DormCon budget causes grumbling

This past Thursday, MIT’s Dormitory Council approved a $23,000 budget that included about $15,000 for CPW, consisting of about $5,000 from Admissions, $5,000 from Housing, and $5,000 of its own money. The budget also included $4,000 for a 30-person DormCon retreat at Endicott House — an overnight retreat that includes chef-made meals. The space is popular with student groups and dorm governments for retreats. The retreat would be attended by the 12 executive members, 11 dorm presidents, and “plus ones” of any attendees, according to DormCon president Edward A. Mugica ’13.

This budget sparked an initial email outcry from Tea Dorminy ’14, who emailed many dormitory mailing lists saying that the retreat would cost 20 percent of DormCon’s budget, that each dorm could get $400 more for CPW if they “didn’t go to an expensive retreat,” and urging students to tell their presidents to “spend money on CPW, not retreat.”

Random Hal President Jacob L. Vaughn ’15 also weighed in over emails to dorms and dorm presidents with a “dissenting opinion.” Vaughn said that what bothers him most is that the money comes from housing taxes “which [residents] had no choice to spend,” and that DormCon should “exist to serve the dorms, not to consume their resources.”

Mugica, who plans on the retreat becoming an annual occurrence, said that the event is essential to bringing DormCon members together, and that a similar retreat was done last year. The retreat is important, said Mugica, because dorm presidents can learn how other dorms work, know where other people stand on issues, and develop a “personal rapport” with the other president.

Some students have suggested going on a less expensive retreat. “That may be something to look in the future,” said Mugica, but he emphasized that the value in this retreat is that food is taken care of, and “from the first time we get there we’re doing things, … discussing important issues.”

Dorminy said that the issue has since been resolved, and Vaughn declined to further comment on the issue. —Bruce R. F. Vieira

Freshman GIR pass rates remain steady relative to yearly averages

By Kath Xu

Last semester, the freshman class’ passing rate for the math and science General Institute Requirements (GIRs) was 96.3 percent. According to Julie B. Norman, the Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, this pass rate is similar to previous years’ numbers. Of the 203 students who received fifth-week flags, 15 dropped the subject they were flagged in, and 39 did not end up passing.

Several percent of the students who were flagged responded and turned it around, passing the subject in which they were flagged,” Norman stated. Although there were also students who failed without receiving a fifth-week flag in the subject, these statistics were not released.

“Flags are a good predictor of end-of-term actions, particularly if a student receives more than one flag,” said Norman. “We certainly have students that were not flagged, who at the end of the term, for various reasons, do not pass their subjects.” Students in 8.01L (Physics I: Classical Mechanics) had the lowest pass rate of all the GIRs, with a 78.1 percent rate. The class covers the same material as 8.01 but at a slower pace, geared toward students with less physics experience in high school.

“With the exception of 8.01L, the passing rate for the math and science GIR subjects was this term, and always is, in the mid-90s,” said Norman. Of all the GIRs, 7.012 (Introduction to Biology) had the highest recovery rate. Of the 580 freshmen enrolled, 76 were issued flags, then dropped, and only five (or 6.6 percent) of those flagged ended up not passing. 7002 issued the most fifth-week flags to freshmen last semester, with a 13 percent freshman flag rate. According to Norman, the subject with the most fifth-week flags varies from year to year.

How did the Class of 2016 do on its GIRs?

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For first time, baby is cured of HIV, doctors say

Doctors announced Sunday that a baby had been cured of an HIV infection for the first time, a startling development that could change how infected newborns are treated and sharply reduce the number of children living with the virus that causes AIDS.

The baby, born in rural Mississippi, was treated aggressively with antiretroviral drugs starting around 30 hours after birth, something that is not usually done: The United Nations estimates more than 1.8 million newborns become infected with HIV each year.

Studies are being planned to see if early testing and aggressive treatment can work for other babies. While the bone marrow transplant that the baby received is an unusual and life-threatening procedure, the Mississippi treatment is not and could become a new standard of care.

— Andrew Pollack and Donald G. McNeil Jr., The New York Times

Virginia pastor convicted of aiding in parental kidnapping

A Virginia pastor who said that his actions “flow out of my faith in Jesus” was sentenced Monday to 27 months in prison for abetting the international parental kidnapping of a girl in a high-profile case involving a same-sex union and the condemnation of homosexuality by conservative Christians.

