Nominated to lead NSF
Suresh awaits Senate approval

By Ana Lyons

On June 8, President Barack Obama formally nominated Subra Suresh ScD ’81, Dean of MIT School of Engineering, to be the next director of the National Science Foundation. Assuming the nomination is confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Suresh will serve a six-year term. He will replace the current director, Arden Berment, who was scheduled to leave the foundation on June 1.

Nomination to the U.S. Senate for con-
Research trumps teaching in awarding tenure

Tenure, from Page 1

sistant Professors. After about five years, a professor must be promoted to Associate Professor With Tenure, and then two years later, to Full Professor. At this point, a faculty member will stay on. About 75 percent of candi-
dates make it past that hurdle, ac-
cording to Professor Patrick H. Win-
ton, who has helped administer the 
tenure reviews in this department for the last 15 years. 
A tenure candidate's applica-
tion passes through a hierarchy of review committees, including a faculty 
committee that must approve it. The application then goes to a numer-
ous and prestigious group, known as the Academic Council, which is a 
committee of disinterested faculty 
that is responsible for making the final decision. The Academic Council 
receives a report on the candidate from the Department of the History of Science, which is responsible for reviewing the candidate's 
research and teaching performance. The report will recommend re-
alterations to the candidate's application, which will then be sent back to the faculty members for further review. The process can be 
very time-consuming, and it is not uncommon for candidates to spend four 
years or more on the tenure track before being awarded tenure. 

"Somehow you have to sway the community to think that what you're doing is important—and there's not a prescription for that.

are either promoted to Associate Professor With Tenure, or are given a year's notice to leave MIT (Appyi-

ically), Hudson was given only six months because of space complications due to lab construction when he started teaching.

A tenure candidate's applica-
tion passes through a hierarchy of review committees, including a faculty 
committee that must approve it. The application then goes to a numer-
ous and prestigious group, known as the Academic Council, which is a 
committee of disinterested faculty that is responsible for making the final decision. The Academic Council 
receives a report on the candidate from the Department of the History of Science, which is responsible for reviewing the candidate's 
research and teaching performance. The report will recommend re-
alterations to the candidate's application, which will then be sent back to the faculty members for further review. The process can be 
very time-consuming, and it is not uncommon for candidates to spend four 
years or more on the tenure track before being awarded tenure. 

"Somehow you have to sway the community to think that what you're doing is important—and there's not a prescription for that.

school council recommends "makes the whole department look good." Ac-
cording to both Gray and Winston, the Academic Council is at the top, and the 
Academic Council's recommendation is essentially the final decision for tenure.

Gray says the whole process typ-
ically begins in the spring of the 
spring, and that the faculty mem-
bers basically provide a "rub-
tab stamp." 

Tenure, from Page 1

School's council. (For instance, the 
department's decision to his 
chairman, and the department head defends 
thesis to the Academic Council, 
and the Academic Council makes a 
final decision.)

The report will recommend re-
alterations to the candidate's application, which will then be sent back to the faculty members for further review. The process can be 
very time-consuming, and it is not uncommon for candidates to spend four 
years or more on the tenure track before being awarded tenure. 

"Somehow you have to sway the community to think that what you're doing is important—and there's not a prescription for that.

12, who was a IBOP and teaching assistant for Hudson this spring. 

I got emails from him [with Committee of Tenure] last year at 2

long, and in the morning, the 3

ong for you to leave" Mills recalled.

Hudson's popularity was con-
vinced that the relation between the 
Evelyn Moore Baker Memo-
rional Award for Excellence in Pro-

ternship, and the Academic Council, an 
award based solely on student nominations. 

Hudson revealed the Evelyn Moore 
Memorial Award for Excellence in Undergraduate 
Teaching, an award based solely on student nominations.

How to build an international reputation is the tricky part. Win-

ton acknowledges that tenure de-
cisions are based on "short-term fame" and that junior pro-

fessor candidates must "prove" their worth. "In 

the last few years, the criteria 
for tenure have been provided. 

The generosity of his senior 
mentors has been invaluable. 

"The Baker Award is also collo-
quially known as the "kiss of death" to tenure, " says 
Sive. "At MIT, your teaching is 

"It seems to me that if you bring 
big bright young people, treat 'em 
well, be critical in your tenure re-

view, you're contributing to the 
larger dimension of education than 
just your institution, " Koy said. 
"It's about accomplish-
ment." 

"Imperfect, but still a good thing

Tenure is not infallible. "It's a process that's not perfect but it 
proven track record and the ability 

"It seems to me that if you bring 
big bright young people, treat 'em 
well, be critical in your tenure re-

view, you're contributing to the 
larger dimension of education than 
just your institution, " Koy said. 
"It's about accomplishment." 

"Imperfect, but still a good thing

Tenure is not infallible. "It's a process that's not perfect but it 
proven track record and the ability 
ation to both Sive and Professor Thom-

son.  Gray added that Harvard, in 
comparison, is more selective, and 
that's the reality. But we are com-
pared to our peers. "For example, 
Winey noted. "That's the reason we're 
better than our peers. "

Coaches and football players must be in charge of their teams, and it 
would be nice if there were a few more coaches and football players at 
MIT, he said. "We have to keep 
our football players happy."

"It seems to me that if you bring 
big bright young people, treat 'em 
well, be critical in your tenure re-

view, you're contributing to the 
larger dimension of education than 
just your institution, " Koy said. 
"It's about accomplishment." 

"Imperfect, but still a good thing
This data is for calendar year 2008, released Jan. 1, 2008 through Dec. 31, 2008, as of May 13, 2010, and reports on the university's tax return, which was filed May 13, 2010 for tax year 2008. "Paid compensation" includes "bonuses & compensation," "other compensation," and "deferred compensation." Paid compensation is reported on Schedule J of the 990 and includes "bonuses & compensation," "other compensation," and "deferred compensation" and "nontaxable benefits." "Paid compensation" is also used when looking at compensation trends over with previous reported FY08 data, so percentage and difference (Δ) and change in compensation (Bene/its) are the same as previously defined.

Form 990 includes compensation to current and former "officers, directors, trustees, and key employees" as well as the "five highest compensated employees." "Deferred compensation" is the lowest-compensated. Therefore, the list beneath Locke is not comprehensive. President Stephen cemented his place as one of the highest compensated employees in 2008.<ref>http://tech.mit.edu/V130/N28/</ref>

**<ref>http://tech.mit.edu/V130/N28/</ref>