Thoughts on the Term Project for 22.A09/22.013 Careers in Biomedical Research

Now that we have talked about the term project, let me kick it off a little more formally by giving you some thoughts on what we have in mind. Hopefully this is enough to get you off and running as a group. Never mind if the beginning seems rough and arbitrary - it is the nature of the game when you are trying something brand new.

Let's say you have seen the report from the Student Advisory Board (SAB) which was charged by President Susan Hockfield to come up with the student perspectives on MIT - what are the Institute strengths, what are the challenges and the future directions facing MIT. See the Executive Summary and the full report on <u>MIT in Transition</u>.

Suppose you, as a class, are now charged by Bruce and me to come up with a student perspective on Biomedical Research at MIT - what programs are available, what are the opportunities facing a new student (say freshman), and what guidance, if any, can be offered. While this is a much more restricted topic than the charge given to SAB, you can nevertheless follow their report in structuring your perspective. There is nothing like having a finished product (one that is well done) to guide you in carrying out your own investigation, evaluation, and reporting.

Notice that the SAB report is: ***MIT in Transition: Student Perspectives on MIT's Legacy Strengths, Emerging Challenges, and Future Directions***. □

For your term project you might start with (just a suggestion, you should feel free to modify): ***Biomedical Research at MIT: Student Perspectives on Traditional Values (Strengths), Emerging Directions, and Decision Guidance***. □

Basic idea is to make a survey of the landscape for biomedical research (define it according to what you want to emphasize) at MIT by

- Noting institutional programs such as HST, BE, and research groups like the Martinos Center and the <u>Computational Systems Biology Initiative</u>
- Gathering information from the scheduled speakers during the term
- Putting in your own assessment of the emerging directions

You should also try to come up with some kind of guidance for the future students who are not as fortunate as you in having this group opportunity to look into things over an entire term (and who have similar personal goals and face the same kinds of decisions as you).

I am confident that once you get going, you will find many more ideas along the way that will guide you in knowing how to proceed. Don't worry about making it too detailed in the beginning since there will be adjustments. The important thing is to get started and work as a team as much as possible (give everyone a chance to contribute and be a stake holder). Do keep an eye on the schedule because the time goes faster as the term gets going.