Spinoff forces rise in overhead charges

Howard Johnson's decision to divest the Labs, failed to turn up sufficient capital to assure the Labs' survival. MIT's loss of D-Lab overhead has been complicated by a move-ament underway within the Fed-eral government to fix cost-benefit standards for research done through university con-tracts. Paul Cusick, MIT Vice-President for Business and Fiscal Affairs, told The Tech that Congress has established a Cost Accounting Standards Board which is to seek individual rates for research in each academic discipline. Such rates would make research in a theoretical discipline, such as mathematics, very cheap at MIT, while making research in empirical fields such as high-energy physics or nuclear engineering very expensive. MIT will face increased competition for these contracts from other universities. Cusick said, because the proposed standards do not take into account the difference in research quality between work done at an expensive, presti-gious university, such as MIT or Princeton, and research done at "cheaper" universities.

MIT's bookkeeping revisions will be further compounded by recent attempts to determine the differing costs of educating stu-dents at various colleges throughout the country. Spon-sored by the Office of Education and the Ford Foundation, the National Center for Higher Man-agement Systems is developing models of faculty time alloca-tions in teaching, research, and university responsibilities and of how students "flow" through their undergraduate years. Fu-ture federal educational funding will presumably be based on each school's cost per student, thus necessitating an extensive and more detailed reorganization of MIT's accounting system.

ASA faces office crunch

(Continued from page 1) responsibilities, such as that created by the allocation of Dean's Office space to ASA groups. At this time, both the Black Student Union and the campus newspaper Thursday have been given space in Walker by the Dean's Office. While this space is not under ASA jurisdic-tion, the groups involved are ASA members, and as such are entitled to operating space as determined by need. The ASA would be obligated to find a substitute room should either of these highly active groups lose their specialty allocated space. At this point, substitute space is unavailable.

Buttrick's proposal to the Institute Space Committee has prompted inquiries into the use of student space in Walker Memorial. The only rooms available in Walker which are large enough to meet his requirements are the aforementioned BSU and Thursday rooms, and substantial improvements have been made on the BSU lounge. Recently, Larry Goldman, editor of Thursday, was asked to prepare an efficiency evaluation of his organization's room, a request which in the past has been inter- preted as asking for a justifi-cation for the space require-ment. Goldman has done so, and the Space Committee will meet this week to determine whether Thursday's space is a possible solution to the prob-lem of the Music Department. When contacted by The Tech, Buttrick discussed the problems incurred by his department's ex-ansion, and admitted that Thursday's office had been a prime target. He stated, however, that this choice had been suggested last spring, when Thursday, because of financial difficulties, was at a low state of activity. Since that time, Thursday had returned to regu-lar publication, and their office is used on a more consistent basis. Buttrick said that, in light of this fact, he did not consider their office a particular target.

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