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MIT CORPORATION NOMINATION FORM

ROLE DESCRIPTION

As the Institute's Board of Trustees, the Corporation and its standing committees have responsibility for reviewing and providing guidance on strategic directions, approving annual budgets, exercising long-term fiduciary responsibility, approving the establishment of new degree programs or courses of study, approving degrees, electing the President (as well as the other Corporation officers), and being available (individually as well as collectively) to advise the President on issues that he/she may wish to raise with them.

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SELECTION

Alumni nominees are reviewed by the Association's Corporation Nominating Committee, which recommends nominees to the MIT Corporation Membership Committee. The MIT Corporation Membership Committee makes final decisions about corporation membership.

TERM OF OFFICE & MEETINGS

Once voted by the MIT Corporation, alumni nominees serve a five-year term and are expected to attend four (4) meetings annually: October, December, March, June. In addition, Corporation members will be asked to serve on Corporation committees which also hold meetings. The Corporation's site includes a [calendar of meeting dates \(http://web.mit.edu/corporation/meetings.html\)](http://web.mit.edu/corporation/meetings.html).

DESIRABLE MEMBER ATTRIBUTES

Alumni nominees to the Corporation should be accomplished professionally, with demonstrated leadership and management skills. A strong record of service to MIT that represents the broad spectrum of alumni activities is desirable though not required. They should have the time and financial flexibility to serve. All Corporation members are expected to represent the interests of MIT to outside constituencies as appropriate, provide financial support, and encourage others to do so. Service on the Corporation represents the highest level of commitment and sustained involvement in the affairs of MIT.

Alumni who are selected as alumni members of the Corporation may have prior involvement in the Institute as key volunteers and/or have demonstrated the leadership and strategic skills necessary to serve MIT as a member of its governing board. The Corporation seeks diversity among its members including by age, gender, degree type, school, career, ethnicity, geographic distribution, and range of MIT involvement.

In evaluating and recommending candidates for Corporation membership, the Corporation Nominating Committee considers

some or all of the following attributes:

- Awareness and understanding of Institute programs and strategic issues; a record of sustained engagement and/or volunteer involvement with MIT and/or the Alumni Association
- Demonstrated volunteer leadership, collaboration, initiative, and follow-through
- Demonstrated commitment to MIT by generous support of the Annual Fund.
- Relevant MIT or other organizational board/committee experience (for profit/non-profit)
- Ability to provide strategic and thoughtful counsel
- Ability to analyze and ask questions at a strategic level; provide and seek constructive feedback; exhibit strong listening skills
- Ability to seek and gain consensus; consider different viewpoints and perspectives

Submit your nomination using the form below.

For consideration during the 2017-2018 nomination period, nominations for the MIT Corporation are due by August 4, 2017. We welcome nominations at any time during the year for future consideration.

Nominator Information (person filling out this form)

Full Name *

Steve Melnikoff

Example: Jane D. Doe

Email Address *

smelnikoff@mac.com

MIT Degree Year(s) or Affiliation

SB 1978

Nominee Information (person being nominated)

Full Name *

Richard Robert Wickham

Example: Jane D. Doe

MIT Degree Year(s)/Affiliation

SB 1993, SM 1995

Example: '75 or Class of 1975

Please keep in mind that this is a highly selective process. A thoughtful, substantive, and robust statement in support of your nominee is very important in helping the alumni committee with its selections.

Please describe why you are nominating this individual to serve on the MIT Corporation: *

Dear MIT Colleagues: I am proud to put forward Mr. Robert Wickham as an alumni nominee to the MIT Corporation. By any measure Robert is clearly an outstanding professional, but I would like you to view him first as an outstanding leader. It is Robert's inspirational and exemplary qualities of dedicated leadership that have so impressed me to act on his nomination to the MIT Corporation.

Robert clearly recognizes the impact that the Institute has had on his life and career in technology, and as an alumnus he has been passionate in "giving back" to MIT and its community. His commitment is real and the defining characteristic of an involved alumni volunteer, demonstrated by supporting the Annual Fund religiously since graduation, and encouraging others to do so too.

During the five years Robert has been in Australia, he has become recognized as an innovation and technology thought-leader in the local ecosystem. He is a highly sought after media contributor, public speaker and mentor, advising the Prime Minister, the Federal and State Ministers

of Innovation, local corporate boards, and CEOs on their respective innovation agendas.

Robert Wickham's nomination to the Corporation will be that of a distinguished senior executive who will serve as an extraordinary role model, as well someone with the determination, drive, and resourcefulness for balanced engagement with the Institute's key stakeholders.

From my own forty-year university career I can say that Robert's qualities of character are singular, and he will support MIT with sound, trusted input to the board's strategic policy formulation and decisions.

The Australian Financial Review (the local WSJ) profile of Robert describes him as a "force of nature," which perfectly captures the effectiveness he will have while serving on the Corporation.

How do you know this person? Have you worked with him/her before, and if so, in what capacity? *

I have had the pleasure of Robert Wickham's friendship for the past five years. Within the first month of his arrival from Boston (seemingly, even before he had secured housing for his family) he actively reached out to me to connect with the local MIT community. His passion from the Institute was palpable. He has become a catalyst for the local alumni serving as an Educational Counsellor and conduit to visiting faculty and program directors. As our friendship has grown, I have often sought Robert's mentorship for my own business venture.

What particular skills does he/she have that would suit this role? *

As an alumnus living far away from the Institute, I am keenly aware of the challenges MIT faces to remain relevant and connected to international alumni.

