Students discuss Graves decision

By Jamie Swell
Although students met late Tuesday afternoon to discuss the Philosophy Department's recent denial of tenure to Prof. John Graves, (See the article by Alex Makowsky in The Tech, April 18), the issues of autonomous departmental control of tenure and binding overall criteria reflecting community values were avoided, as were possibilities for action.

Prof. Graves answered questions relating to his case, and expressed thanks to students who had organized the meeting on their own in reaction to Makowsky's article.

Graves gave several reasons why, despite his denial of tenure, he has not changed his wish to remain at the Institute past next year. He likes teaching at MIT, has many friends, both student and faculty; he has found his students to be "intellectually unsaturated in my specialty, the philosophy of science," and he believes that MIT needs to build, not weaken, its current offerings and research in the philosophy of science. He noted that although there seems to be wide agreement on this last principle, typified by parts of President Wiesner's inaugural address, "one wonders whether to believe they have much operational significance."

The discussion revealed agreement among the students present that this was a clear-cut test case of the proper issues relating to tenure. The Philosophy Department apparently claimed the right of complete autonomous authority to deny tenure, in spite of Graves' excellence in all three of the criteria traditionally involved: acknowledged outstanding teaching (for which he received an award); acknowledged involvement and activity in the MIT community (e.g., six years of residence in Burton House and chairmanship of the Committee on Student Environment); and acknowledged status of the quality of his research by others in the specialty.

"Two kinds of conjecture emerged at the student meeting to account for the Philosophy Department's decision: first, most departements in top schools (e.g., six years of residence) are acknowledged praise of the Philosophy Department relating to tenure. The Philosophy Department's decision: first, most departements in top schools (e.g., six years of residence) are acknowledged praise of the Philosophy Department relating to tenure. The Philosophy Department's decision: first, most departements in top schools".

UROP obtains funding for summer projects

The Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program announced today that funds are available for most undergraduate student summer projects. This is the first time that UROP has had funds for summer projects, and students are invited to take full advantage of the opportunity. The new funds have come from increases in grants by the Lund, Fernald, the Sloan Foundation, and general institute allocations. In addition, there has been significant support donated by the faculty and administration.

The rules of qualification for funding are not specifically restricted. Undergraduates may have a faculty project advisor, although it need not be in his own designated department. Students are, in fact, encouraged to pick projects in areas other than their own. All undergraduates are eligible but preference will be given to first-year, seniors and sophomores. The research must be done on campus during the summer, in conjunction with a faculty member. The application process requires having submitted a 4-5 page summary of the project plans, and must include a one-page budget proposal.

The prime significance of the summer funding program (aside from the fact that it is a potential source of interesting summer jobs) is that it is the link which completes the availability of year-round research funding. As such, preference will be given to students who are continuing already existing projects, or are proposing projects which are anticipated to extend into the succeeding term. Information about the summer program is available at the UROP office, or through individual UROP department coordinators; questions can be answered by Amy Metcalfe, m6441.

May 2, 1972
5:15 pm
Lecture Hall 9-150

Technology and Culture Seminar

Science and Responsibility

Professor Salvador B. Lubs
Institute Professor of Biology

Moderator: Joseph Weizenbaum, Electrical Engineering, MIT
Respondent: Robert W. Mann, Mechanical Engineering, MIT

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6 GAMES
May 2, 3, and 4 for non-licensed bowlers
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FINA. ENTRY DATE: MAY 1
TOURNAMENT BEGINS: MAY 9

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The MIT Student Center Committee

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TONIGHT:
Po's "The Raven"

Admission Free Bring Blankets
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Sala de Puerto Rico, MIT Student Center
All members of the MIT community welcome

NEXT FRIDAY:
Cat Ballou