But in a victory for the pastor, Kenneth Miller, Judge William K. Sessions III of U.S. District Court in Vermont said he would not order Miller to start serving his sentence until higher courts decide on the appeal, which could take at least two years, according to Brooks G. McArthur, one of Miller’s lawyers.

While Sessions had previously ruled that the case could be tried in Vermont, his ruling Monday appeared to accorded with the appeals court that had been contacted by the trial court.

Miller’s appeal had a chance of success.

As a result, despite his conviction, Miller, head of a Beachy Amish-Mennonite church in Stuart’s Draft, Va., is free to return home with minimal supervision until the appeal is resolved.

Miller was convicted last fall for helping to arrange the covert flight to Nicaragua of Lisa A. Miller with her daughter, Isaiah Grace.

— Erik Eckholm, The New York Times

Protesters want last of Berlin Wall to stand

BERLIN — In November 1989, the Berlin Wall opened, and soon access to chocolates by jambusters crowds from both sides. Almost a quarter of a century later Berliners again took to the streets over the wall — only this time to protect what is left of it.

Late last week, when construction workers began dismantling roughly 70 percent of the wall’s longest remaining expanse — a nearly mile-long monument to peace that is left of it.

Late work, when construction workers began dismantling roughly 70 percent of the wall’s longest remaining expanse — a nearly mile-long monument to peace that is covered in paintings and known as the East Side Gallery — protesters turned up in droves. The first hastily organized demonstration on Friday drew several hundred, but over the weekend tens of thousands massed to protect the remaining concrete slabs from being removed and relocated in an adjacent park.

They were particularly incensed that the project was to make way for an access road for new luxury apartments — helpful for a city whose zincatabs are facing a housing shortage, they argued, and for the city to be able to use the former concrete slabs from being removed and relocated in an adjacent park.

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— Chris Cotrell, The New York Times

By Stephen Castle

LONDON — When Poland and seven other formerly Communist nations joined the European Union in 2004, Britain threw open its jobs market earlier than required to welcome the new arrivals, an abuse that has been continuing ever since.

The recent wave of arrivals from Romania and Bulgaria to discourage immigration by the British government is now a result of that.

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— Erik Eckholm, The New York Times

By Michael R. Gordon

ROYAL Bahia, Saudi Arabia — Secretary of State John Kerry said Monday that the Syrian opposition is capable of standing up to the Syrian military support it receives.

“There is no guarantee that one weapon or another might not at some point in time fall into the wrong hands,” Kerry said in a joint news conference in Riyadh with the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Saud. “But I will tell you this. There is a very clear ability now in the Syrian opposition to make certain that what goes to the moderate, legitimite opposition is, in fact, getting to them, and the indication is that they are increasing their pressure as a result of that.”

Kerry’s comments follow a confluence in Rome last week on the issue of building support for a coalition of opponents to the Syrian government of President Bashar Assad, which Kerry attended. He spoke to concerns that aid that was meant for the Western-backed group might be diverted into the hands of extremists.

President Barack Obama has decided that the United States will not provide arms to the rebels, Kerry announced last week that it would send food and medical supplies to the armed forces of the Syrian opposition. The United States has also been training a select cadre of Syrian rebels in Jordan under a covert program run by the CIA, officials have said.

Other nations are also sending aid to the rebels. Britain is expected soon to announce a package of nonlethal military assistance, which could include items like ball- proof vests, vehicles and night-vision equipment. Saudi Arabia has been financing a large purchase of infantry weapons from Croatia and

Kerry criticizes Iran, Russia for shipping arms to Syria

WASHINGTON — The United States will do everything within its power to disrupt the Syrian regime’s arms supplies, Secretary of State John Kerry said Monday, suggesting that the regime could be a few months away from fleeing for its own borders to 29 million people when we have absolutely no idea how many are going to come to this country.

In 2004, a healthy British economy seemed to benefit from globalization, booming financial services and open markets. Politicians saw that the government’s options to act. Many saw that the government’s options to act.

“Of course, we have a duty to protect our national security,” Kerry said.

“A lot hotter. The discourse is partic-

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HSBC net profit fell due to record fine for settling laundering charges

By Julia Velardig

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON — HSBC, Britain's biggest bank, said on Monday that its net profit fell 17 percent last year because of a $1.95 billion fine for failing to properly monitor and control potentially illegal transactions. The bank also missed its own target of return on equity of 12 to 15 percent, failing to meet that promise for the second year in a row.

