

How Maria Zuber became the Vice President of Research at MIT

Sabotaging the work of 15 colleagues was the price of admission

Edmund D. Carlevale

February 6, 2022

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Timeline

Date	Action
Oct 26, 2011	MIT signs \$300 million agreement with Russia to create Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology.
Feb 16, 2012	Susan Hockfield sends email to MIT community, "Looking to the Future," with the unexpected announcement that she is resigning her office.
April 16, 2012	Provost Rafael Reif, ostensibly congratulating the Environmental Research Council for four report, appoints Maria Zuber to write ""
May 7, 2012	The MIT Corporation elects Rafael Reif as the 17th president of MIT.
Nov 12, 2012	Maria Zuber publishes report, "Implementing
Nov 20,	President Rafael Reif appoints Maria Zuber as MIT Vice President of Research

Provost Reif's email to the MIT community

On April 27, 2012, MIT Provost Rafael Reif sent ¹

Final Report of the Environmental Research Council (ERC)

April 17, 2012

To the members of the MIT community,

I am pleased to accept the final report of the Environmental Research Council (ERC), Implementing the MIT Global Environment Initiative. The report incorporates input received from a forum held December 15, 2011 that presented results of the draft report and the inputs from a subsequent comment period. I thank the ERC and in particular its Chair, Professor Dara Entekhabi, for producing a compelling vision of MIT's role in advancing sustainability and in addressing pressing environmental issues.

I commend the ERC for identifying strategic research themes that transcend disciplinary boundaries and which integrate scientific understanding, engineering solutions, and social research to synthesize new approaches to the world's environmental challenges. The report also describes a portfolio of current and new educational offerings, including a new undergraduate minor in Environment and Sustainability.

The video of the recent forum on Environmental Research can be viewed at <http://techtv.mit.edu/collections/erc> and the final ERC report can be accessed here. I have asked Professor John H. Lienhard V and Professor Maria T. Zuber to co-lead a Global Environment Initiative (GEI) planning group to prepare a proposal for execution for consideration by the next administration. They will focus on plans for resource development and coordination of potential future activities across the Institute.

The pressures on vital environmental systems and questions about their sustainability have profound implications for human welfare. The goals outlined in the ERC report define important opportunities for research and education on one of the most pressing challenges facing humanity today.

Sincerely,
L. Rafael Reif, Provost
Maseeh Professor of Emerging Technology

¹ Reif, L. Rafael. *Final Report of the Environmental Research Council (ERC)*. April 17, 2012 ed., 2012. Rafael Reif appoints Maria Zuber to "prepare a proposal for execution for consideration". *Final Report of the Environmental Research Council (ERC)*

Environmental Research Council

Name	Action
Polz, Martin	Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Newmann, Dianne	
Martin Bazant	Department of Chemical Engineering
Sallie W. Chisholm	Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Catherine Drennan	Department of Chemistry
Dara Entekhabi (Chair)	Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Michael Greenstone	Department of Economics
Jeffrey Grossman	Department of Materials Science and Engineering
Judith Layzer	Department of Urban Studies and Planning
John Lienhard	Department of Mechanical Engineering
Nicholas Makris	Department of Mechanical Engineering
John C. Marshall	Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences
Ronald G. Prinn	Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences
Harriet Ritvo	History Faculty
Leona Samson	Department of Biological Engineering
John D. Sterman	Sloan School of Management
Phillip J. Thompson	Department of Urban Studies and Planning
James Wescoat	Department of Architecture
Richard Young	Department of Biology/Whitehead Institute
Kurt Sternlof	Executive Support, Earth System Initiative

Glossary / Fact Checker

Term	Definition
"Innovation Hub"	(Reif's two references in MIT News, then Innovation news article about Skolkovo.
"Engagement"	Used in "The Question of Divestment," to imply misleading positive engagement with fossil fuel industry.
Skolkovo Institute	

Chapters

Methodology

On April 26, 2012, Provost Reif appointed Maria Zuber to “implement” the work of the Environmental Research Council. On November, Maria Zuber published her report, and November . That sequence of events indicates that Rafael Reif approved of Maria Zuber’s report, that she was in fact executing what he expected of her when he appointed her in April 2012.

This conclusion would not survive the “benefit of doubt” standard of a court of law. But that is not the applicable standard here. The world is in crisis, and the essence of that crisis is time. *Delay* is the goal of greenwashing. It is the *only* goal, because it serves the interests of the status quo.

In that context, it becomes “reasonable” to believe that Maria Zuber was executing what Rafael Reif expected of her, and that she was rewarded for doing so.

Maria Zuber’s “implementation”

- Remove 51 references to “climate change”
- Inserted Paragraph
- Manufactured consent
- Exodus of Environmental Research Council

Summary and Conclusions

Annotated Bibliography

Reif, L. Rafael. "Final Report of the Environmental Research Council (ERC)." news release, April 17, 2012, 2012.

Lienhard, John H., and Maria Zuber. "Report of the MIT Global Environment Initiative Planning Group." 2012.

Entekhabi, Dara, et al. "Implementing the MIT Global Environment Initiative." 2012.

Bradt, Steve. "Maria Zuber Appointed Vice President for Research." *MIT News*, Nov 27 2012.

"Skolkovo Foundation and MIT to Collaborate on Developing the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology." MIT News Office, October 26, 2011.

Appendix