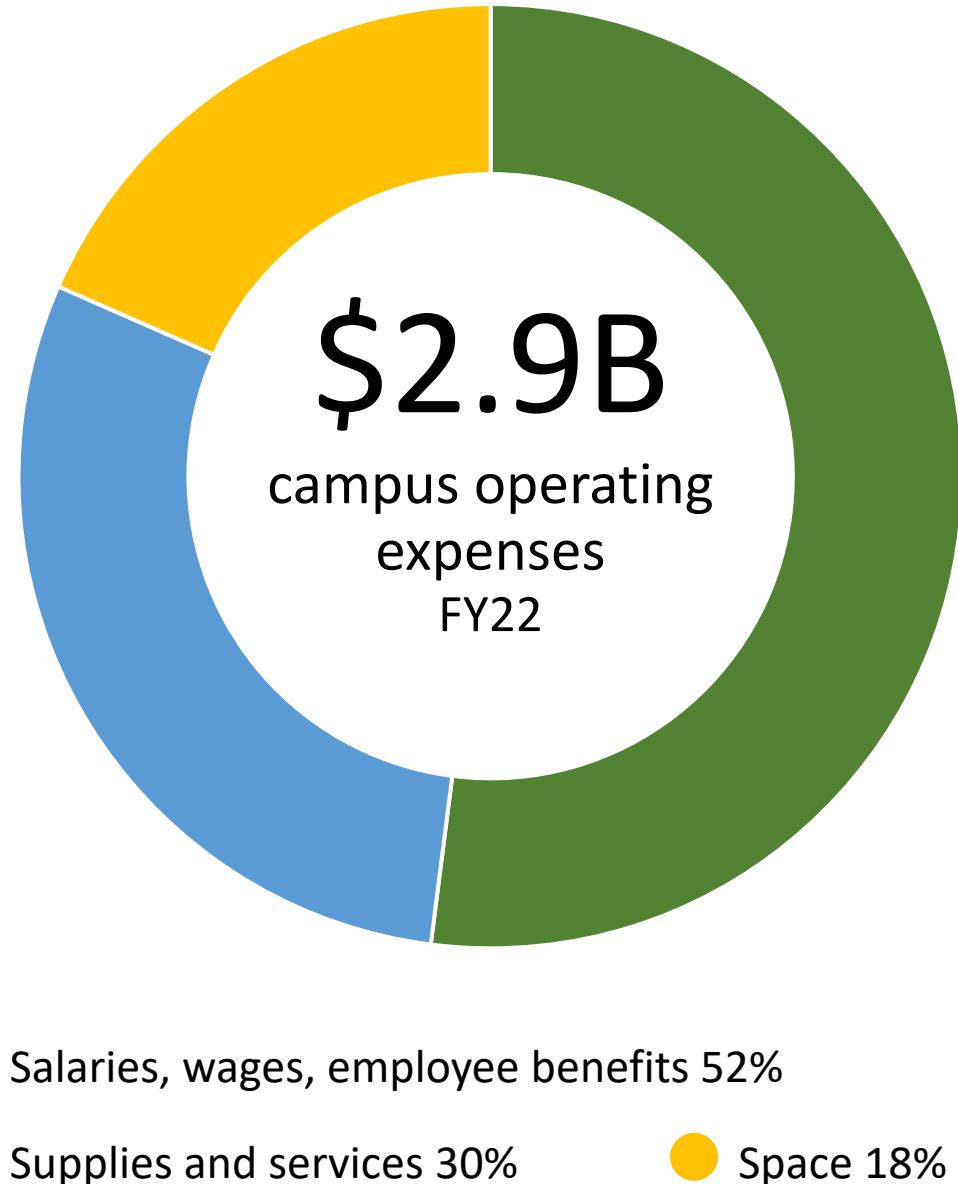
- Designated endowed and expendable philanthropic support
- Sloan degree tuition
- Non-degree program tuition
- Departmental fees and services
- Standalone auxiliary fees (primarily housing and dining)

## ● Sponsored support 20%

External sponsor support of direct expenses

- Direct research revenue
- Other sponsored revenue

Over half of campus operating expenses supports “people costs,” and almost 20% supports the physical campus



# Funding sources for graduate student tuition, stipends and SHIP paid through appointments

	Central Budget	Sponsored	Other
Stipends	21%	53%	26%
Tuition	60%	19%	21%
Health Insurance (SHIP)	82%	2%	16%

Notes: (1) Based on FY22 actual stipends, tuition, and SHIP costs (supported by appointments). (2) Sponsored includes research and other sponsored activity (e.g., external fellowships). (3) Other includes support from designated funds.

