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Administration intern comes to MIT

By Roy Benveniste

This year, MIT is a hot insti- tution for students interested in administrative administration. The American Council on Education, thanks to a $15,000 grant from the Ford Foundation, is at- tempting to instigate "administrative leadership in American higher educa- tion" by enlarging the number and improving the quality of pos- tions for positions in academic administration. Specifically, the program is intended to identify qualified individuals, select the most promising, and allow them an experience designed to develop their potential for effective per- formance in administrative posi- tions directly related to academic ares. Air Force Major

The American Council on Educa- tion, an organization in Wash- ington, D.C., in a search for signs of higher education, found 46 promising administrators by a selective process. These college

professors, all educators, were sent to other colleges and univer- sities, where they are at work in the Administration, at the Vice- President or Presidential level, observing and participating in administrative policy decision-making. The program is in its second year, and one of these in- stitutes chose to come to MIT. He is Air Force Major Michael J. Mendelsohn, who is in working in the Administration Office of the Vice President for Operations.

Mendelsohn, who is on na- tive duty in the Air Force, is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Denver, Colorado. He spent his undergraduate years at the University of Pittsburgh, and got his doctorate in English at the U. of Colorado. He has taught for the U. of Maryland and the U. of California, and has been in the Air Force since 1951. After a year of duty in Okla- homa, he went to the Air Force Academy in 1958, where he has been ever since. Mr. Mendelsohn, who says, quite frankly, that he chose this program because of its reputation for excellence, now lives in Watertown with his wife and two daughters.

Administration orientation

Mr. Mendelsohn explained that the ACE program is trying to create an interest by classroom people in administrative work. This year's 46 interns had a meet- ing in Bethesda in September for a 8-day seminar in the prob- lems of higher education, conduc- ted by the Center for Research and Development in Higher Edu- cation.

Here at MIT, Mr. Mendelsohn is sitting in on meetings with VP-Gispert, and with the many offi- cers under him, such as Adminis- trations and Institutional Studies. He is mainly observing the in- tricate workings of the adminis- tration, and he says that he is impressed by the depth and wealth of talent in MIT's Adminis- tration.

A year program

One stipulation of the program is that the interns return to their home institutions for at least a year after this internship. After that, they will be free to assume higher positions at other colleges if they are offered them.

Several students and members of the faculty held a meeting on November 8 to discuss judicial problems. Two major areas of policy were the center of dis- cussion: should Judicial Committee be given more power, or should it be a police force or a trial body itself? Should it have the right to send students to other colleges if it feels they are not following the rules?

No consensus was reached on con- cerning Judicial Committee as a tri- bunal or police force. How- ever, it was generally agreed that pre- sently, and before Judicial Com- mittee can be a police force, students should be made aware of the polic- e power of the ruling. Some Judicial Com- mittee members reported this to the administration.

The committee members are ex- pressed as agreed to by the ad- ministration. The committee is ex- pected to be able to initiated ideas by the students. Some Judicial Com- mittee members say that they would be interested in participating in the planning meeting on December 1st.

Students say that they are pleased with the new committee. They say that they have been given more power and that they are able to make decisions on their own. They say that they are also able to make changes in the rules and regulations of the college.

A long range planning com- mittee is being formed to look into space needs for activities. Present structural plans call for a student government representative from the Student Center Com- mittee, an Architectural and Environ- mental Committee, the Activities Com- mittee, and musical and dramatic organi- zations, in addition to representa- tion from the administration and faculty involved with admissions, student affairs, and the planning office. The committee is also ex- pected to be able to initiate ideas by the students. Some Judicial Com- mittee members say that they would be interested in participating in the planning meeting on December 1st.

The Student Council also held a meeting on December 1st to discuss the new Judicial Committee. They say that they are pleased with the new committee. They say that they have been given more power and that they are able to make decisions on their own. They say that they are also able to make changes in the rules and regulations of the college.

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