Robert will be a strong advocate for this international cohort. In his current role at Salesforce he travels extensively around the Asia Pacific region, and makes a point to connect with MIT alumni at each destination.

As a result, he has a strong command of the alumni zeitgeist in this increasingly important part of the world; that is experiencing explosive growth, market disruption and a resurgence of entrepreneurship and innovation.

Robert is also a powerful communicator, well versed in distilling complex ideas into compelling stories. His life journey from Trinidad, to Boston, to Asia equips him with an incredible global perspective. His time as an MIT volunteer in Boston (including serving as a recent alumni on the Corporation) has provided a deep understanding of the Institute's priorities and inner workings. He has maintained relationships with the Alumni Association staff, faculty and Institute leaders, while accumulating professional experience that has spanned strategy consulting, entrepreneurial start-ups, and senior corporate leadership. I admire Robert for his strong emotional intelligence, sales acumen and technical prowess, all which will bring additional cognitive diversity to the Corporation.

What other volunteer roles have prepared this individual for a position on the MIT Corporation? *

Robert has a deep and sustained history of volunteering for MIT (please see the citations following, for his MIT Bronze Beaver and Henry Kane Award). He has received the Lobdell Award in 2004 and a Presidential Citation in 2008 for his leadership of the MIT Chairman's Salons. At this time Robert serves as an Educational Counsellor in Australia (his reports has received only 5's), judged the MIT Bootcamp pitch competition in Brisbane, and is part of the MIT REAP (Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Program) team for Melbourne Australia.

Bronze Beaver Citation (2014):

Robert began his Institute volunteer work as a student, and served as class officer, student ambassador, and development co-coordinator for his senior gift committee.

After graduation, Robert was elected as a recent graduate to the Corporation, and served with distinction on four Corporation visiting committees. In 2003, he was selected to serve as a young alumni representative on the Association's board and was named chair of the Technical Operations Strategic Review Ad Hoc Committee. Under his chairmanship, the committee produced a thoughtful report establishing a strategic direction for the Infinite Connection.

Robert is a passionate fundraising volunteer. He participates actively on class reunion gift committees, and as co-chair of his 15th reunion gift campaign raised the largest amount for the group, soliciting the largest gift and working tirelessly on new approaches to reach classmates.

Robert's fundraising efforts to name squash courts in the Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center in 2011 were prodigious. In addition to

gathering teammates (from 1992-1993) contributions together to name a court, he solicited additional gifts to name three others.

He has come forward to serve on the Annual Fund Board, chaired the William Barton Rogers Society, chaired the Chairman's Salon event for young entrepreneurs, and co-chaired the Friends of DAPER board. He has been a class president and an active member of his local MIT clubs.

In short, Robert is always ready to assist and encourage others, with an unparalleled passion and willingness to give of his time and energy.

Henry B. Kane Award Citation (2009):

Robert is one of the Institute's most passionate and thorough fundraisers. It was with determined vision and devotion that he served as reunion gift committee co-chair for his 15th Reunion in 2008. In this role, he contacted classmates, raising the most dollars for the group. He solicited the largest gift for the class, from a classmate who had never made a gift previously. He worked tirelessly on new approaches to reaching classmates, including a call-in community meeting to discuss fundraising initiatives and motivation of committee members through a sales-like approach.

Using his experience in sales at Oracle, Robert managed his committee as a sales team, instituting monthly reports on who had raised the most funds, and who had made the most contacts with classmates.

His fundraising efforts also extend beyond his class. Three years ago Robert chaired the 75th anniversary of squash, leading a successful effort to endow the coaching position and support new squash courts. He has also been a member of the MIT Annual Fund Board, co-chair of the Friends of DAPER, a member of the DAPER visiting committee, and co-chair of the annual Chairman's Salon [which received a Presidential Citation in 2008]. This year, 2017, Robert helped to develop a plan to solicit gifts in memory of Alex d'Arbeloff '49, raising new funds for the d'Arbeloff Fund for Excellence from Chairman's Salon attendees. Robert brings much insight to his role on the Annual Fund Board as a thoughtful contributor and "go to" person.

Do you have any concerns about him/her that would be relevant to this position? *

None

(Optional) Has this person served on other non-profit or corporate boards? If so, please provide additional comments related to this experience:

Robert currently serves on the Victoria Government Innovation Expert Panel, which is the lead initiative to strengthen Victoria's position as Australia's innovation and technology hub. Two-thirds of the appointed panel is composed of entrepreneurs with experience in turning bright ideas into commercial realities – sharing the table with some of Australia's key drivers of technology innovation from the university and private sectors. The Innovation Expert Panel will analyze and provide advice to Government about: new models for innovation, emerging trends and issues, disruptive technologies and their potential to impact business growth across all industry sectors. Concurrently, Robert serves on the American Chamber of Commerce Australia Innovation Committee.

(Optional) Are there any other volunteer roles for which this individual should be considered?

Robert would be eminently qualified for a wide range of senior volunteer roles, but without doubt the greatest benefit to MIT would be his service on the Institute's Board of Trustees.

(Optional) Please include the names of any MIT staff who have worked with this person:

Christine Tempesta
Don Shobrys
Prof Phil Clay
Joost Bonsen
Julie Soriero
Candace Royer
Bonny Kellermann
Prof Paul Gray
Prof Larry Sass
Erdir Beshimov

CAPTCHA

This question is for testing whether you are a human visitor and to prevent automated spam submissions.

Math question *

1 + 2 =

Solve this simple math problem and enter the result. E.g. for 1+3, enter 4.

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