People with knowledge of the matter said the fine — the largest for a financial institution in Britain — would increase the amount it set aside to pay its investors, pushing its dividend cover to 14 percent this year. The bank, which is owned almost entirely by British investors, also reported a rise in its bonus pool to $3.7 billion in 2013, compared with $3.3 billion in 2012.

In a statement, the bank's chief executive, Stuart Gulliver, said the settlement was a “good reason to worry about “a prompt an unmanageable flood of litigation. “Justice Stephen Breyer, writing for a liberal bloc of justices in the United States Supreme Court, said the floodgates cases, “meaning cases...
Editorial Policy

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The unuestioned assumption of online education

By Sam Shames

Online education is growing rapidly. Recently, six new universities have been added to the edX platform. Each new university plans to develop its own set of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). Between the big three — edX, Coursera, and Udacity — there are now hundreds of MOOCs from universities all over the world. Advocates are quick to highlight that these MOOCs have already served millions of students, enabling anyone with an Internet connection to receive a world-class education.

Online education advocates argue that MOOCs are the best way to reach students. On the surface, the MOOC appears to be very different from its classroom counterpart. Short videos replace a traditional lecture, sprinkled with interactive demos and instant feedback. MOOCs are supposed to reflect the ability of technology to make the learning process more interactive and effective. But underlying this technological interface is the very same teaching style as a traditional classroom, where the instructor decides the order of the material and presents it in a linear sequence.

Part of the promise of online education is the ability to accommodate different learning styles. The best way to accommodate as many learning styles as possible is to structure the course material such that students and teachers can adapt to the content for their own specific use. Today’s MOOCs make this specificity impossible.

A new, non-linear structure would allow students to develop their own learning pathways, and to learn material in the order that feels most natural to them. A new structure would also allow students to get a better sense of all the concepts and topics within a subject along with the connections between them. The third important benefit is that by giving the student access to all the material, it allows the independent learners to identify which parts of the material they find most interesting — the essential concept, equation, or code that is relevant to their own particular interests.

One model for this new non-linear structure is concept and learning webs. There are two levels of learning webs: a subject level and a topic level. The subject level contains modular lessons about all the different topics within that subject. Within each topic are short videos, practice problems, online labs, case studies, and interactive demos — all the material normally presented in a MOOC — available at any time for students to use. Because each topic is modular, students are free to either focus only on one topic, or define their own learning pathway.

Perhaps the most exciting thing about this structure on the concept level is that it breaks down the barriers between majors. In addition to covering traditional topics like mechanical engineering and economics, there will also be similar modules for topics like robotics and green energy, which will contain concepts and ideas from many different subjects, from materials science to electrical engineering to cognitive science. In a sense, this represents a new paradigm for organizing content.

While concept and learning webs offer a new structure for online education, I do not believe they should replace MOOCs. Instead, concept and learning webs should be created in parallel and offered both as a new, non-linear structure and as independent way to learn material in a different order.

One goal for online education, of which the concept and learning webs offer; the most effective model for organizing content. The real benefit of concept and learning webs is that they will catalyze the residential revolution promised by advocates of online education, of which the concept and learning webs are just one. Much of the same material already developed for a linear MOOC can be recycled into the concept web model. The real benefit of concept and learning webs is that they will catalyze the residential revolution promised by advocates of online education, of which the concept and learning webs are just one. Much of the same material already developed for a linear MOOC can be recycled into the concept web model.

The problem-based classroom possible, because instead of having to provide the concepts and answers, the teacher is now free to create an interesting project or problem and let the students solve it. This is what the multiple learning pathways that the concept and learning webs offer, the most effective model for organizing content. The real benefit of concept and learning webs is that they will catalyze the residential revolution promised by advocates of online education, of which the concept and learning webs are just one. Much of the same material already developed for a linear MOOC can be recycled into the concept web model.

Students may choose to work on different steps of the project and will therefore learn the material in a different order. MOOCs are designed to present material in a different order that seems most relevant to them, in contrast to the order the teacher decides is most appropriate.

