Panel to Study Overhead Costs
Number of TAs and RAs May Decline; ABD Status is a Possibility

By Karen Kaplan

While a host of government agencies are formally scrutinizing the way MIT spends federal research money, an ad-hoc committee of faculty and administrators is taking an informal look at the efficiency of research and the funding of graduate student tuition here.

Provost Mark S. Wrighton convened the Committee on Indirect Costs and Graduate Student Tuition to study "the costs of research currently allocated to indirect costs" and the rationale behind the current method of funding graduate research and teaching assistants from the Institute's Employee Benefits Pool, according to a letter dated Nov. 21. In addition, the committee should "establish the priorities of the research faculty with respect to the activities supported with indirect cost dollars," the letter said.

The committee, chaired by Professor of Biology Robert A. Weinberg '64, is charged with making "recommendations for improvements in the graduate education and research enterprise at MIT with emphasis on improving cost effectiveness of areas and services funded with indirect cost dollars," Wrighton said in the letter. The letter set a deadline of March 31 for the committee's recommendations.

Neither Weinberg nor Wrighton could be reached for comments yesterday.

Members of the committee include James A. Allen '68, director of the Research Laboratory of Electronics; Suzanne D. Berger, head of the political science department; Robert J. Birgeneau, dean of the School of Science; Professor of Chemistry Sylvia T. Ceyer, Angels Futy '93, and Frank E. Perkins '55, dean of the Graduate School; Professor of Mechanical Engineering Steven Dubovsky; Philip S. Khayat, dean of the School of Architecture and Social Science; Vice President for Research Dr. David Lister PhD '65; Robert B. McKercie, deputy dean of the Sloan School of Management; Joel Moses PhD '67, dean of the School of Engineering; Ronald D. Parker PhD '67, director of the Plasma Fusion Center; and Dereen Morris, assistant to the provost and a senior vice president. Morris said that Wrighton also attends committee meetings "when he can."

Although the committee has been meeting since Dec. 20, the Institute chose not to announce its formation only last week. Parker said that to limit the damage caused by the controversy was "in response to" the allegations made by John D. Dingell (D-Mich.) that major research universities are defrauding the government. "That was definitely a factor," he said.

The committee will also consider budget cuts in such departments as Physics, Chemistry, and Mechanical Engineering. Although Weinberg's letter offers no firm proposals, it is expected that "if the committee recommends a reduction in the budget, it is imminent," according to Parker.

No offers of specific cuts have been made. Weinberg could not be reached for comments yesterday.

"I told the department chairs that the only way the Institute was going to make cuts was if the committee recommended it," Weinberg said.

"If the Michighan delegation was right about MIT's failure to win a contract" for the new National Magnet Laboratory, according to Weinberg, "the committee's recommendations would have to come within three weeks."

"If this isn't true," Weinberg added, "then the mandate of the committee is to inform the administration how MIT can cut its overhead costs."

Weinberg's letter states that the committee would make recommendations for cost savings "in the order of $1 million to $2 million per year." The cuts would be "in every department," Weinberg said.

"I don't think the department chairs are worried," Weinberg said. "They are already making the same kinds of cuts and they are not worried about it."

"Weinberg's letter is a call for cost savings," said Robert B. McKercie, deputy dean of the Sloan School of Management, "whether a contract is won or not."

"When Weinberg says 'recommendations' he means recommendations for cuts," McKercie said. "I think we are going to take cuts but it is not going to be as drastic as Weinberg is saying."

The real purpose of the committee, according to Weinberg, is to "inform the administration how MIT can cut its overhead costs." Weinberg said that the committee's recommendations will be presented to the administration by March 31.

"If the committee recommends that MIT cut its overhead costs, then we will do it," said Weinberg. "If they recommend that we continue, then we will continue."

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The Office of Management and Budget is asking Congress for $2 billion this year to identify and fix the more egregious problems of government waste — "high-risk areas," as OMB calls them. The request represents a 19 percent increase in the federal budget for fighting "wastefulness" in watchdog money than in 1992. 

