CLASS OF '78 SIZE SET AT 1000

By Mike McNamer

The Academic Council announced last week their decision to set the size of the Class of 1978 at 1000, up 100 from the class of 1977 which was admitted this year.

The decision to return to classes in the 1000-student range was made mainly on academic considerations, and will result in overcrowding of the undergraduate dorms and the placing of 60 students in Ashdown Row, which has previously been used only for graduate-student housing.

The Academic Council, a top-level group consisting of high administrative officers and the Deans of the various schools, made the decision on the class size after a study was done by an ad-hoc committee consisting of representatives from Financial Aid, Admissions, the Provost's Office, Planning, Student Affairs, and the faculty. The study concluded that, although there will be only capacity for 900 freshmen in the housing system next year, the Institute's academic cassions and the fact that the new dorm on West Campus should be completed by September of 1975, indicated that the class size should be increased to the level of 1000 in preparation for the increased housing capacity.

The size of the class was cut last year from a high in the Class of 1976 of 1000 students to 900 due to overcrowding in the housing system. At that time, it was thought that it might be necessary to hold the class size down for several years in order to prevent future housing shortages.

COEDS

Final applications for admission in the Class of 1978 are running about four-to-one male/female, according to Associate Dean for Student Affairs Ken Browning, which might well be the case this year.

DECISION REQUIRES ASHDOWN HOUSING

The decision to increase the size of next year's freshman class to 1000 students, 100 more than the capacity of the housing system, will require that up to 20 students will have to be accommodated in overcrowded conditions, and 60 undergraduates will be housed in Ashdown, which is currently used only for graduate housing.

Undergraduates who move into Ashdown next year will include upperclassmen as well as freshmen, they will be housed in the west wing two floors of the house. Associate Dean for Student Affairs Ken Browning told The Tech that he expected "no great amount of integration or mingling" between the undergraduates in Ashdown and the graduate students living there.

This solution to housing shortage is planned to be short-term, as the new dorm on West Campus is expected to be completed by September of 1975. Browning said that the students who move into Ashdown next year will have first priority in the new dorm, and will form the core of the living groups there.

"We think this fact, as well as a new dorm due to open next year, will not only solve the housing problem, but will also relieve pressure on the old dorms." Browning said. The dorms that are currently overcrowded are due to open next year, the Institute's academic capacities and the fact that the new dorm on West Campus should be completed by September of 1975, indicated that the class size should be increased to the level of 1000 in preparation for the increased housing capacity.

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