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The promise of online learning is that new technology can be used to teach more effectively — part of this promise means reexaminining our deepest assumptions. Technology enables fundamental new structures and models for education, of which the concept and learning webs are only one. One goal for online education should be to create a platform that accommodates as many learning styles as possible. That platform opens online education to the world, allowing each user to find the content that is most important to them and to create their own learning pathways. When this platform exists, online education will have arrived and the residential revolution will follow.

Fill in the blank:

Dining at MIT is ________.

The Tech is running a feature on dining at MIT. Send dining@tt.mit.edu an email if you have any suggestions or topics you want covered.
The Tech Tuesday, March 5, 2013

This space donated by The Tech

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Bring your friends to MIT’s largest co-ed SLEEPOVER!

Performances by the Logs, Chorallaries, Cross Products, Ohms, Toons, Chamak, Syncopasian, ADT, DanceTroupe, Bhangra, Fixation, Ridonkulous, Mocha Moves, and more!

Speeches by Professor Tyler Jacks and Shini Jayaram '14

Saturday, March 9th - Sunday, March 10th
6 pm - 6 am
Johnson Track, Zesiger Center

Sign up at:
relayforlife.org/MIT
**Saturday Stumper** by S.N.

Solution, page 13

**ACROSS**
1 Disclaimer of a sort
5 "News" Store at many airports
9 Betrayed timidity
14 1980 National Book Award winner, familiarly
15 For flight
16 _ de Toulouse-Lautrec
17 Piers part
18 Seen to whirl
19 Islamic patriarch
20 Words spoken while shaking
22 Category between subfamily and genus
23 Literally, "bounced"
24 Project extension
26 American Dad! employer
27 Bust
28 Dimas role of '88
33 "The Ugly" to Clint's "The Good"
34 Fogs
35 Entry on J's family tree
36 Alabaster shaper
42 TR trademark
45 Opposite of "affect"
46 Guerrilla Prince subject
49 "I would give all my fame for a pot of ___": Shak.
50 Something held in a bracket
51 Commanded
52 Fantasy gaming army
54 Prepare to partake from, perhaps
56 A student's place
60 Poet once banned by Franco
61 Reference material
62 Billy in Bologna
63 "A nest of robins in her hair" source
64 Caught
65 "After ___" (2005 Economist article on the Fed)
66 Proponents
67 They may be coping
68 Zip
[...]

**DOWN**
1 Mass movement
2 Largest Southern Hemisphere city
3 Dreaded examination
4 All in
5 "On the Balcony of the ___ Rosada" (Evita tune)
6 Certain tadpole
7 Île-de-France region
8 Perpetration
9 The Louvre, originally
10 Back
11 Lard
12 Rookie firefighter
13 Verbal insensitivity
14 1980 National Book Award winner, familiarly
15 For flight
16 _ de Toulouse-Lautrec
17 Piers part
18 Seen to whirl
19 Islamic patriarch
20 Words spoken while shaking
22 Category between subfamily and genus
23 Literally, "bounced"
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**The Out-of-Office Reply**

by Jorge Cham

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**Sudoku**

Solution, page 13

```
 8 2 1 5 7 4
 4 5 9 1 7 6 3 2
 1 8 6 5 4 7
 6 2 4 7 1 5 2
 5 4 9 7 3 6
 2 3 1 7 6 5
```

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

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**Techdoku**

Solution, page 13

```
8x 9x
10x

144x 30x

3x 15x 24x

10x 24x

20x 3 2

1- 8x 3 3
```

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.
MIT’s acceptance of diversity lets many worldviews flourish  

By Aaron Scheinberg and Stephanie Lam

Ask A-theist is a new column by Aaron Scheinberg, an atheist, and Stephanie Lam, a Christian, which uses contrasting worldviews to explore questions and misconceptions about philosophy and religion. Send us the burning questions you have always wanted an atheist or a Christian to answer, and Aaron or Stephanie will tackle them!

Q: How does the MIT culture fit with/oppose your respective religious beliefs?

Stephanie Lam

For me, "religious beliefs" encompass two areas — the intellectual beliefs, and the practical living out of them. Intellectually, I think the greatest opposition to faith is not disagreement, but the insistence that religion has no place in the public arena. This leads to an abrupt end of all inquiry and discussion. As G. K. Chesterton said, "There is a thought that stops thought. That is the only thought that ought to be stopped." I have not found that here. MIT places a high value on asking questions and seeking truth. Faith, too, is a quest after truth. I don’t look down on people as worthless — ourselves included — when they are struggling and need help. I encourage you all to take advantage of a place that is available. Finally, I think MIT excels in part because of its diversity of cultural practices from both our religious and non-religious alike. I suspect that helps encourage exploration and free exchange of ideas.