Even using the more bureaucratic nomenclature, the $2 billion that OMB calls "management investments" is defined as: "the critical, marginal amounts of funding needed to ensure that the corre- sponding projects can be effectively and efficiently implemented." Translation: how much it costs to fix the problem. 

President Bush gave a kick- off speech from the Oval Office, and the House opened new embassies, including four this week. 

President Bush got off to a weak start from Democratic governors Monday, who recently picked up his request for the economic stimulus to" create" jobs and reported that the governor's State of the Union address and budget had been "muted." 

The new Washington Post-ABC News survey found that 59 percent of those questioned said they approved of the way Bush was han- dling the economy, compared to 40 percent in December and 45 percent in March 50 percent in the new survey. 

"We know that party which they trusted to "do a better job coping with the economy,"" said Clinton. "But the Demo- crats have made no more than 10 percent in March to 50 percent in the new survey. 

The survey also found a dramatic shift in public perception of the party most likely to be able to handle the country's prob- lems. 

"I was asked which party they trusted to "do a better job coping with the economy,"" said Clinton. "But the Demo- crats have made no more than 10 percent in March to 50 percent in the new survey. 

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Many respondents indicated new rules will certainly be more progressive, more enlightened. It's a no sense," Strauss said in response to questions on the subject. "The new rules will permit ... million-dollar and 19 problem areas have been added. At the start of 1991, the list was 106 programs long. As of January 1992, it contained 99 items. 

In response to Bush's challenge to Congress, Bush's spokesmen, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney and Secretary of State James A. Baker III signed an order "within the last two or three days" approving the new regulations. The new rules will permit U.S. Embassies here, erasing a much-criticized legacy of the Bush administration that exter- n alist and Departmental policy. The state leaders had been invited for the standard presidential meeting at the end of the winter gathering of the National Governors Association, and under traditional procedures, the press is escorted out after Bush gives his remarks. 

Whether the depletl ion of the ozone layer in the middle latitudes, the scientists predict, will continue at the rate of 1 percent per year as have recorded of ozone-depleting chemicals ever dimen- sion, and the heavily popu- lated areas of New England and Canada. 

In addition, they have found diminished levels of nitrogen oxides, which serve to slow chemical process of ozone destruc- tion. 

Both ozone and nitrogen oxides are key pollutants in urban smog. But in the stratosphere, ozone blocks the ultra violet radiation that causes skin cancer. Nitrogen oxides serve to fight off the buildup of chlorine and bromines which cause ozone destruction. 

The results show that CFC's are even more efficient at destroying ozone than we have previously believed. It is now clear, Anderson said, that the levels of chlorine monoxide ever recorded in the atmosphere, reaching to the south as New England and eastern Canada, are the highest, nothing to find a better disease David G. Anderson. 

Flights originating in Bangor, Maine, are used to measure increased levels of chlorine north of the city before even reaching their planned altitude above 60,000 feet. 

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U.S. Cutters Return First 381 of Fleeing Haitians

By Lee Hockstader

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Denied asylum by the United States, 381 Haitians fled political chaos and economic turmoil in their country were shipped back home yesterday after being aboard the Cuban island of Guantanamo Bay Naval Base aboard two U.S. Coast Guard cutters.

Their faces expressionless and their voices subdued, they stood under the gaze of a dozen blue-uniformed Haitian immigration officials at the dockside hall and told journalists that they expected no problems from the authorities.

Many of the estimated 12,500 Haitians at the base in Cuba or aboard patrolling cutters have said they fled violence and repression and feared further persecution. But

Hillary Clinton a Hit in Speech at Wellesley College

By Susan Berman

WELLESLEY

She’s precisely the kind of woman they had in mind—high-powered and hard-charging. Conventional and intelligent. Outstanding. Outspoken.

Not that Barbara Bush wasn’t a big draw, but she didn’t quite capture the flavor of Wellesley College’s graduating class of 1990. Not that her warmth and wit didn’t win over most of those students who’d earlier protested her selection as commencement speaker.

