Blackmer to be appointed to post as associate dean

By Paul Schindler

Associate professor of Political Science Donald Blackmer will be named associate dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences in the near future, according to university sources.

Blackmer will be working with the new Dean of the School, Harold Hanham (The Tech, September 19, 1972) on a half-time basis, while continuing his teaching and research. He will be replaced by associate professor Harvey Sapolsky as executive officer of the Political Science department this summer when Blackmer officially takes over his new duties.

Blackmer feels strongly about his commitment to Political Science; he told The Tech that he was "not deserting the department," however, he added that he was "looking forward to the challenge of working with a new dean, in a new position which, as far as I know, has never existed before." When asked if he would now have more administrative structure in the School, Blackmer was quick to point out that his half-time teaching, and Hanham's work as temporary head of the Humanities department caused a "need for an associate." He expects to "collaborate in all aspects of the job of school dean, but noted that it would take 'practice to accurately define the division of labor.'"

Hanham told The Tech that there is a "crisis character" to the "whole business of humanities education," and how it relates to science and technology is "in need of resolution." During what he hopes will be his short tenure as department head and dean now, Hanham says much work to be done.

As an example, he noted that the "humanities requirement, as now constituted," may not be the "best way" to teach humanities. "There may be no one way," he added, but he will work on the problem. He also alluded to a "crisis in morale" among humanities faculty, saying that "something has to be done."

Hanham concluded by noting a strong desire to return to half-time teaching, and Hanham's work as temporary head of the Humanities department caused a "need for an associate." He expects to "collaborate in all aspects of the job of school dean, but noted that it would take 'practice to accurately define the division of labor.'"

By Mike McNamara

The report of the Committee on Student Environment, dealing with the Institute housing situation, was released Friday.

The report, which is the product of two years of work by the student-faculty committee, was written by Associate Professor Roy C. Graves, who chaired the committee for the last year of their deliberations. The report deals with sociological aspects of the MIT dormitory system. If approved by the faculty, the Graves Report will probably become the basis of any new housing built by MIT in the near future.

The report covers such topics as the homemaker-rather system, plans for a more flexible housing system, coeducational living, and plans for a new house. The CSE dealt with the more philosophic sides of the issues: a working plan, to implement the suggestions of the report, is currently being developed by O. Robert Simha of the Planning Office and Richard Buchdahl of the Office for Operation's office.

Major departures from the last housing plan issued by the CSE (the 1963 Report, which was the basis for MacGregor and the renovated Berson) include suggestions on coed life, which was not considered in the '63 Report, and the development of a housing system that would spring from house to house every year. (A major analysis of the Graves Report calls for the Institute to implement coed living wherever possible in the housing system, without exceeding a ratio of 70% male to 30% female in the coed groups. Although the report strongly urges coed living, the committee realized that some students would prefer single-sex housing, and that such housing should be provided. The suggestions on coed living were based on an extensive questionnaire circulated by the CSE last year.

The "mobile housing system," as the second preprint is known, would establish a list of students eligible for each year's housing. The CSE feels that provisions should be made for groups of students who want to move together, and for students who don't want to move at all.

This is the first major report by the CSE since 1953, when the last housing plan was issued. In 1969, when many administrators, members, and house presidents, for more new housing would be available, the CSE, then chaired by Associate Professor Ray Feldman of Course XVII, was asked to determine if the precepts of the '63 report should be used to design new housing. After the prospects for "Gregory" housing failed, the CSE slowed its deliberations. "With the financial crisis, we didn't know whether we were planning for 1972, '60, or '85," said Graves. It wasn't until last year that the committee started to work hard on the report. We had to start almost from scratch," Graves recalled. "We reviewed many reports and studies on MIT housing, and met for about two hours a week almost every week." Graves authorized the report himself, over the summer last year.

Copies of the Graves Report have been mailed to all faculty, members, administrators, housemen, and house presidents. Copies will be available at the desks and libraries of the dining halls. The report may be ordered from The Dean for Student Affairs office.