Aaron Scheinberg

MIT provides an excellent atmosphere for critical thinking and skepticism. I wouldn’t call those my religious beliefs, but rather perhaps "philosophical values." First and foremost, I love how MIT celebrates meritocracy. You aren’t here if you didn’t earn it on your own. Your elegant theory is worthless if its predictions are false, if your methods don’t work, they aren’t methods. If your beautiful bridge can’t support its own weight, it’s rubble. Skepticism (and one of its common conclusions, the rejection of organized religion) is about meritocracy of ideas. It doesn’t matter who proposed it, whether one’s parents believe it, how popular it is, or what the consequences are; the truth of an idea should be evaluated on its own merit. For those who take that for granted: such a culture was not dominant in my undergraduate experience. There’s a whole world out there that is not particularly interested in facts, evidence or reason. I encourage you all to take advantage of a place where those are valued so highly and are so readily available. Finally, I think MIT excels in part because of its diversity of cultural practices from both our religious and non-religious alike. I suspect that helps encourage exploration and free exchange of ideas.

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First and foremost, I love how MIT celebrates meritocracy. You aren’t here if you didn’t earn it on your own. Your elegant theory is worthless if its predictions are false, if your methods don’t work, they aren’t methods. If your beautiful bridge can’t support its own weight, it’s rubble. Skepticism (and one of its common conclusions, the rejection of organized religion) is about meritocracy of ideas. It doesn’t matter who proposed it, whether one’s parents believe it, how popular it is, or what the consequences are; the truth of an idea should be evaluated on its own merit. For those who take that for granted: such a culture was not dominant in my undergraduate experience. There’s a whole world out there that is not particularly interested in facts, evidence or reason. I encourage you all to take advantage of a place where those are valued so highly and are so readily available. I also know many an acquaintance from high school and college who worried about being ostracized (or simply distanced) from their friends and family should they openly renounce religion. When fundamentalism is the supermajority, there is a tremendous social force keeping us from deviating or questioning publicly. In contrast, at MIT your ability to find friends doesn’t hinge on your religious beliefs. I suspect that helps encourage exploration and free exchange of ideas.

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THIS ELEGANT UNIVERSE
FROM THE MACRO TO THE MICRO, DO THE LAWS OF NATURE SPEAK TO A GREATER PURPOSE?

ARD LOUIS, Ph.D.
Royal Society Research Fellow and Reader in Theoretical Physics, Oxford University

MAX TEGMARK, Ph.D.
Professor of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Friday, March 8, 2013 at 7:00 pm
Lecture Hall 10-250
Most freshmen pass GIRs; lowest rate from 8.01L

Subject with most fifth-week flags varies by year; Fall 2012’s subject was 7.012 Biology

A select number of students who do not pass 8.01 in the fall are given the option to take 8.01L (Principles of Classical Mechanics, 8.011, in the spring). In addition, MIT offers a special version of Classical Mechanics, 8.01L, in the spring for those who did not pass a version of 8.01. Isaac L. LaJoie ’16, a student in 8.01L this semester, said that he had taken a basic, non-calculus based physics class in high school. He started last semester with 8.01 before switching into 8.01L.

“When I made the switch into 8.01L from 8.01, I felt like I was already really behind and I was never able to catch up. We had a test five days after I switched into the class. I didn’t know what the material was over, and I ended up bombing the test,” said LaJoie. “There was also that stigma of ‘pass/no record’ with upperclassmen saying, ‘Don’t worry, you’re on pass/no record,’ which told me that I wouldn’t need to work as hard if I just wanted to pass. Also, the complete lack of numbers really stumped me. Do they not exist here?”

Students who fail a GIR in the fall usually have several options in the spring to fulfill that GIR requirement, such as 5.112, or 3.091 (Introduction to Solid State Chemistry) in the spring.

Students who fail a GIR in the fall usually have the option of repeating the entire course. “There is never one subject that is always the subject with the most flags,” said Norman. “They possibly didn’t have the chemistry background that they needed. Students show sufficient command of the material that they would benefit from a ‘second chance’ to pass the final exam, as an alternative to repeating the entire course.”