But as Hillary Rodham Clinton, wife of Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton, returned to her undergraduate alma mater Monday to address students and alumni, the Yale-educated lawyer seemed the easy and pride of many at the private women’s college outside Boston.

“She’s such a highly ranked woman, she’s just what we want to be,” said former student Bethany Hill. “What I like is that she stands on her own, she’s not dependent on her husband or her husband’s reputation.”

In fact, it is Mrs. Clinton’s husband, the governor of Arkansas, who may now be dependent on her to save his presidential bid, nearly derailed in the last several weeks by the scandal that’s hit the Clinton family for five with beans, rice, cooking oil and other staples for nearly a month.

The Red Cross furnished each of the returnees with $15 in cash and food vouchers to provide a family of five with beans, rice, cooking oil and other staples for nearly a month.

At an alumni luncheon, Mrs. Clinton spoke at Wellesley at her graduation and joked to former classmates that “thousands of reporters . . . never wanted to know what I believed about women’s issues or children’s issues or the workforce in America before until last week . . . I suppose that is the silver lining, if anybody can get past the rest of it.”

The financially strapped president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the country’s first freely elected leader, the 6,000-man Haitian army and police have carried out a campaign of terror and intimidation against the Aristide’s supporters, international human rights groups say. Aristide, a leftist Roman Catholic priest, is popular with Haiti’s poor people, and the army and police have targeted the slums.

Aristide, the country’s first freely elected president Monday, however, there was no similar outburst of dueling denominations. Mrs. Clinton, who chairs the board of the Children’s Defense Fund and sits on more than a dozen public and private boards.

The political spouse, who last spoke at Wellesley at her graduation 23 years ago as president of the student government, left little uncertainty about her role in, not only the campaign, but any future residency on Washington’s Pennsylvania avenue.

“Will a vote for Gov. Clinton in a sense be a vote for you for president?” a student in the audience asked to much laughter and applause.

“We’ve been partners for a long time,” she responded. “We have influenced each other a lot . . . I can assure you I will be a major player in dealing with women’s and children’s issues.”

Book Alleges French, Saudis Dealt With Terrorist Abu Nidal

WASHINGTON

A new book about Palestine’s terrorist Abu Nidal argues that France and Saudi Arabia have struck secret deals with him in hopes of averting attack, and that Israel may have covertly manipulated Abu Nidal’s 18-year war against Yasser Arafat’s mainstream Fatah organization.

Abu Nidal: A Game for Hire, written by British journalist Patrick Seale and distributed by Random House publishers beginning Monday, appears to be the most detailed study ever published of the man regarded by many U.S. analysts as the world’s leading terrorist. A State Department report last November blamed the Abu Nidal organization, formally known as the Fatah Revolutionary Council, for more than 100 terrorist attacks since 1974 that have resulted in the deaths of more than 280 people.

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Reorganization Shows Added Sensitivity

Students and faculty alike should be pleased by Provost Mark. W. Righton's reorganization of the Academic Council. Last week's changes point to an increased sensitivity within the administration both to students' needs and to pressures being mounted from outside the institute.

For students, the most important change in the appointment of Arthur C. Smith to the combined position of dean for undergraduate education and student affairs represents a welcome change in direction. Many of the faculty or administration have proven themselves more interested in improving students' lives and increasing their voice at the institute than Smith. Unfortunately, many administrators—including his predecessor, Shirley M. Mcely—Smith asks students for input before creating policies that will affect their daily lives. His progressive attitude toward education and many other important issues facing today's students points to a bright future for student welfare over the next few years.

It is especially important that students realize that what will not be accomplished through Smith's promotion. While Smith will now be in charge of both the Undergraduate Education Office and the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs, students will probably not notice any major changes in either of these bodies. Wrighton's claim that the new position will standardize the decision-making process is largely unfounded, but such a merger certainly prevents any harm, especially when it comes to the issues such as the participation of the guys in the Reserve Officers Training Corps.

