Two different and for the most part unrelated events of the fall, the Discipline Committee's current hearing and the student body's decision for a new School of the Humanities and Social Sciences, have thrown into sharp relief a problem that may well be crucial to MIT's stability in the years to come: it is now very clearly apparent to many that there is a lack of understanding on the part of the university itself as to how to relate to its members. This understanding of the university is very different in many ways from the way in which most other universities understand their members. The university has come to see itself as an essentially informal organization; the younger members, particularly students, are often outside of the circles in which these informal connections operate.

Although there may be essential agreement among every member of the university participate...