Although the 8.01 instructors are the ones who determine who can participate in the Second Chance program, Chakrabarty stressed that students who receive an F are not eligible, and not all students who receive a D are eligible.

“Students should not assume that they will definitely be able to take advantage of this option if they receive a D in 8.01 — they may still need to repeat 8.01,” warned Chakrabarty. “But we hope to continue to offer it on a regular basis. Our data show that the students who pass the Second Chance program generally do well in 8.02 in the spring, so it seems to be successful at improving outcomes for the Physics GIRs.”

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GIRs, from Page 1

“This year, it was biology. We had a lot of students who chose to take biology because of the faculty member who was teaching it,” said Norman. “They possibly didn’t have the chemistry background that they needed. There is never one subject that is always the subject with the most flags.”

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“The Physics Department noticed that, each year, there is a small number of students who only narrowly miss passing 8.01,” explained 8.01 Course Administrator Deepak Chakrabarty ’88. “We felt that these students show sufficient command of the material that they would benefit from a ‘second chance’ to pass the final exam, as an alternative to repeating the entire course.”

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A select number of students who do not pass 8.01 in the fall are given the chance to take a new 8.01 final exam at the end of IAP after undergoing daily intensive review during that period. If they do well, their physics grade is changed from a D to a C-, and they can take 8.02 in the spring.
WASHINGTON — As the nation’s top Democrat, President Barack Obama has a clear imperative: to ratchet up pressure on Republicans for across-the-board spending cuts by using the power of his office to dramatize the impact on families, businesses and the military.

But as president, Obama is charged with minimizing the damage from the spending reductions and must steer clear of talking down the economy. A sustained campaign against the cuts by the president could become what one former aide called “a self-fulfilling kind of mess.”

As a result, Obama is carefully navigating between maximizing heat on Republicans to undo the cuts while mobilizing efforts to make sure that the steep spending cuts do not hurt Americans. His advisers acknowledge the potential political perils ahead as the president struggles to find the right kind of balance.

At his first Cabinet meeting of his second term Monday, Obama called the cuts an “area of deep concern” that would slow the country’s growth, but promised to “manage through it” while pursuing a robust agenda. It was an echo of his formulations from the White House podium Friday, when he began to dial back the dire warnings about long lines at airports and furloughs of FBI agents, to name a couple, that he had made over the past several weeks.

“I’ve instructed not just my White House but every agency to make sure that regardless of some of the challenges that they may face because of sequestration, we’re not going to stop working on behalf of the American people,” Obama said, using the formal name for the spending cuts.

The president’s approach is unlikely to satisfy Obama’s most partisan backers, who view blaming Republicans for the deep spending cuts — especially in the military — as a tantalizing opportunity for political gain. And stepping back from a battle over the cuts could allow the significantly lower spending to become the “new normal” for the federal budget.

But a high-profile focus on the cuts in the months ahead is risky, too.

If severe economic pain ultimately fails to materialize, Obama could be blamed for hyping the situation, much like his Cabinet secretaries were in recent weeks. (Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, for example, was criticized for declaring the nation would be “less safe” because of furloughs of border patrol agents.)

Seeking short-term political gain with the spending cuts could also make more difficult the president’s hopes for a longer-term budget deal with Republicans on taxes and entitlement spending.

Obama’s team is keenly aware that the more he focuses on the cuts, the more he threatens to divert attention from his second-term priorities on guns, immigration and preschool.

“You can’t simply put them on hold and simply deal with this,” David Axelrod, a former top adviser to Obama, said in an interview.
Undergraduate tuition rises by 3.24 percent

MIT’s undergraduate tuition will increase by 3.24 percent for the upcoming academic year (2013-2014), according to an announcement made by the MIT Corporation last Friday.

This rise in undergraduate tuition is the lowest increase since 2000. Undergraduate tuition has increased dramatically since the start of this data series, in 2000, when tuition was only $25,000 per academic year. After this year’s 3.24 percent figure, the tuition increase from 2001 to 2002 was the next smallest, at 3.49 percent.

MIT has also planned to increase the budget allocated for financial aid for undergraduate students. The MIT News Office reports the size of the financial aid budget for the coming year to be around $97.6 million, the largest such annual total. This is also much larger than the corresponding value in 2000, which stood around $44.5 million.

