Senturia urges students to 'put aside rancor'

By Norman D. Sandler

Assistant Professor Steve Senturia has sent a letter to all residents of McCormick Hall, urging residents to put aside "personal rancor" caused last week by a dispute discussed at a meeting between Dean for Student Affairs Carole Eisenberg had been asked to move him as Mc Cormick housemaster (see The Tech, March 12, 1974.)

Senturia said an effort is now underway to heal "rifts that occurred" in the house after it was learned that written complaints against Senturia had been turned over to the Dean's office for action.

In the letter, (see page 4) Senturia said he and his wife, Alice, have discussed the complaints brought against him with the McCormick Judicial Committee "in an open and frank way."

He told The Tech that during the meetings with the judicial committee members, "we talked over what was being said all of us, although I am not sure whether the discussions will have any bearing on the decision facing Eisenhower."

Eisenberg said Monday the Dean's office is playing a mediating role in the discussions underway at McCormick, but added she is still looking into the charges brought against Senturia by judicial committee.

The judicial committee transmitted written complaints against Senturia to Eisenberg's office, and first began talking on his removal as housemaster. However, in the letter the electrical engineering professor had praise for the way in which the matter was handled by the committee.

Senturia advised McCormick residents who were angry with the committee's actions to "tem per your anger with respect for their courage in having pursued what has been to them a tense and difficult path." The Sen turia added that they believed the judicial committee was acting not out of "malicious intent" but "with a conviction that they were serving best the long term interests of the house."

The letter strongly hinted that the question of Senturia as housemaster would not be brought up before a larger meeting of McCormick residents for discussion. When asked about future discussions, Senturia would not elaborate on comments made in the letter.

By Margaret Brandeau

Development of communication skills is an important part of education. Often scientists and engineers find themselves lacking in this area when they get out in the business world. MIT has been trying to do something to remedy this. Through the elective Scientific and Engineering Writing (S.E.W), Professor Robert Rathbone tries to help students with writing problems they may encounter, such as the writing of theses, term papers, journal articles, and technical reports.

"I don't think that students at MIT get as much help in writing as they could," Rath bone commented. When freshmen composition was done away with in 1945 it was thought that the new core courses would teach writing. Although students do write in these courses, Rath bone feels that "something the teaching of writing was lost along the way."

"I do what I can," he added, "I offer an elective and help on as many fronts as possible." Rath bone noted that as engineers progress further in their work, they realize the need for writing skills. "Very few under graduate students seek out a course in technical writing, graduate students ask for such a course, and engineers beg for one," he said.

For 10 to 15 his students do a short piece of writing; they then discuss them in class. One assignment his students had was to explain how a simple electromagnetic device works, to someone who had never seen it. One student wrote on how to use a telephone. "This sounds like a very simple, childish thing to do, but it given students the basis of organizing their thoughts properly," Rath bone noted.

Another assignment was to edit an actual manuscript written by a physicist at Arthur D. Little Co. Rath bone feels that editing gives students an appreciation of the problems involved in processing and communicating. "It's important to understand how people read things, as well as they write them," he said.

Students in the course practice writing to different audiences. They also do oral reports, for Rath bone feels that students generally do not have enough chance to do oral reporting.

At the end of the semester, students are required to do a

**'77 class list due: 345 females admitted**

By Charlie Shooshan

The Admissions Office has announced that 1670 high school students have been admitted to the Class of 1978, due to start at MIT this fall.

Lists of the admitted students, in alphabetical order, will be published Thursday afternoon, and will be available in Room 3-108 at 1:30pm for students who wish to contact prospective freshmen in their home area.

Communications between current MIT students and prospective freshmen is one way of helping admittees decide whether or not to come to MIT, according to Sandy Cohen, Assistant Director of Admissions. "Current student contacts have been most effective." In fact, Cohen said that one of the main reasons the list of admiss ions is published at this time is to allow MIT students to meet with their admittees before going home for Spring Vacation.

Cohen also noted that each living group may send a representative to sign for a copy of the admissions list. Since letters of admission go out Wednesday, students should refrain from making contact until Saturday.

With a class size of 1000 as the goal, 1670 students (42% of those applying were admitted, 345 females. The ratios of admitted to applied for male and female are within one percent of each other.

"We are concerned about minority admissions," Cohen noted, stating that it was dissatisfying that only 2 American Indians applied this year. Sixteen Mexican-Americans (1 female), eight Puerto Ricans (4 female), one American Indian (male), and seventy Blacks (29 female) were admitted.

The "US Department of Housing, Education, and Welfare (HEW)," Cohen stated, "is encouraging minority admissions, yet the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) has said that information concerning race, color, or religion must not appear on the applications."

"Therefore, the admissions office does not ask any direct questions to this end."

Graduate funding up with enrollment

By Ralph Newman

Graduate student funding resources will not be seriously strained despite the 7 percent increase in applications to the MIT graduate school.

According to Dr. Irwin Sizer, Dean of the Graduate School and Professor of Biochemistry, the graduate enrollment will only increase by about 2 percent, and "support is going up moderately," he said.

Sizer explained that graduate student funding is "almost all externally supported." He described the funding resources:

Research assistantships, which are paid from the Institute's solicited research money, a fund of about $100 million. There are 1000 of these, providing funding for one-third of the graduate students. In view of the "newly reconstituted" teaching assistantships (340), which are budgeted by department. The choice in a department, said Sizer, "may be between three TAs or an assistant professor," and the department chooses. Although the Institute finances TA's, "you can't say a TA is gratuitous," said Sizer, adding, "They're the ones who really work blood and bone.

National Science Foundation Fellowships, which consist of 500 federally financed graduate student stipends. MIT usually gets around 15 percent of the fellowship recipients nationwide.

The newly reconstituted National Institute of Health training grants, which channel federal money into "fellowship plus tuition" grants to graduate students in research-oriented fields of medicine, biology, biomedical engineering, etc.

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