The Nixon Budget: crunch on students

By Mike McNamara
The MIT faculty, in their first meeting of the spring term, approved the 4-1-4 calendar as the Institute's permanent calendar, considered changes in the Institute's patent policy, received a report from the Special Faculty Committee on MITRF, and was briefly briefed on MIT's Financial Year 1974 budget.

Most of the three-hour session was concerned with the proposal by Professor Kent Hammond recommending that the faculty make the IAP experiment a permanent calendar. After discussion and a full vote, the faculty voted to accept the policy statement presented by the IAP Policy Committee, which Hammond chaired (see story below). The recommendations were amended several times, with most of the debate centering on the wording of recommendations concerning faculty commitment to academic duties during January. There was, however, no substantial disagreement expressed over approval of the calendar plan.

The Special Faculty Committee on MITRF, which was formed in May of 1970 in answer to a growing concern among the faculty over the Institute's financial indiscipline and the 1970-1971 projected budget for FY 71, was presented with a report from the MIT Policy Committee (Professor George W. Rathjens of the Political Science Department, chairman of the committee, admitted that the report was not addressed to him and some of the questions it was intended to answer have already been answered before acting on the budget cuts.

The committee has been charged with the part of the faculty with the arms race, presented a report. The report was based on an extensive study of the Arms Race, presented by the Arms Race Committee, which was formed by the MIT Policy Committee, according to Brammer, "the alarms are fully operational and it is conceivable that they had been dropped from the budget as unnecessary." Fortunately, the Housing Office now realizes the need for the extinguishing agent and they are on order and soon to be delivered.

Plague of fire extinguishers

(Casey Barnes)

Due to shortages in the original construction of the new Burton Hall, there was no provision for student extinguisher installations. Burton Hall, however, has had a number of false alarms in its fire protection system that has caused some concern.

According to Dave Bernstein, Burton's fire marshal, "the original list of fire prevention equipment included a number of fire extinguishers for use in the halls' kitchens. The powder extinguishers have never arrived, so Burton is ready for a "water fire" with its sprinkler system. The hall is equipped with a fire extinguishing system against grease fires or electrical fires in the suites kitchens.

Tracking the extinguishers

Recently there has been some question as to what becoming of Burton's seventy powder fire extinguishers, which were ordered last February. The hall's maintenance supervisor, who was responsible for the list of fire extinguishers, was unable to say if the extinguishing systems had been installed and whether they had been ordered.

"According to Mr. Shaw of the Housing Office, [the extinguishers] were ordered and installed two weeks ago," said Shaw. "This is a fire extinguisher. We have been ordered to the hall's Sheikh as the only fire extinguisher that has been ordered and installed in Burton Hall. As a result of the reports, a thorough testing of Burton's fire extinguishing system was made during the last two weeks. John Lynch, Burton Hall's student safety officer, said that the extinguishers were fully operational and that they had been dropped from the budget as unnecessary." Fortunately, the Housing Office now realizes the need for the extinguishing agent and they are on order and soon to be delivered.

The Boston city fire department has been notified of the problem and they are on order and soon to be delivered.

False alarms

The Cambridge Fire Department has been contacted by the MIT fire alarm service with reports of several false alarms. The department is concerned with the frequency of false alarms and has requested that the Institute's alarm system be made more reliable.

Chairman of the special faculty committee, Professor George W. Rathjens of the Political Science Department, presented the report, which effectively concludes that, after an extensive study of the strategic implications of the Arms Race, the committee has no recommendations to make.

The committee was appointed by the faculty on May 26, 1970, to examine strategic effects of the multiple warhead systems of the future, and to determine what action, if any, the MIT faculty should take concerning MITFRV technology.

Membership of the committee were Rathjens, Prof. W.W. Kaufman of Political Science, and Prof. C. Seidman of the Special Faculty Committee.

(See story below)

The Tech

February 23, 1972

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According to Dave Bernstein, Burton's fire marshal, there were two false alarms reported last week, both of which were confirmed by the fire marshal. Bernstein said that the false alarms were due to the complexity of the fire alarm system, which is designed to prevent false alarms.

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