Part of the large rise in tuition is MIT’s commitment to a tuition-free education for those with family incomes less than $75,000, the MIT News Office states. The increase in the financial aid budget was only 2.85 percent, however, meaning that financial aid increased more slowly than tuition.

While part of the rise in financial aid may be committed to decreasing the net payment, some of the increase must be attributed to the dollar inflation. Additionally, while the total financial aid budget increased, MIT’s class sizes have also increased consistently over the years, meaning that the aid funds must be spread over more students.

---Tushar Kamath

The MIT Figure Skating Club’s Annual

FIGURE SKATING EXHIBITION

Ice Arena, Johnson Athletics Center
Sunday, March 10
2pm
Free Admission

Ice Dancing, Freestyle, Group Numbers, Pairs

**This event is hosted by the MIT Figure Skating club and is sanctioned by the United States Figure Skating Association**

http://web.mit.edu/skatingclub/www/Home.html

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Do you want to be like Sherlock Holmes? *The Tech* is looking for investigative reporters.

Do you like asking tough questions?
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join@tech.mit.edu
Chief Economist for Google

Monday, March 11
4:30 - 5:30
E51-345
*Reception Afterwards
Search for new DUE begins, led by Graham Walker

Each of the 57 candidates under initial consideration is a member of the MIT faculty

FROM PAGE 1

The committee’s charge is to recommend three to five candidates to Chancellor Eric Grimson PhD ’80, who will make the final choice. “We’ll all hear at once who the new dean is,” said Walker.

Currently, Walker says, the committee is gathering input on three topics from the MIT community: what they see as major issues and challenges that the new dean will face, qualities people want in the ideal dean, and actual candidate suggestions. The committee is trying to reach out “as broadly as possible and get input from as many different types of people.”

On the student side, Grace Young ’14, a Arts Education major, one of two undergraduates on the committee, said that the student effort is currently an informal process of personally seeking input from undergraduates, in addition to gathering input from the Undergraduate Association. According to other undergraduate member Anubhav Sinha ’13, they are also planning to send a survey to MIT undergraduates. When asked if there would be any formal open events regarding the matter, like a forum, Young said, “Likely not,” adding that members of the community can approach the committee at due-search@mit.edu, or contact individual members in person or through email.

Though they are looking for ideal qualities, “as always, there is no dean from heaven anywhere on this earth,” chuckled Walker, who had been in two prior DUE search committees and chaired one of them. Walker said many people have a poor understanding of what the dean for undergraduate education does — “I think some people think he sits in his office and talks to undergrad students all day!”

According to Walker, the new dean will most likely have administrative experience to be able to manage a staff of 260 and a $26 million budget, including such critical offices as admissions, the registrar, and Student Financial Services. The dean must also be someone who is “widely respected in the Institute,” both in a personal and academic sense, as the dean serves on academic councils.

One limiting factor, though, is that the next dean will most likely have to all but give up his research for his or her term. “It tends to tank your research career because you’re busy almost all the time,” said Walker, explaining that candidates often find themselves having to consider “where they get their joy from.”

The new dean will also be in charge of crafting undergraduate education and policy, and, in particular, interfacing with the new Office of Digital Learning. Since the new dean will be in the midst of this education revolution, “the committee hopes to have somebody with “not just experience teaching, but vision, understanding,” Walker said. Such qualities could also help a dean who might face limitations in admissions depending on the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision on Fisher v. University of Texas, which concerns affirmative action.

Walker said that many suggestions have come to their committee from throughout the Institute. Some nominate others who might be good candidates, said Walker, and the committee see if they are interested, while others “make it known that they’re interested.” Overall, the committee is trying to quickly identify the best candidates to consider. “There are many well-meaning people, but only one of them will end up being the dean.”

