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# MIT provost Chris Kaiser to step down next month

Posted by Matt Rocheleau September 16, 2013 03:37 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

MIT provost Chris Kaiser plans to step down from his leading role at the university next month, the school announced Monday.



(Dominick Reuter / MIT)

Chris Kaiser

Kaiser has served as the institute's senior academic and budget officer, overseeing the recruitment and promotion of faculty and the overall responsibility for the school's educational programs, since [last July](#).

He said in [a statement](#) that at the end of October he will return to his former job as a biology professor "to pursue my passion for research and teaching."

"I look forward to returning to the rich and exciting intellectual life of an MIT faculty member," Kaiser wrote in the statement.

MIT President L. Rafael Reif thanked Kaiser in [a letter](#) to the campus Thursday.

"Since taking on the role of provost, Chris has served by my side through a challenging period for MIT," Reif's statement said. "We are especially fortunate to have benefited from Chris's leadership in developing a working consensus on MIT's plans for Kendall Square. His sensitivity to faculty concerns and ability to bring people together were essential to our progress, and he established a foundation of trust and mutual understanding that will serve the MIT community very well."

Reif said Kaiser will continue to co-lead, along with faculty chair Steve Hall, a community engagement process this fall around a report released in July on MIT's role in the prosecution of Aaron Swartz.

Reif said MIT will start searching for a new provost and he said he welcomes suggestions from the campus community about who should fill that position.

*Matt Rocheleau can be reached at [mjrochele@gmail.com](mailto:mjrochele@gmail.com). Looking for more coverage of area colleges and universities? Go to our [Your Campus pages](#).*

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