# Central budget's share of campus spending

	Central Budget
Faculty and staff compensation	54%
Utilities, rent, and repair costs	84%
Other supplies and services	51%
Enterprise-level digital infrastructure cost	100%
2030 Facilities Capital Plan	77%

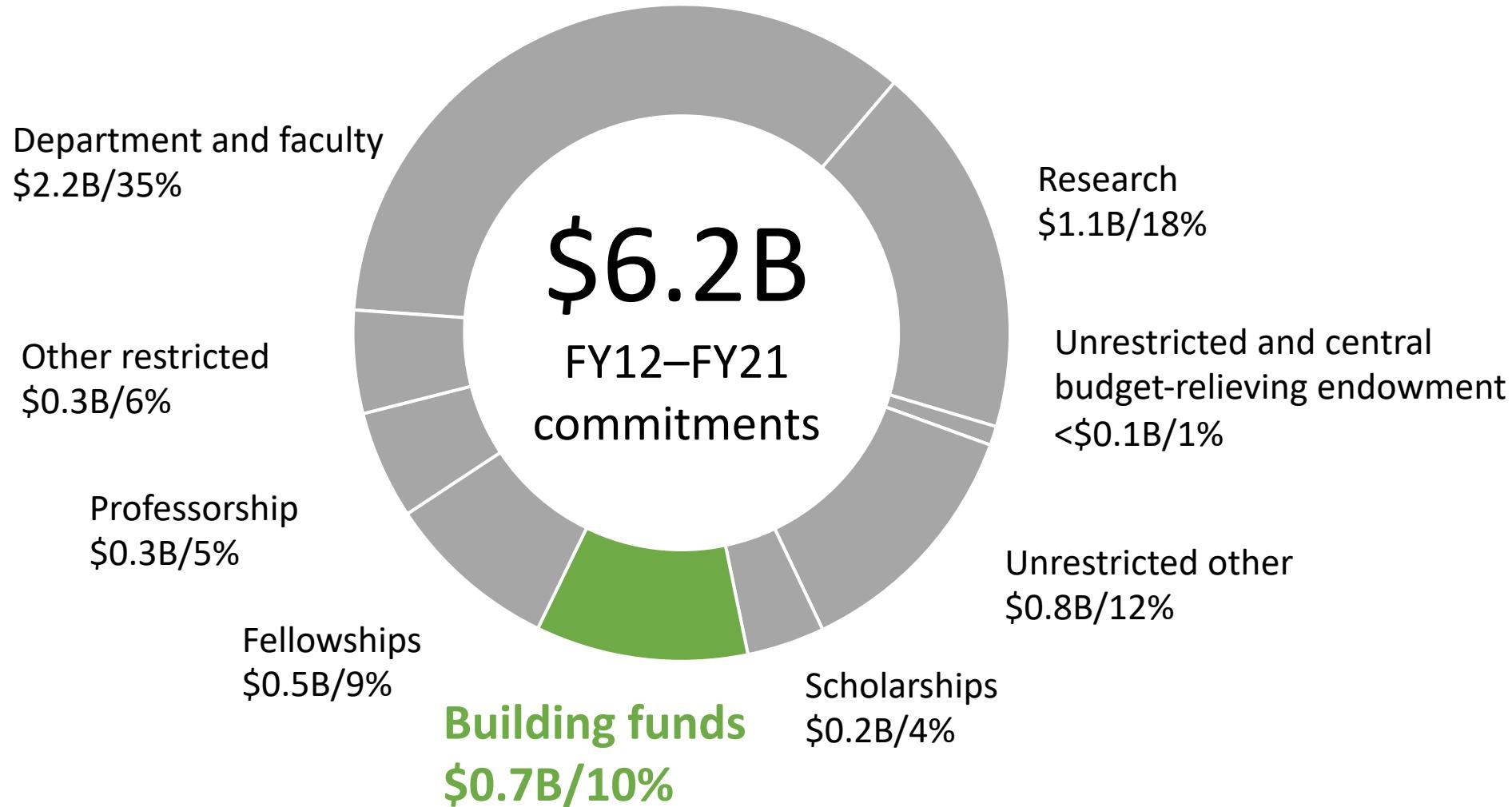
*Overhead costs supporting sponsored activity recovered through F&A*

Notes: (1) Distribution percentages based on FY22 actual expenditures with the exception of Capital Plan, which is based on cumulative spend on Capital Plan from FY13-FY22.

