Institute to buy Wellesley; will merge to form MIT

Ed. Note: This story is scheduled to appear in the Wellesley News, the Wellesley College newspaper, on Thursday, as a part of their balance issue. The article is 500 words long.

The five year Wellesley-MIT cross-registration "experiment" is nearing its end with the closing of the MIT Corporation over a period of 19 years. The resulting educational benefits, in be leave at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Wellesley, has been for some time been facing serious financial difficulties. The Wellesley administration and Board of Trustees will be officially dissolved at the end of the 1969-70 school year, and, although, certain individuals will be kept on to carry the Wellesley-based branch of MIT, the new institute will be run by the current MIT administration. Plans call for the refounding of the faculty and staff of both schools to meet the academic needs of the technological and humanities divisions; all will be employees of the new MIT system. The present MIT humanities department will be phased out by failing to grant tenure to its members.

Although no official announcement of the move is expected until MIT president Howard Johnson's commencement address at Wellesley this June, the rumors behind the merger are financial. A small, privately-endowed liberal arts college, Wellesley, like many similar schools, has for some time been facing financial difficulties. Rather than lower the tradition of undergraduate education the standards of the College, the Board of Trustees has decided to dissolve the Wellesley corporation, use the expected freed to meet current debts, and sell the remaining property to MIT.

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