

Guidelines for the use of Killian Court as updated following a meeting on March 8, 2013

Participants

- Duane Boning, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; Chair of the Inauguration 2012 Planning Committee
- Jonte Craighead, President, Undergraduate Association
- Leah Flynn, Assistant Dean for Student Leadership and Engagement
- Gayle M. Gallagher, Senior Director of Institute Events and Protocol
- Alex Guo, Graduate Student Council Activities Chair
- Kirk Kolenbrander, Vice President and Secretary of the Corporation
- Paul Lagace, Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics and Engineering Systems; Faculty Marshal of Commencement
- Doreen Morris, Assistant Provost

Background

Response to requests for the use of Killian Court by departments/labs/centers or student organizations has been under the auspices of the Vice President and Secretary of the Corporation for the last 30 years. Inquiries regarding the use of the Court have ranged from community members and alumni to residents of the greater Boston/Cambridge area.

Events that have a history of taking place in Killian Court during the last four decades include:

- Commencement (since 1979, when it was moved at the request of the student body from Rockwell Cage in order to accommodate a larger audience)
- Inaugurations (Paul E. Gray, Charles M. Vest, Susan Hockfield, and L. Rafael Reif)
- Community celebrations in the late spring hosted by President Hockfield
- Community gatherings in remembrance of September 11
- President's Convocation for incoming freshmen and their families

A request from MIT's ROTC to conduct their annual Pass-In-Review in Killian Court in April 2013 prompted this review of the guidelines for the use of Killian Court.

Updated guidelines

The above group developed the following criteria regarding current and future use of Killian Court:

- Informal, spontaneous use of the Court by the community remains the top priority. This is believed to be the original intent for the "Great Court," later named for MIT's 10th President, James R. Killian.
- Events should invite, engage, and celebrate the MIT community.
- The size of the event should be projected to be more than 2,000, as other outdoor areas on campus currently designated for events are able to accommodate smaller numbers. These smaller spaces, which are appropriate for social gatherings, include Kresge Oval, McDermott Court, and the North Court.
- The impact, specifically that of noise, on the classrooms and offices that surround the Court should be considered before permission is given to use it. The majority of the events held in Killian Court occur when classes are not in session.
- Although the Court is an iconic area of campus, ceremonial events must meet the criteria for scale and community participation. The Court's function as a backdrop for a ceremonial event does not meet the criteria.
- Exceptions to these parameters may be considered when the proposed event involves a key area of the Court (the flagpole) or a physical extension of an area surrounding the Court (Lobby 10, du Pont or Lowell Courts).