(2) Other supplies and services represents Campus other operating expense excluding sub-recipient agreements (mostly sponsored) and any tuition-related or stipend-related support recorded as other operating expenses.

# Only 10% of Campaign receipts supported building funds

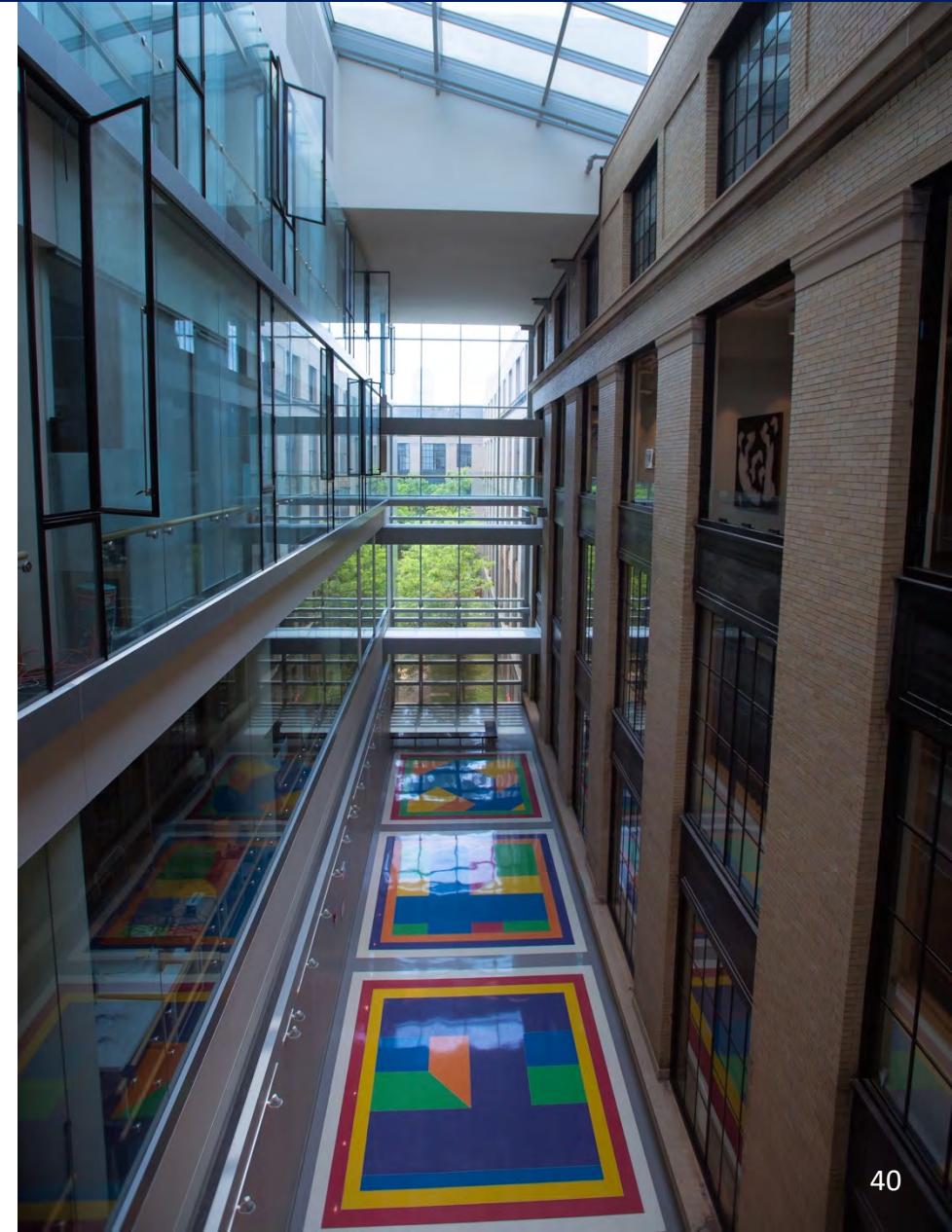
## Makeup of Campaign for Better World commitments



