Faculty strike action rests on student moves

By Bruce Peetz

Some 25 MIT faculty members, meeting Friday morning to discuss the strike, adopted a wait and see attitude, feeling that the undergraduates are the people who will carry on the strike.

The question of an "emergency faculty meeting" also came up, but somebody pointed out that there had been a faculty meeting Wednesday and nobody there had said anything about a strike.

Most of the meeting, attended largely by junior faculty already sympathetic to the strike, was devoted to discussing a petition begun the night before by Professor of Mathematics Warren Ambrose, that "affirms our support for a strike against the Indochina War and MIT's complicity in that war."

The group raised the question of what is meant by "strike" in the resolution and whether the document should concern itself more with the war, rather than with the difficulties at MIT (the Draper and Lincoln Laboratories and the CIS, for example). The question was also raised whether more emphasis should be placed on the Draper Labs and the CIS.

The resolution was endorsed late in the meeting (by which time attendance had declined to about 15) after several amendments were made to it. Copies were to be circulated among the faculty and returned to Ambrose on Monday.

The text of the petition is as follows: "We, the underigned members of the MIT faculty, affirm our support for a strike against the Indochina War and MIT's complicity in that war. We oppose the MIT projects that help the US government in its exploitation of the Third World. These include ROTC, military research (both within academic MIT and affiliated laboratories), and social research in support of repressive regimes (as at the Center for International Studies). We urge students, staff and employees to join in a prolonged campaign against the Indochina War and MIT's complicity in it."

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