Security and Education

The Security Office at MIT is not included in the General Catalog. It's hard to pinpoint the exact reason, but might it be a feeling that security systems and education are not complementary?

The danger of a campus becoming dominated by security measures from educational ideals. It is true that the investigating and classifying burden for security clearance has been removed from the realm of the universities. But the nature and enforcement of security measures cannot be ignored. The predominance of science and engineering at MIT seems to make a similar decision here almost impossible. There is a great danger that there will develop the desire to maintain the security measures with educational ideals. In the words of Vice-President William Harrell, "We wished to avoid a situation where the free interchange of ideas among members of the staff, engaged in open research and teaching, could not be carried out without interference by the security systems.

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