NASA Grants $3 Million For New Space Center

Construction will begin late this year on a new Space Research Center financed primarily by a National Aeronautics and Space Administration facility grant.

President Stratton made public Saturday the agreement between himself and NASA administrator James Webb under which the Institute receives $3 million from NASA for the center. MIT will provide $1 million from the Second Century Fund to supplement this.

The center will be constructed on Vassar Street directly behind building 31. Its five stories will contain about 10,000 square feet of laboratories, offices, and classrooms. Construction will take about two years.

A director of the Center has not been chosen yet. At present, planning is in the hands of the Faculty Committee on Science and Engineering Connected with Outer Space, which is headed by Provost C. H. Townes. A director will probably be chosen within the next month, according to the committee, and assembly of a staff will then begin.

NASA will also augment the grant for the Center itself with increases in grants for research and fellowship, which now total about $1.5 million. The increases will range from $500,000 to $1 million per year for the next three to four years.

Over 30 percent of the faculty of the Institute is presently engaged in space research, and President Stratton, with more than 30 professors from 14 departments and 4 schools represented.

A total of more than 500 people, including faculty, research assistants, and graduate students, are working in this field at MIT, he said. In 1961, 15 percent of the candidates for graduate degrees at MIT carried out research and wrote theirses in space-related fields. These factors figured in the NASA decision to grant the money.

The center is to serve as an extra-institute focal point for campus-related research. Stratton said, and will permit greater interaction among the disciplines involved in the US space program.

"The Institute is now at a point where this new center is crucial to the appropriate development of MIT's commitment to advanced research and teaching in space-related fields."

3-Day Event Next Month

Winter Weekend To Have Si Zentner, Bo Diddley

President Stratton, Bo Diddley will entertain feature by Bo Diddley and Si Zentner's orchestra.

The schedule of this all-Institute Weekend is to follow:

Thursday night, Feb. 21: basketball game with Coast Guard Academy. Faculty will play students between halves in a match sponsored by T-Club. Bo Diddley will entertain until 1:00 a.m. after the game.

Friday night, Feb. 22 (Washington's Birthday): formal dance in the Armory, with music by Si Zentner's orchestra.

Saturday afternoon, Feb. 23: a cocktail party sponsored by IFC, and a Dormcon-sponsored folk-song featuring Jacki Washington.

The three parties will be open to all attending the Weekend.

Thurman as Convetion

Dr. Howard Thurman, Dean of Marsh Chapel at Boston University, speaking at the Christmas Convocation at Dec. 19.

-Photos by Joseph Baro

To Visit India, Africa

Strattons On 5-Week Trip

President and Mrs. Julius Stratton embarked Saturday on a five week trip to Africa and India. Dr. Stratton, a trustee of the Ford Foundation, is making the trip to observe some of its activities abroad.

After making a stop in Rome, Dr. Stratton will arrive in Lagos, Nigeria, January 8, and at Nairobi, Kenya, January 15. While in Africa he will meet with some of the 17 MIT fellows who, in a Ford Foundation sponsored program, are spending two years in various countries as staff workers for governmental development cooperation.

Stratton plans to arrive in Bombay, January 21, and will visit the Tata Institute and the Technical Institute there.

On January 31 he will visit the Indian Institute of Technology in Kandpur, a new institution being developed with the aid of American universities in a program set up by the Government of India, financed by MIT.

From there he will go to Calcutta, where he will visit the Calcutta Management Institute and the Metropolitan Planning Organization, both of which are sponsored by MIT.

Lobdell, who attended the Institute from 1914 to 1917, was honorary vice president of the Alumni Association from 1941 to 1947, has been president of the Alumni Association, and is currently a trustee of the Alumni Association of MIT.

On July 1 he will return to Houston, where he will visit the California Management Institute and the Metropolitan Planning Organization, both of which are sponsored by MIT.

He will arrive February 3 in Delhi, where he will give a lecture at the University of Delhi.

Construction Proceeds On Tech. Square, Housing Projects

Construction of the four story section of the new married students apartments is proceeding at a rapid rate. The tower will contain efficiency and one bedroom apartments. The other apartments will consist of two bedrooms. The apartments will be ready by fall.