# Central subsidies for research (sponsored and departmental)

Central budget:

- Pays majority of tuition for RA appointments
- Subsidizes operation of some shared research facilities
- Provide reliable funding source for some faculty salaries
- Absorbs more than half the costs of overhead under-recovery
- Funds central resource development



# Pressures on the central budget

- Inflation has significantly increased costs (compensation, utilities, etc.)
- Economy is exerting drag on endowment performance and constraining financing for real-estate investments
  - -5.3% return for FY22
  - Continued stress in FY23
- Deficits in student life and other auxiliary units particularly vulnerable to revenue stresses (estimated at \$14M in FY24)
- Need to invest and reserve more to continue renewing facilities (student housing, research buildings, etc.) and modernize our digital infrastructure and enterprise systems (research computing, SAP, MITSIS, KC, etc.)
- Demands to further subsidize research enterprise (under-recovery, etc.)



# Typical central budget revenue growth covers typical base increases...

3.5% average annual revenue growth...

Central budget revenues have on average grown 3.5% annually over the past decade (FY13-FY22)

...equals ~\$60M of current adjusted central budget revenue

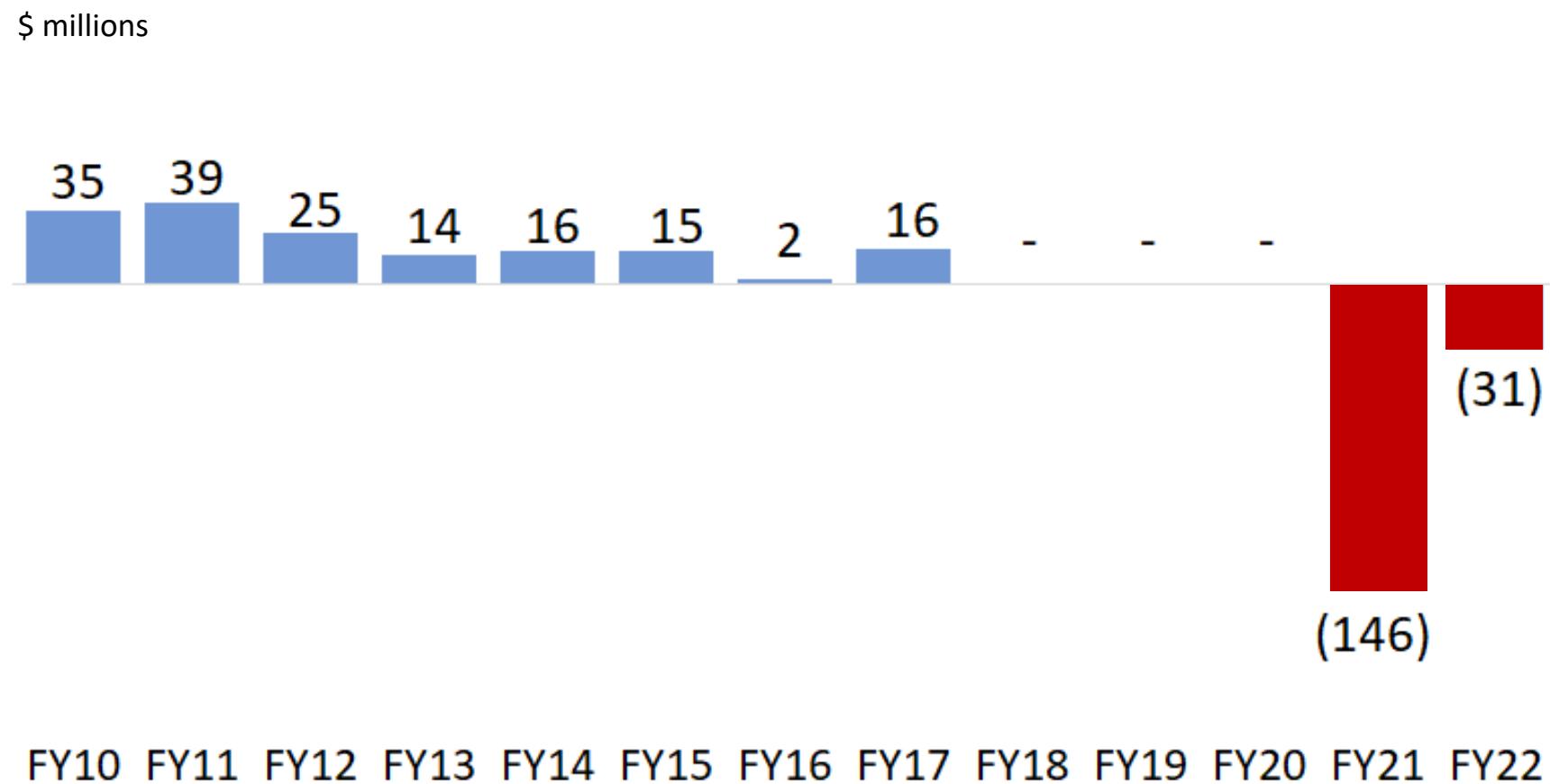
Roughly equals impact of standard annual salary increases, tuition rate increase on financial aid, and other inflation



