The MIT Interlegiate Conference Committee will present a conference entitled “The Urban Challenge” at MIT April 13-16. The conference will involve 200 student delegates from universities across the country. The field of urban problems has been traditionally discussed in the academic world from the social, economic, political, or technical standpoint. “The Urban Challenge” at MIT April 13-16 will attempt to change this “or” to an “and.”

The purpose of the conference is to promote nationwide and especially MIT-wide student interest in urban problems and in the interdisciplinary approach to them. To achieve this goal, the conference will have sessions for everyone and also small discussion groups with 10 to 12 student delegates. At the large sessions will feature some of the major themes, and at the small group meetings will propose controversial solutions to some of these problems. These should start the students thinking about the issues, but far more effective toward this end will be the small discussion groups. In line with the idea of a completely student-run conference, these discussion groups will be chaired by students. The choice of which problem to investigate will be determined by the interest of the delegation.

Each student leader will have at his command an expert in each of the fields for an authoritative view. After each discussion, a student reporter will, with the discussion leader, write up a report describing the major opinions expressed, which will be distributed at the next group meeting. All of the reports will be published at the end of the conference.

The executive committee is not the only powerful group at the Institute. There are also the development, investment, and membership committees. The purpose of the development committee is to increase the resources of the Institute with such programs as the Second Century Fund. The committee is headed by Dr. James Killian, with President Julius A. Stratton and Vice President and Treasurer Joseph J. Snyder as ex-officio members. While the executive committee has “general” duties, the committee has “specific” duties, to increase these and other questions about the government of the Institute are answered. In the previous article the history and the membership of the Corporation were discussed; it is concluded with a report of the work of the executive committee, one of a number of Corporation committees.

Each committee has at least seven members. Three are members of the Corporation while the other four are students; one is the president of the class and the others are nominated by the American Association of University Students. Although the Corporation has the final say, often a committee will have only one vote. It is the function of each committee to review the work of each department and report it to the Corporation.

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