By Mike McNamee
Three faculty members were appointed to the rank of Insti-
tute Professor, the highest an-
demic honor at MIT, according to an announcement released
Monday.

Professor Philip Morison of the Physics Department, Walle
J. H. Nauta of Psychology, and Robert Solow of Economics
joined the six other faculty members in the post after the faculty
voted to bestow this honor. Bes-
sides the nine Institute Profes-
sors, there are currently 15 In-
stitute Professor Emeriti.

Institute Professor is a post
bestowed by the faculty in rec-
ognition of "greatness as partic-
ipation in, and contribution to,
the intellectual and educational
life of the Institute," according
to a statement made by the
Committee on Educational Pol-
icy last spring.

The three latest appointments
bring the number of Institute
Professors appointed this year
to four, Gordon S. Brown, Profes-
or of Electrical Engineering,
was made an Institute Professor on
February 9, and became an
Institute Professor Emeritus
when he retired on June 30.

According to the announce-
ment, an Institute Professor is
no longer directly responsible
to his department, but related
directly to the Provost. An Insti-
tute Professor "does not have
specific departmental or school
responsibilities." The statement
added, "Appointment [as an In-
stitute Professor] provides a
special opportunity to work a-
cross departmental boundaries."

Institute Professors are also
granted the right to serve half-
time for five years past the
normal retirement age of 65.

There are usually no more
than twelve Institute Profes-
sors at any one time, and the CEP
recommends that this limit must
be maintained under most circum-
stances. Nominations for an In-
stitute Professor are made by
MIT faculty members, and are
considered by the Academic
Council and the Chairman of the
Faculty.

The Chairman and the Pres-
ident then appointed an ad hoc
committee to investigate the ap-
pointment, which reports di-
rectly to the President. The fac-
ulty then considers the nom-
ination.

A listing of the professors
who have met the standards in
the past may indicate what the
standards really mean.

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