Notes: (1) Total central budget revenue is adjusted to remove undergraduate and graduate financial aid. (While typically included within revenue, financial aid is a “contra expense” and has therefore been adjusted out of revenue for this portrayal.) Additionally, department support of operations (restricted funds transferred to support central budget costs incurred by departments) has been removed for the calculation of central budget revenue growth in this view in order to focus on core revenue drivers for the central budget.

Central budget  
fully allocates  
unrestricted  
revenue to  
departments  
or central  
functions

Central budget margin went from surpluses to break-even over prior decade; deficits in last two years driven by COVID.



# Consolidated (total) Institute GAAP operating margin isn't a piggybank

- Driven by timing differences:
  - timing differences between inflows and outflows for restricted gifts given for specific projects (especially in case of capital needs)
  - amounts being reserved for specific future obligations
  - amounts being reserved to maintain stability for future stresses (central, local)

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES For the year ended June 30, 2022 (with summarized financial information for the year ended June 30, 2021)				
(in thousands of dollars)				
<b>Operating Revenues</b>				
Tuition and similar revenues, exclusive of financial aid of \$417,572 in 2022 and \$401,198 in 2021				
Sponsored support:				
Campus direct	\$ 1,520,000			
Lincoln direct	42,100			
SMART direct	1,000			
Indirect cost recovery	1,200			
Total sponsored support	1,563,300			
Contributions	42,100			
Other revenue	241,980			
Support from investments:				
Endowment	834,545			
Other investments	187,657			
Total support from investments	1,022,202			
Auxiliary enterprises	142,133			
Total revenues	\$ 4,230,858	\$ 34,292	\$ 4,265,150	\$ 3,945,092
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Salaries and wages	\$ 1,700,986	\$ -	\$ 1,700,986	\$ 1,617,407
Employee benefits	608,873	-	608,873	577,802
Supplies and services	1,125,335	-	1,125,335	964,472
Subrecipient agreements	161,253	-	161,253	142,319
Utilities, rent, and repairs	214,645	-	214,645	226,187
Total expenses before depreciation and interest	3,811,092	-	3,811,092	3,528,187
Results of operations before depreciation and interest	419,766	34,292	454,058	416,905
Depreciation	223,364	-	223,364	209,325
Interest expense	156,807	-	156,807	126,468
Results of operations	39,595	34,292	73,887	81,112
Net periodic benefit income other than service cost	197,935	-	197,935	135,255
Net results	\$ 237,530	\$ 34,292	\$ 271,822	\$ 216,367
<b>Other Revenues, Gains, and Losses</b>				
Contributions	\$ -	\$ 230,951	\$ 230,951	\$ 57,005
Net return on investments	(514,656)	(1,541,551)	(2,056,207)	10,889,913
Distribution of investment income and gains	(436,635)	(585,567)	(1,022,202)	(912,642)
Other changes	88,989	(23,057)	65,932	103,504
Postretirement plan changes other than net periodic benefit cost	(706,134)	-	(706,134)	1,875,291
Net asset reclassifications and transfers	(99,233)	99,233	-	-
Total other revenues, gains, and losses	(1,667,669)	(1,819,991)	(3,487,660)	12,013,071
(Decrease) increase in net assets	(1,430,139)	(1,785,699)	(3,215,838)	12,229,438
Net assets at the beginning of the year	15,725,732	20,720,637	36,446,369	24,216,931
Net assets at the end of the year	\$ 14,295,593	\$ 18,934,938	\$ 33,230,531	\$ 36,446,369
The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.				