Though the power of the new position is in an asset with Smith, it would be dangerous in the hands of anyone less interested in student welfare. Giving control over educational and extracurricular life to one person requires someone responsible and sensitive enough to wield that power wisely. We can only hope that Smith's time will be patient and understanding as he is, if not, waiting even a year to reorganize the Academic Council, as the administration did this time, could have disastrous consequences.

Letters to the Editor

Campus Groups Misrepresent Radicals For Capitalism

MIT Radicals for Capitalism actively promotes individualism in the guise of campus organizations. Groups, seeking to make money as conservative rhetoricians, have dis-
tored our views with quotes taken out of context. They attempt to mislead by trying to asso- ciate us with racism and greed. Our Radicals for Capitalism, on the other hand, promotes conser- vation, standing instead for reason and indi- vidual rights. The most controversial principle, in an office of self-relief, of taking responsibility for one's own life and happiness. We reject bigotry—of the crowd by the individual or of the individual by the crowd. We stand for limited competition and individual responsibility.

Rayne Sta G
Co-founder, Radicals for Capitalism

Letters to the Editor

Aid to Elderly Comes at Others' Expense

Column by Mark A. Smith

Welcome to campaign season. Television viewers are currently being treated to unrelenting advertisements. But by the major candidates for president and other political organizations. Better known as special interest groups, these organizations utilize tactic to manipulate people, rather than direct capi- tals. A typical commercial depicts a couple selling Security Assurance bonds for a loved one, which Medicare does not cover. The advertisement presents a quick and powerful pitch for long-term care health for the elderly. In what seems to be a public spe- cial encouragement of democracy, the ad is being criticized by those who believe in the free market system. The campaign season is over, but the elderly are still at risk. The program was a vast reduction in adequacy to those living in poverty and the number of elderly people living in poverty. We must continue to provide ade-
quate assistance to senior citizens in need.

Our system does have one fundamental flaw, however. Much of the benefits of federal programs go to wealthy persons who do not need income supplements. In many cases, we are transferring resources to senior citizens who possess more assets than the word of the average wage earner. Media outlets present the programs for the elderly as a silver bullet among politics. Unemployed and retired are often those who contribute the programs over their lifetime.

What are the costs of shuffling federal benefits for wealthy senior citizens? Recent evidence in providing catastrophic health insur- ance for the elderly suggests the answer. In the late 1980s, Congress recognized the need to protect the elderly from extremely expensive chronic illnesses that could quickly wipe out a person's assets. The Catastrophic Coverage Act, passed by Congress in 1988, made the costs of long-term care programs for the elderly.

Eratarrum

Because of a production error, a photograph of Seiji Ozawa accompanying an article about the Boston Symphony Orchestra was provided by the BSO, not taken by Jonathan Richmond.
Computer Nets Need Same Standards as Public Displays

Sections, from Page 4

computer net

Caving in to Seniors’ Groups Is at Society's Expense

provided a slew of new benefits for the nation’s seniors, such as long-term hospital and

seniors couldn’t do much about it until

the Tech, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, Mass. 02139,
in Massachusetts do not have a computer bulletin

red, they are racist and harassment, and are in vio-

the principles of free speech embodied in our

Constitution and society.”

While there is an explicit side to “freedom

of speech,” there is also an implicit side that is

right should be supported, but what to do

enough to exist in a non-threatening profes-

society. While many people don’t see

as the only right they have, so many

is still worth five cents.” Another post asked,

are women not

mation and a massive campaign against the

that Congress will have to tax something

everyone was aware of the Holocaust that

laugh about it. In any case, I find any policy

which says, in effect, “Any speech which

someone finds offensive is libelous,” to be

in many countries of the world which

must do things which would otherwise be unaccept-

people. People will send e-mail they would

become used to screaming when we see some-

pointed at the computer. Discussion on

computer bulletin boards, would Raustein or

misogynistic material is unhesitatingly put on

computer bulletin boards, even though they

are written by

opinion. They are written by

letters and cartoons.

