Ford Foundation grant develops School of Engineering

By Timothy Proctor

“The 1954 Ford Foundation grant is of special significance to the School of Engineering,” said Dean Gordon B. Bower in the School’s recently released report. “Applicable across the whole spectrum of our teaching and engineering,” the grant was also the largest made to any institution for the study of engineering education up to that time, and helped launch the Infant Second Century Fund.

The report cited several major advances that had already been made using the Ford funds. In early 1959, for example, the Institute set up new graduate programs in materials engineering at the Doctor’s and Engineer’s degree level.

Subsequently, the Metallurgy Department decided to offer a complete undergraduate program in Materials Science, using the Ford grant to develop courses, course programs, study groups, and especially improved laboratories.

Increased interest of students in other Departments led to the formation of a “completely new community of Engineering faculty for sophomores and juniors. This in turn led to the development of a freshmen elective, “Structure of Metals” (3.15), and a coordinate laboratory course, 3.16, as well as several freshmen seminars. Finally, related courses throughout the Institute were strengthened to provide a better background for the new course.

Dean Bower also detailed a “range of interest in laboratories built around project-type activities.” The Department of Mechanical Engineering developed an undergraduate projects laboratory which was cited by Dean H. Guyford Stever of the Department as having “important educational aspects.”

The Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics built up a similar lab, whose subjects “have continued to be an outstanding success in education,” according to Dean Charles S. Draper. Simultaneously, the Department of Electrical Engineering emphasized some of the Ford funds to construct a facilities lab and other equipment designed to increase individual work.

Stimulation of a different kind was provided in the Department of Civil Engineering by the Ford Postdoctoral Fellowship Program. Dean Miller of the Department stated that “no other single research project for Ford grant has proven to be so valuable . . . to the total program of the Department.”

Dean Bower emphasized: “Not only have great changes taken place within the School, but these have been interacted with a wide range of activities throughout the Institute.”

Among these interactions was the formation of the Zacharias Committee to review the core program.

The discovery of considerable rhombohedral in many practicing engineers and the growth of an interdepartmental approach to the problems of the School of Engineering was another.

The thirtieth annual “A Ball” to be held at Walker Memorial

The thirtieth annual Franklin Amasa Walker Assembly will be held Friday, April 11, at Walker Memorial.

The ball, white tie and tails required, will commence at 10 pm with a reception by President and Mrs. Straton and other guests of honor.

Music will be provided by Harry Marlar’s orchestra.

Other entertainment will include several performers as yet to be announced.

Goldwater overpowers opponents at Wellesley mock GOP convention

By D. F. Nolan

The MIT Young Republicans and 50 affiliates in the New England College Young Republicans mock presidential nominating convention held at Wellesley College last Saturday.

Outnumbered only by the Harvard and Wesleyan delegations, the MIT club controlled two key states, Texas and Ohio.

The club president, Charles DeWine, ’66, was state chairman of the Ohio delegation; the assistant chairman was Dick Cunningham,’66. The Texas delegation was headed by Kathy O’Hare of the Dairy Gilka Secretarial School.

Goldwater received a substantial plurality with 283 votes, falling short of a majority by only 38 votes.

Due to delays in registration, difficulties in bringing the convention to order, and a lengthy speech by Congressman Bob Dole of Kansas, there was only time for one ballot.

Of a possible total of 450, Goldwater received a substantial plurality with 283 votes, falling short of a majority by only 38 votes.

Rockefeller came in second with 178 votes, while Henry Cabot Lodge, William Scranton, and Thurston Morton each received approximately 46.

Former Vice-President Richard Nixon received 16 votes, with splinter-group candidates accounting for six votes.

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Today the business of discovery is carried on by 3200 people at the Berkeley site of Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, overlooking the University of California campus and San Francisco Bay.

And the challenge of innovation remains for engineers—in advanced accelerator design and in a dynamic unclassified research program.

EE's: Major electronics development programs at LRL deal with nuclear data handling and acquisition, radio frequency and high voltage power supply systems, the design and construction techniques and semiconductor device development.

ME's: Our Mechanical Engineering work concentrates on design of accelerators and the instrumentation associated with them, on computer development, high vacuum systems, shielding problems and mechanical engineering applied to biomedical research.

Engineering graduates at all levels who want to learn more about LRL should contact the Placement Office for appointments. Campus interviews will be held on Friday, March 6.