How and when do these decisions get made?

# Roles and responsibilities for financial stewardship

## Corporation

Votes to accept annual financials post-publication  
Receives periodic financial updates

## Executive Committee

Approves operating budget  
*Includes separate votes on endowment distribution, tuition, salary pools*  
Approves major capital projects/namings, debt issuance, quasi-endowment, retirement plan amendments

## Risk & Audit Committee

Reviews financial results each quarter  
Reviews annual financials pre-publication

## Salary Sub-Committee

Approves compensation for MIT officers/executives and MITIMCo employees  
Advises on salary pools for merit adjustments

## Provost

Chief budget officer  
Articulates budget parameters with EVPT; executes academic allocation

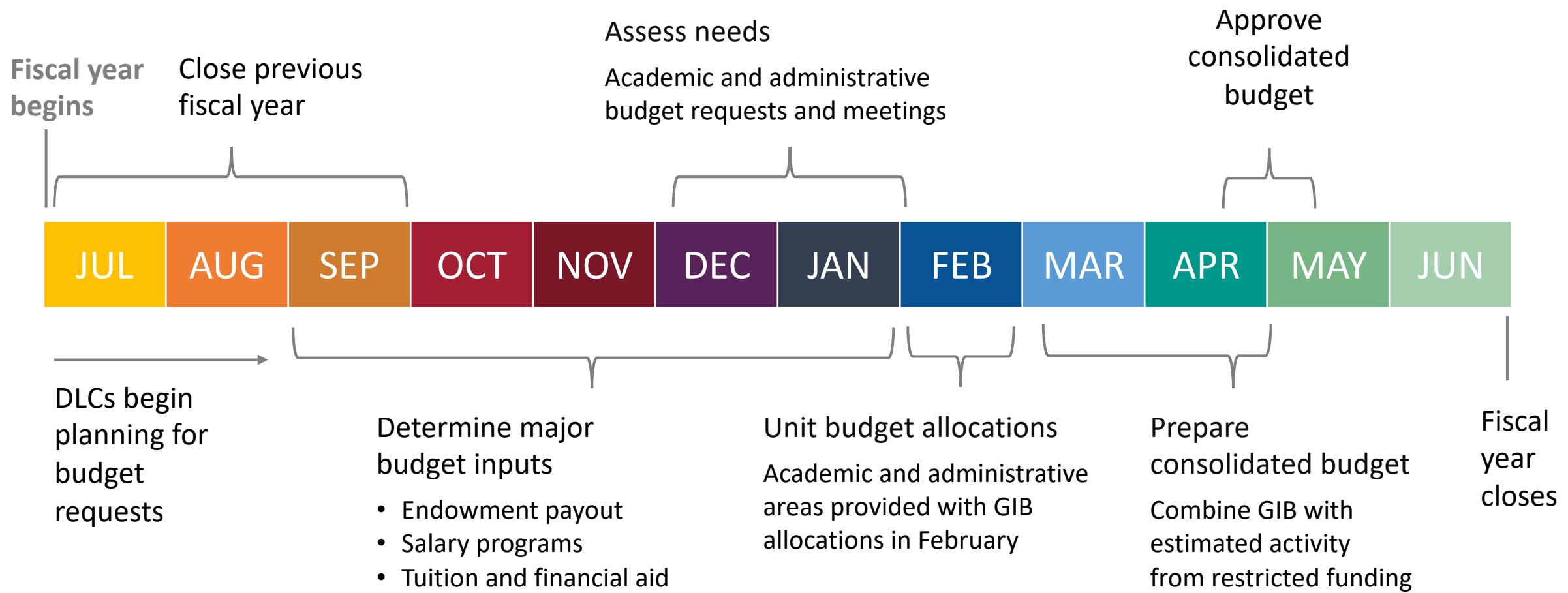
## EVPT

Officer responsible for stewardship of Institute's financial resources  
Articulates budget parameters with Provost; executes administrative allocation

## MITIMCo

Oversees investment of the Institute's assets (endowment, working capital, pension)  
Has a separate Board

# The budget cycle: Navigating three fiscal years within span of one



A photograph of the Massachusetts State House in Boston. The building's name, "MASSACHUSETT", is visible on the pediment above the entrance. In the foreground, branches of a blossoming tree with white flowers are in sharp focus, partially obscuring the view of the building. The sky is clear and blue.

Thank you