Cambridge: Revenue Sharing

Employees form AWARE; group to study MIT jobs

By Mike McNamee

The Employees for Improved Conditions at MIT, an employee group composed of clerical and service workers, has announced that they are changing their name to AWARE - Association to Work for Active Reform in Employment - in order to increase the visibility and effectiveness of the group.

The group is currently involved in efforts to compile and analyze the results of a questionnaire that they distributed to employees whose salaries are paid every two weeks - a few months ago.

The questionnaire deals with issues of interest to employees, according to Susan Sokalner, one of the organizers of the group. It included enough free time so that they could do their own thing and enjoy the Israeli sun.

The group has not been involved in a recent event of interest to bi-weekly employees, the annual salary review, Sokalner said that AWARE "hadn't been asked to participate," although she said that she was certain that the administration is aware of their existence.

AWARE worked with the Personnel Office and the Vice President for Administration and Personnel James Culliton in designing the questionnaire the group distributed.

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Cambridge Revenue Sharing Citizen Participation Convention at Cambridge High.

Photo by Alexander Pearson

Cambridge: Revenue Sharing

The only 2 people who attended the convention from Neighborhood 2 became its delegates.

AFTER LUNCH, each neighborhood presented the results of its deliberations. There was some variation in how each neighborhood ranked the eight categories, but Social Service and Public Safety were consistently first and second. Each Neighborhood, has its own specific concerns and suggestions.

Neighborhood Ten (West Cambridge) simply stated, "This part of Cambridge has never had done for it what the other areas of Cambridge have. We just want to feel that we're part of the city again."

Here an objection was raised that the fifty or so people who had attended the lunch could not possibly represent the city of Cambridge and that some neighborhoods were represented by fifteen or more people while others (Including Neighborhood 2) were down to one person. Thus a motion to table all motions, and for the structure committee to deal with them was offered. This motion was defeated 60 yes, 62 no, 78 abstaining (these figures based on population counts, not delegates present.)

Here some other delegates reminisced that although a structure committee had been set up, no provisions had been made as to how each neighborhood's votes should be apportioned and to whom the committee would be responsible. There was one motion to table this motion as a friendly gesture so that these matters could be attended to. When the bickering continued, however he reintroduced it "so that afterwards we can sit down and heal some of our wounds."

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