Letters and cartoons are

be written in a way

The Tech, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, Mass. 02139,
in Massachusetts do not have a computer bulletin

Red Cross

DINNER LUNCH LATE

536-0420

Mandarin

Mandarin, Szechuan & Chinese

...oh, and take out the garbage. That will be all.”
MIT to Host Technology Conference

By Jayant Kumar

President Bush's "National Technology Initiative" will come to campus Feb. 12 when MIT hosts the first of a series of conferences designed to "address one of the key challenges facing industry — the need to translate new technologies into marketable goods and services," according to a draft schedule for the conference.

The purpose of the conference is to bring together leaders of major corporations, universities, and government agencies in order to create stronger ties among them and to facilitate the transfer of technology from the government to the private sector.

"Foreign competitors are more effective than the U.S. in taking a technology and making it into a product. Even though the U.S. spends as much money on research and development as Japan, the U.S. falls behind when it comes to getting out products," said John T. Preston, director of the MIT Technology Licensing Office.

Four members of the U.S. Cabinet will visit MIT for the conference: Secretary of Energy James D. Watkins, Acting Secretary of Commerce Rockwell A. Schnabel, NASA Administrator Richard H. Truly, and Acting Secretary of Transportation James B. Burns IV.

Industry representatives will include John Mearan, chairman of Export-Import Bank, James Vincini, CEO of Bungee, and Sherill Handler, president and CEO of Thinking Machines Inc.

Michael Porter, a professor at the Harvard Business School, Frank Parker, a professor at Vanderbilt University, and Preston will also attend. Governor William F. Weld will give a welcoming address. Rumors that Vice President Dan Quayle will attend the meeting and give a welcoming address, according to the draft schedule, are unfounded, Preston said.

"Candid dialogue" stressed "A NeXTstation computer will make you well equipped for every form of academic work. But to buy one at a discount, you'll have to act fast. This offer becomeshistory January 31st.

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The Burchard Scholars Program brings together distinguished members of the faculty and promising juniors and sophomores who have demonstrated excellence in some aspect of the humanities and social sciences as well as in science or engineering. The Burchard Program format is a series of dinner-seminars held throughout the year to discuss topics of current research or interest introduced by faculty members, visiting scholars, and Burchard Scholars.

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Club, 699 Broadway, Ball Square, Boston. Telephone: 783-0811.

At the Willow Jazz Boston. Saturday, Feb. 7 & 8 at 8 and Sunday, Feb. 8 at 4 in the Sala de Puerto Rico. Tickets: $6-$10. See Feb. 7 for详情.

On Fri., and 9 and 11 at Avalon, 15 Lansdowne Street, Boston, Telephone: 536-2750.

Dance

The Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Michael Morgan, will perform a program of works by Mozart, Haydn, and Mozart at the Wang Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Boylston Street, Boston. Telephone: 536-2750.

Dance

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Dance

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Saturday, Feb. 8

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

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The Tech Performing Arts Series, a service for the entire MIT community, from The Tech, MIT's student newspaper, in conjunction with the Technology Community Association, MIT's student community service organization.
Two Women Warned for Trespassing

McCorrnick, from Page I

as the two women were leaving, the
desk worker said.

Another resident who also
requested anonymity said she was in
the lobby at the time the incident
occurred.

According to the resident, the
police questioned the women, who
said they were high school students
collecting money for a walkathon for
AIDS research and that they
were visiting residents who had told
them to come back.

The police, who said they were
familiar with the area, told the women
that the address they gave as
walkathon headquarters did not
exist. The women were subsequen-
tly given trespassing warnings and
left the dormitory, the resident said.

The resident said the police
"were not so nice" to the women.

They would not let one go to the
bathroom and told another to "get
off of the phone."

The police told the resident,
along with others in the lobby, to
remember what the two women
looked like because they had been
stealing things from unlocked rooms,
the resident said. The two
women had not been charged with
robbery and no complaints of steal-
ing were made Saturday night at
McCorrnick.

