Mazlish to head humanities

By Pat Foley

Reorganization problems stemming from the change in the MIT humanities requirement will be one of the first items taken up by the new Acting Head of the Department of Humanities, Professor of History Bruce Mazlish.

"My goal is to see humanities play the important role that I feel they should for each MIT student," Mazlish told The Tech shortly after his appointment to head the department was announced last week.

Mazlish was appointed by Dean of the School of Humanities Harold J. Hashman to fill the post for the 1974-75 academic year. Hashman has served as acting head since he came to MIT during the summer of 1973, replacing Professor of History Richard M. Douglas in the Humanities post.

The new humanities requirement, approved last spring by the faculty, "should be beneficial for students," Mazlish said. "I hope to see humanities getting the attention in practice that, in theory, they are supposed to get," he added.

Mazlish said that he was consulted in setting up an interdisciplinary committee to administer and guide the humanities program. He said that "Departmental offerings should be strengthened, not weakened, by the new humanities requirement," the professor said.

Mazlish, who received a PhD in history from Columbia University, came to MIT in 1970. He is author of several books, including In Search of Nixon: A Psychohistorical Inquiry, published in 1972.

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