Dagate – Alexander

For at least the last your student government has seemed useless. It may have been so for the students, but for the faculty and administration, government continues to serve a needed purpose. They need a place to express its discontents on particular issues. The sad thing is that the faculty and administration now use as the "representative of student interests" the current UAP-UAVP-Evexen (a total of six) set-up.

Student government now is tedious to this author. The building governing body which should be feeding the proper MIT channels with student ideas simply does not exist. As a result the only sources available to the faculty and administration for finding out what the students want is the UAP-UAVP. Clearly the (and for the UAP, two people cannot be representative enough – what is needed is a back-up governing body. The need is two-fold so that, what the administration receives must to meet truly representative of student interests but more important, students themselves must have the maximum chance to have their voices heard.

A proposal

We propose to restructure student government, but before following blindly into the new, we have to examine what is wrong. By May 10, we the Executive Committee will propose an amendment to the constitution of the students to be approved or disapproved in referendum.

What do we see happening? At present we favor the consensus type of government – democratic presidents, EFC representatives, and the UAP as Institute Committee. If student organization were worked into the system, the University would rely heavily on the office of the UAP and set up a rotating chairmanship.

Under this proposal for a form of government, the faculty and administration of MIT can go to whom they please for advice and the examiners of student interests. When the governing body speaks, they will have voices from student bodies throughout the institution, the result is that student government will become more representative, and just, more useful than what has exists for the past two years.

Black-white relations

As we attempt to solve the student government problems, Lyman and I shall also be working on another major issue of our platform: the subject of black-white relations on campus. The intramural riots this past February, and earlier this year either touched off, or brought into focus, what is a subtle issue. As mentioned in the Tech, MIT found the "spectres of a gradual withdrawal of blacks from Institute participation. Withdrawal has not, and we think will not, come about. Instead, the blacks have made a move to lessen social participation. But now that they have reached the first step, it is time for a white response.

Lynman Alexander will head a steering committee composed of blacks and whites – some student leaders, some not. The committee will examine the problem, study black feelings and opinions, and study white feelings and opinions. The committee will undoubtedly face problems in its methods of inquiry, in exactly what to do, and in where to attack the issue.

Interaction

Also on our platform are the issues of student/faculty-administration interaction and university social life. Interaction serves the students: we propose inform. The students interested in certain faculty and administration people will be invited to attend, to discuss current issues in their areas of work and to answer any questions the students have. One such meeting was held first term, but not repeated. It was very successful.

We also intend to at least look into reviving the university social life – JP, big toasts, kruptions, cabarets, etc. We must solve the problem of who would be responsible for which function. And of course we must solve the problem of money. Can we hold a profitable, or even a break-even, weekend? We believe it is possible, and we intend to revive the MIT social life.

At present, the UAP/UAVP set-up works so that the former is the liaison between the students and the administration, and the latter works as coordinator and organizer of various committees and their activities. We intend to work in these positions until we set up a larger governing body to handle the jobs. We have presented the two main issues of our platform and two examples of how student government can serve the students. After much thinking about the jobs and work involved we propose to carry out the platform in its fullest.

Eisenberg – Morgenstern

Undergraduates at MIT are in a sad state of affairs. They sit blithely back and allow their tuition to increase, their rents to soar, and the quality of their education to deteriorate, just as the undergraduates have allowed their only true mechanism to combat this deterioration to die. It is time, far past time, to bury the dispirited corps of the present government, and let a new student government develop that accurately reflects the interests of the students in a unified manner the undergraduates of MIT.

The present General Assembly-based government seems to resemble the old analogy of the multi-headed Hydra. It couldn't decide which way to go so that it started to drool. This, in fact, is precisely what has happened to undergraduate student government for the past few years. The various non-related committees which compose the present undergraduate student government all pursue goals which tend to be diametrically opposed at worst and redundant at best. As a result, the undergraduate is hard put to find any benefit at all that is a direct result of student government action. The reason for this is that the present student government is so weak that it can not find the strength to put together comprehensive proposals with the backing necessary to get anything done. And yet, we can not help but consider the possibility of an undergraduate government. Not to mention the fact that the representative nature of any proposal is seriously in question.

Two years ago, when Mike Albert was UAP president, students showed keen interest in international politics. The slogan was "Get out of Vietnam!" and there were marches to rallies in the Boston Common. Why are students in Cambridge? abolishing the draft; support Father Danis - those were the issues to which many students dedicated their energies, and Mike did well at keeping them over the opposition and to the issue. But times changed, and so did the issues. We, Curtis Reeves, and Susan Taylor, believe that today's issues are educational ones: post/Fall in a good idea; and when we are elected in March, we intend to work on these issues, some of which are the same as the issues of the MIT-Wellensie exchange program; more attention should be given to pre-law and pre-medical students; enrollment in the Humanities Department's writing courses, the Architecture Department's photography courses should be increased. Work should be done to allocate more funds to these programs. To us, the important things are those which affect the student daily; in the list of priorities that one draws in one's head, undergraduate education should still be at the top. A few words about our campaign: the current UAP candidates have usually amassed quite large and quite costly campaigns. We have neither the money nor the machine to build such an attack and must depend on more simple means – individual visits and letters such as this article, our visits to individuals and groups, the word of mouth – to spread the word about our plans. We hope to use these same means of communication if we get elected. In another way, in the past, the UAP has office reserved success by the numbers of offices' and vice-presidents' offices he visited per week. Our basic policy power to affect student education is running, is to work for change in educational policy at MIT. We ask for your support and your votes, and urge you to take interest and vote on March 9, regardless of your preference.

Reeves – Taylor

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