The election of Robert Dryer '72 as President and adoption of a new constitution calling for restructuring of the Association of Student Activities marked Tuesday night's election meeting of the ASA.

In addition, the organization elected Robert Ellin '73 as Secretary, Robert Hunter '73 as Treasurer and Fred Duncanson '74 as member-at-large to Finboard.

The new constitution, adopted by a unanimous vote of those present, will recognize existing recognized activities into two categories: Class A and Class B. Class A activities are defined as those activities which have adequate space in MIT facilities, other than honoraries of some sort. Class B activities will be competed of the remainder who do not qualify as Class A activities, but Class B activities may be elevated to Class A status by a majority vote of the existing Class A activities. If more than one activity uses a given space, they will be voted one representative between them.

Only Class A activities will have a vote at ASA meetings and elect ASA officers to the Executive Committee with the addition of the newly created position of member-at-large from Class B activities who will be elected by that group alone. A change in voting procedure will restrict proxies from ASA representatives (chairmen of the activities) to another officer of the activity. This will eliminate the current ability a person has to collect votes and thereby control a meeting of the ASA.

The restructuring of the organization was prompted by a feeling that the larger activities who participate in and benefit most from the ASA should actually run the organization. It was felt that the smaller activities tend not to be concerned with the furtherance of activities in general. None of the organizations which classified as Class B had representatives present at Tuesday night's meeting, though notice was mailed to all.

An important provision requires all activities to review their constitution or file in the Activities Office, W20-401, and present a current list of officers with addresses and telephone numbers within four weeks following last Tuesday's passage of the new ASA constitution. In addition, each activity will also be required to review their constitution on file and update their list of officers by October 1 of each school year. Failure to do so could result in loss of recognition, upon two weeks written notice to the activity by the Exective Committee. An activity must be recognized to rent space from Finboard and hold office space. The purpose of this is to allow only active organizations to retain ASA membership.

ASA elects officers, revamps constitution

By Bert Halstede

Universities should continue to be dispensers of "euristic knowledge" in the humanities as well as the sciences, argued Professor of Literature Alvin Kibel at last Tuesday's Technology and Culture Seminar.

The original title of the talk was "Objectivity in the Sciences and Humanism," but Kibel announced that he had decided to call it "Without Benefit of Clergy" instead. It seems that the church and the universities are the only two medieval institutions that still survive today. The function of both of these institutions, according to Kibel, is to transmit so-called "esoteric" knowledge.

First, Kibel launched into a brief history of the philosophy of rationalism. The basic premise of this philosophy, which came to be known as "rationalism," is that the mind is the basic entity of the game. Having acquired a basic competence and understanding, one can begin to develop a proficiency by oneself. In this case the problem during which one blindly submits to the authority of the "chess teacher" is short, and almost immediately one can see why it is necessary. This is not true, Kibel continued, in a discipline such as physics, where the period of submission may last months or years before sufficient understanding of the concepts and their relationships is reached. Only then can the student be said to be "expert," and in those cases has the student acquired competence in physics.

The function of the universities, therefore, is to serve as a haven for the study of "esoteric" disciplines like this. Indeed, without these institutions, such disciplines might disappear. This, according to Kibel, refutes the idea that "I am a man, nothing human can be alien to me," for unless one has acquired competence in physics, physics is an alien subject.

In the case of scientific research, Kibel pointed out, the practicing scientist attempts to judge the validity of the ideas involved, leaving that to people of established competence. He concluded that the conduct of research in the sciences is that of a hobby, and because of its "controversial nature" and because his group could not come to a consensus.

The Committee and the Student Center met with Rosenblith last week to pass along their views and decide what action to take. On Friday, March 17, Rosenblith decided to prohibit parts of the SDS national convention from meeting at MIT. An appointment was made with Gene Kroch '72 to explain why their application was turned down.

Kroch met with Rosenblith (Please turn to page 2)