Glavin said that the Campus
Police have received several com-
plaints about soliciting in the past.

Sometimes the solicitors are legiti-
mate and do not know that soliciting
is not allowed, she said.

In other cases "people use it as a
guise for stealing," they may be
"walking around, appearing to look
legitimate," possibly to look around
to see what they would like to steal
at a later time, Glavin said.

Other people have been caught
stealing in the dormitories before,
but "not these specific two women,"
Glavin said.

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Faculty Committee Will Study Graduate Education, Research

Committee, from Page I

A stimulus. Also, the provost is
genuinely interested in finding cost-
cutting measures, reducing the cost
of research and finding a mode of
operation that makes the govern-
ment happy with regard to graduate
student tuition," he continued.

Emphasis on graduate funding

The "dominant item" on the com-
mittee's agenda is how MIT will fund
 tuition for its graduate students
in the future, Allen said.

Currently, graduate student
...
February 4, 1992

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February 4, 1992 THE TECH Page 13
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February 4, 1992

THE TECH Page 15

money on student needs. Perhaps the greatest return on investment is the Institute-funded expansion of the Medical Sciences Division, "A Safe Ride," over the last year.

Direct reporting significant

In naming Smith to a combined position of dean, undergraduate education and student affairs, the administration did more than simply merge two offices. Smith, who previously reported to Keyser, will now be reporting directly to Wrighton. While this will probably have very little impact on individuals -- the changes will be imperceptible to most students -- having the dean for student affairs report to the provost strengthens students' contributions to policy decisions and gives Smith additional power.

In many ways, this move reverses a years-old decision that forced the then-dean for student affairs, Shirley M. McBay, to report to the then-Provost John M. Deutch '61. Smith, in contrast with McBay, spends a great deal of his time listening to students' complaints about the Institute, trying to let the administration know what they are feeling. By moving Smith closer to the provost's office, the administration lets students know that they are important, and at the same time made it easier to gauge student opinion.

Smith's combined portfolio also makes it clear just how difficult it would have been to find a successor to the late Dean for Undergraduate Education Margaret L. A. MacVicar '63. Rather than try to find someone who would try to duplicate the work of a universally praised leader in undergraduate education, the administration opted to let Smith, already well-known and well-liked among undergraduates, take on some additional responsibilities.

Widnall's appointment to the provost associate position points to a number of other issues that the administration will have to deal with in the next few years. Many of these concerns -- which include academic integrity, federal relations, faculty retirement, promotion and tenure, and international education -- will figure prominently in Institute affairs for the next few years, and it is safe to assume that much of Widnall's job will be to predict and contain any problems MIT might encounter in these areas.

One currently relevant example is the controversy surrounding a number of Pentagon audits that claim MIT overcharged the government for a number of research contracts. While MIT can be expected to suffer less than Stanford University, which was audited and fined hundreds of millions of dollars last year, there is no doubt that research and billing procedures will have to change if the Institute wishes to compete for research contracts in the future. Indeed, Wrighton has already appointed a committee to look into MIT's system for billing indirect research costs, which is expected to present its recommendations within the next few months.

Widnall's work on academic integrity follows a unanimous declaration by the Committee on Discipline late last year that the Institute needs some sort of honor code for students, as well as a flurry of discussion about David Baltimore '61, former director of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, who co-signed a paper containing data widely held to be falsified.

Just as the motion picture industry would rather police itself than be subject to government censorship, many scientists believe that it would be better to police fraud within the scientific community than to let the government interfere. Widnall's job appears to be to define MIT's role in stopping fraud in research while giving faculty the freedom to work on individual projects.

In many ways, Widnall was the perfect person for the job of associ- ate provost: A former chair of the faculty, an MIT alumnus, and a former member of a National Science Foundation panel on honesty and responsibility in science, Widnall combines a long background at the Institute with an understanding of Washington politics. It remains to be seen, however, whether for expe- rience at the Institute and in the cap- ital will help MIT in the long run.
Sunday, February 9
2 p.m.
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