**September:** The main topics of this meeting were progress on development of the Advising Playbook, COVID testing procedures, and professional resources for students. Part of the OVC’s initiatives re. advising included a draft charge for ad-hoc faculty committees on teaching/learning and on grad student mentoring and advising and developing draft strategic recommendations to maintain momentum on this front. One issue raised re. COVID testing procedures was police presence at testing lines; additionally, the practical consequences of “inconclusive” test results were discussed. Students who experience glitches in the COVID apps can email covidapps-help@mit.edu.

**October:** The main topics covered included the GSC’s proposed study on the equity of qualifying exams across departments and updates from the OVC re. COVID testing processes/procedures. Additionally, a separate meeting re. the IAP/Spring academic calendar introduced tentative changes; topics discussed included a longer IAP, an initial quarantine period, and adding additional break days vs. retaining the spring break period. Re. the quals equity study, the OVC and GSC discussed the “small N” problem of study design, and how institutional research (IR) can help plan the study. Re. COVID compliance and policies, the locality of required COVID testing was discussed (currently limited to people who need to access campus buildings), along with potential consequences for non-compliance. Additionally, the OVC expressed interest in gaining information on whether non-compliant students are tailgating (e.g. if they are swiping their IDs around campus after tailgating), as this could inform future efforts.

**November:** The main topics covered included updates from the GSC and OVC re. veteran services, the quals equity study, advisor selection procedures in departments with a high degree of faculty/student overlap, and updates from the OVC re. compliance with COVID policies. As of November, OVC was internally coordinating with HR to designate a point of contact for veteran services; additionally, there were efforts towards implementation of the Yellow Ribbon program for departments, and the OVC is developing a central website for MIT veterans’ affairs. Re. the quals equity study, plans remained to conduct the research via IR. On the topic of advisor selection coordination across departments that share faculty/students (e.g. Chem/ChemE/BioE/DMSE), it was recommended that the GSC talk to the grad officers of each department and coordinate. Lastly, re. COVID policy compliance, it appeared that there were some issue with students socializing/networking and not opening up to contact tracers, which resulted in administration developing/publicizing the [COVID-19 amnesty policy](#).