Annual Report Year's Events

The Institute should maintain its normal program and long-term objectives in the present period of uncertainty. President Killian has reiterated in his annual report to the Corporation. As stipulated in the Institute's charter, the report covers all phases of activity for the year 1956-57 including educational program, recreational and living group activities, and defense research.

President Killian suggested further that the Institute should be ready to meet any sudden change of national policy or need and that M.I.T. be prepared to accept additional responsibilities in behalf of national defense. He termed such plans "strategy for uncertainty."

Foremost in his discussion of the educational program, the President placed the Faculty Committee on Undergraduate Pol icy, which was set up last year as a result of the "Leeward Report," to continue study the undergraduate curriculum, its objectives, its standards, and the philosophy of education.

During the first year the committee has devoted special attention to problems of the freshman year. Innovations initiated include the designation of a faculty advisor for each section of freshmen students, a change which has led to closer student-faculty relationships. The committees sponsored orientation lectures for freshmen early in the fall term and a review period at the end of each term of the freshman year. Upon recommendation of the committee the Institute's faculty has appointed a special committee to study the curriculum of the first two years, which is basic to all courses.

Another important change was the creation of a committee on student aid. To implement this committee, the Institute created the new administrative post of Director of Student Aid, to which Dean Thomas W. Philp was appointed.

The President's report noted important changes in curricula and teaching methods in the various departments of the Institute.

"The spirit of those changes," President Killian said, "is the same throughout the Institute: to increase the flexibility of the program, to respond to new professional demands, to enlarge the opportunities for creative achievement in the undergraduate years, to integrate the various aspects of the student's work and to help make the student's college experience become meaningful as a unified whole."

He cited as illustrations a number of changes in courses, and an effort to permit students more freedom in examinations.

The Department of Chemical Engineering has dropped its language requirement to permit students more choice in the junior and senior years. The Department of Meteorology has thoroughly revised its undergraduate curriculum to promote a significant contribution to the education of the professional man.

General Education

During the year the Institute received a grant of $100,000 from the Carnegie Corporation for the purpose of strengthening the Institute's program in general education. The President said, "much study," the President said, "has gone into the planning of these courses and we are evolving an integrated program which promises to make a significant contribution to the education of the professional man."

The General Education program is divided, the President said, into five main areas: the humanities, followed by four electives.

"Students and staff," the President said, "now have an exceptional opportunity to work together with good will and common purpose in developing sound policies for our enlarged dormitory system. To accomplish this teamwork we must clearly distinguish between the responsibilities which the Institute must assume and the responsibilities which are appropriate to student government."

Looking to the future the President raised a number of important questions for consideration in planning already refinement of undergraduate education. These problems, he said, will require boldness and imagination to solve. Questions that are presently commanding attention, he said, include the kind of general education that should be provided in the years immediately ahead to best prepare them for present-day work, and ways of providing adequate incentives for outstanding undergraduate teaching so that faculty members are neither gratified nor demoralized for creative work in the classroom.

Our universities, President Killian (Continued on Page 4)