Phi Beta Kappa application prepared by faculty group

Within the next month, MIT is planning to file a formal application for a local chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa, the honorary organization honoring undergraduate work in liberal studies.

Prof. William F.ottiglia, Head of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and Chairman of the committee sponsoring the application, foresees a few problems in obtaining a chapter. For one thing, he feels that MIT's lack of a real major in Modern Languages Literature may preclude formation of a chapter here.

Unlike Tau Beta Pi, which honors work in engineering, and Sigma Xi, which recognizes scientific achievement, Phi Beta Kappa provides for work done in liberal, non-vocational fields. As such, it would probably nominate members for work done in the Department of Languages and Literatures, with possibly some members joining from other departments.

At present, the plan has been agreed upon by all seven Presidents of the Faculty Council. After final application has been filed, the sole jurisdictional responsibility of Phi Beta Kappa will rest on an investigating team at the campus. If MIT's application is accepted, a present committee, headed by Prof.ottiglia, will be expanded to draft a charter, and the Bursar's office will correlate the facts requested by HEW.

Visual arts center established

A Centre for Advanced Visual Studies has been established at MIT. President Howard W. Johnson announced the new Centre in mid-July. Gregory Kepes, painter, author and professor of visual design in the Department of Architecture, has been appointed director. Studios and other facilities for the new Center will be housed in the Technology Square, across Massachusetts Avenue from the main MIT campus.

Interplay encouraged

In the new center, painters, sculptors, film makers and writers will work together on projects in visual arts which draw upon the skills of the various disciplines. Exhibition, seminars and other events will be held to encourage interplay among artists and people from other fields. No formal course work is planned.

Activities in the visual arts date back to the very beginning of MIT. "Professor Johnson said, "and there has been a lingering interest in the arts in recent years. This interest... may be held among students and faculty members in every field. Through the visual arts one can impose form and meaning on the increasing complexities of human experience, including those of science, and science today has much to contribute to imaginative new approaches to the arts."