Labs get missile contract

By Joe Kashi

The Draper Labs have received a new $3.5 million contract from the U.S. Navy to begin preliminary design specification for the 'optimal guidance system for Visualization Device Interaction System' (UVS), often cited as the successor to Polaris and Poseidon in the late '70s and '80s.

The contract is called a 'pre-definition contract', usually the 'precursor of the development of the systems'. It is an award for Research Albert Hill. This would follow the precedent of the Polaris and the Poseidon-RV programs, both of which went into hardware development at MIT after the initial definition contracts.

Third contract

The proposal for the contract went out from MIT to the Navy on June 20 of this year from the D-Lab guidance group of San Francisco. The current contract runs from August 15th, 1970 to June 30, 1971. This is not the first contract that the Labs have received under the ULMS program. It will be the third. There are two others in ULMS from October 31, 1969 to the beginning of the present program in August, 1970.

The original contracts grew out of a series of contracts for Advanced Underseas Weapons Systems. Through these contracts continue to be renewed yearly, the D-Labs will be developing the U.S. Navy production work because of federal contracting laws. If it is let out without competitive bidding, then the company which receives the developmental contract may not begin production.

Foster said that his group was looking at many design possibilities, and did not have to settle on a specific package of specifications "for a long time; deployment is a long way off." He further stated that the development of a new generation of ULMS from the category of an operational weapons system, the hard- ware aspect of this undertakings is a daunting task. If it is not undertaken, he continued, it is possible that the contracts would have been passed by the Senate committee on lab contracts, subject to the restrictions recommended by the Pounds report. However, with the labs being spun-off from MIT, the labs are still looking for additional work at Draper Labs. The contract decisions, he said, are the sole responsibility of MIT.

(Cantley revision data for commons costs)

By Harvey Baker

The Undersea Long Range Missiles Services, citing errors in its previous computations, has retracted earlier financial requests related to the Ad Hoc Dining Service Committee, and now claims that the cost of optional commons meals, with all dormitory dining halls re-Open, is substantially more than if a compulsory commons plan were retained.

Cantley commented on the original figures, which he says the student group has only part of "working docs ments," had shown that the deficit for the optional commons would have been $122,500 under compulsory commons, all houses open, whereas under identical conditions, the deficit under compulsory commons would be only $133,500, an increase of just under 9%, making compulsory commons a "good buy" for the Dining Service.

Draper Labs, by Cantley, head of the Dining Service, in a meeting just prior to last week's vacation, presented to the Executive Committee three reasons why the newer figures differ so significantly from the old ones. Arithmetic errors

"There was a mathematical error which contributed to the..." (Please turn to page 6)

CJAC's students complain

By Carile Reeves

Student members of the Corporation Joint Advisory Committee at the September 22 meeting to air their feelings on the lack of a student committee on the presidency.

Corporation members William Coolidge and George Thor proposed that the student members of CJAC that the student body felt slighted because the administration did not care for their opinions on the new president.

The students pointed to the good job that their colleagues had done in researching the General Motors issue last year. To that was largely neglected by the Corporation. Further, they noted that more student input at an early stage could have prevented the Blanche-Grene apartment crisis.

Coolidge began by comparing the Corporation to the executive body of almost any large business. Of the group, he said, "It's powers and responsibilities stem from being the 'cutting edge' of the Corporation. They are the Corporation between Corporation meetings."

In explaining the Executive Committee's duties, Coolidge said that they help by "(1) keeping the President informed on how the alumni feel about the institution and what the problem is. Also, they approve appointments and do a host of other things." According to Coolidge, the Executive Committee is an advisory group and is not charged with making body. They were always, he said, helpful, to support when the administration is having a bad time." According to the masses of organizational work needed for each of the said working docs, and noted that there was little time for prolonged discussion. He affirmed Coolidge's portrayal of the committee as an advisory group and said "the idea is that you support the president until you can't anymore, and then you get a new one."

Commenting on the current president, Coolidge said that at the end of this academic year, Thorn said, "With Howard Johnson, we've kept pretty close to what's going on."

When asked about the Executive Committee's role in the Brewer proposal, which would lead to the termination of the Committee, it is said that any formal arrangement regarding the term of office of the committee "would be for the morale of the president."

Getting away from discussion of the presidency, members of CJAC asked the Executive Committee members about CJAC's credibility with the Corporation. President Howard Johnson, a member, "there's an incredible lack of feedback," the Executive Committee and student and faculty groups.

According to Coolidge, the acquisition of the Simplex properties, another member said, "Most people do not know, will never know what went on."

(Cantley revision data for commons costs)