The committee urges that anyone with feedback or comments send them to due-search@mit.edu.
Examining one of the common sports injuries

By Niidharsh Anandasivam
SPORTS STAFF

"Uh-oh uh-oh, Rose came down bad on his left foot. See him? Holding on to his knee... holding on to his knee... and DOWN!" This was the voice of play-by-play announcer Kevin Harlan on TNT during game 1 of the first round of the 2012 NBA Playoffs as Chicago Bulls all-star point guard Derrick Rose, arguably the most explosive player in the NBA, suffered an injury that would keep him out of basketball for over six months. At this point in the game, the Bulls were up by twenty with less than two minutes left in the fourth quarter, and many Bulls fans were wondering why Rose was still on the floor. After watching Rose land awkwardly and tear his left knee’s anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) on a meaningless play, Bulls head coach Tom Thibodeau must have regretted his decision to keep Rose in the game after the Bulls had already sealed the victory. Through the Bulls won this game, they lost the best-of-seven series to the lower-seeded Philadelphia 76ers. More importantly, the Bulls were going to miss their leader and superstar, Derrick Rose.

On May 12, 2012, nearly two weeks after the devastating injury, stretching-well-rested Bulls team physician Brian Cole, Chairman of Surgery at Rush Oak Park Hospital in Chicago, performed the ACL surgery, using a graft from Rose’s patellar tendon to repair the ACL. Ever since then, Rose has been working towards a return to the NBA through various rehabilitation techniques. He is expected to return soon, as has already been nearly ten months since his surgery. The expected rehabilitation time for an ACL tear is usually six months to a year.

Zooming in anatomically

There are four main ligaments in the knee that connect the thigh bone (femur) to the shin bone (tibia). Out of these four, the ACL, at the front of the knee, is the smallest, but probably most vital, since it controls rotation and forward motion.

The other three are: the posterior cruciate ligament (PCL), which has the same connectivity as the ACL but is located at the back of the knee, as its name suggests, and controls backwards motion, the lateral collateral ligament (LCL), which connects along the outside of the knee, allowing for sideways, sideways motion, and the medial collateral ligament (MCL), which connects along the inside of the knee and keeps it stable during sideways motion.

But how is the knee cap (patella) connected to the femur above and tibia below? The patella, the bone in the front and center of the knee, is connected to the femur and tibia by the quadriceps tendon and the patellar ligament, respectively. These structures are the main components of connectivity in the knee area.

Causes and prevention

“Cutting” in sports, characterized by the planting of a foot and a change in direction of motion, is the most common cause of ACL tears, as the knee collapses. This non-contact mode of injury is common in cutting-intensive sports such as basketball, soccer, and football, in which players need to move with quickness and agility create space between themselves and defenders to succeed. To achieve this separation, players rely on abrupt turns followed by acceleration, and this makes them vulnerable to knee injuries. However, there are also contact modes of injury, including being hit unexpectedly during a blindside check in hockey.

According to Texas Sports Medicine’s Dr. Tarek Soueydi, head team physician of the Dallas Mavericks, ACL tears can possibly be prevented by stretching and strength endurance training—endurance is important because athletes are more prone to injuries when fatigued, since muscles are no longer good shock absorbers when tired. This affects the precise and explosive nature of the ACL. Ever since then, during the landing after a jump, increasing the chances of a ligament tear.

Diagnosis and treatment

Generally, athletes with ACL tears are advised to see an orthopedic surgeon specializing in sports medicine, and an MRI is taken for visualization. However, there also exists a specific physical test for ACL injuries performed by physicians: the Lachman test. In this test, the knee is flexed at about a thirty degree angle and the tibia is pulled to examine the forward motion of the tibia compared to the femur. Increased forward motion of the tibia suggests a torn ACL.

Since the ACL does not repair itself like other ligaments, arthroscopic surgery is used to substitute the ACL with patellar ligament, which connects the patella to the tibia. Risks of this ACL reconstruction procedure include infection, persistent stiffness and pain, and instability. Rehabilitation involves strength training techniques for the knee, and this usually lasts around six months. An ACL tear used to be a career-ending injury since the technical surgical procedures had not been developed, but now there is an over 95 percent rate of return for athletes suffering from ACL tears.

Looking to the future

Many famous athletes have suffered from this devastating injury, including Vikings star halfback Adrian Peterson. Peterson tore his ACL in December 2011 after he took a hit from the side and bent his left knee, but he returned to the NFL the next season and had a stellar season this past year thanks to surgical and rehabilitation advances. Along with these improvements, better knowledge of preventive practices and perhaps even bioengineered ACL tissue, as research from the Division of Sports Medicine at the New England Medical Center suggests, show promise for our ability to solve the frequent and pervasive problems of the ACL sports injury.