MIT graduates facing uncertain job situation

By Stephen Blatt

With the recession deepening and unemployment soaring, the employment picture for MIT graduates is cloudy. Companies are beginning their spring recruiting here this week, but the uncertainties of the economy are affecting the firm's plans.

"The firms themselves are not too sure what they want," said Robert Weatherall, Director of the Career Planning and Placement Office. As many firms as last year are scheduled to come, but the situation is fluid. Many firms have canceled, Weatherall said, and others are making appointments at the last minute.

Last term, the demand for people with science degrees was lower than in previous years, while the demand for engineers was up, except on the doctoral level. But, Weatherall noted, "We haven't seen anyone since December, and the picture may have changed drastically, since then," due to the nation's worsening economy.

New defense contracts have recently been granted for fighters, aircraft, helicopters, and improved ballistic missiles, and will presumably provide jobs for some MIT graduates. However IBM, Bell Telephone Laboratories, and other companies have announced job freezes for calendar 1975.

"The public utilities are in a bad way," said Weatherall, "and the oil industry is 'going carefully,' according to an Exxon official.

Despite the uncertainties in the employment picture, Weatherall said, "I hope students will not stay away, but rather will come in and talk to the companies."

Another major area in which MIT students come into contact with industry is the cooperative program in electrical engineering, course VI-A, which is also feeling the effects of the recession. While companies are committed to keeping those students currently enrolled, John Tucker, Director of VI-A told The Tech, "they may find it difficult to take on new students."

Last year was a near-record year for VI-A, with 1 1/2 applicants applying for 65 openings. Student interest in VI-A is likely to increase this year, Tucker said, but the number of jobs will probably be down.

Although the VI-A company offerings have not been finalized, he said, Texas Instruments definitely plans not to take any new students. He added, however, that Bell Labs and Lincoln Labs will come on board for the first time this year.

"It's a spotty picture," said Tucker, who predicted 65 openings for the students "they may apply following next week's orientation lecture.

Candidates for Corp. sought

By Gerald Redack

MIT seniors, graduate students, and recent alumni are now being asked to nominate candidates for Representative to the MIT Corporation from Recent Classes.

The Alumii Association mailed letters during January asking for nominations. A screening committee will select six names from those nominated for the ballot, which will be mailed to eligible voters in April.

One person will then be elected to serve a five-year term.

Current graduate students, undergraduates graduating between January 1 and December 31, 1975, and anyone who received a degree in the calendar years 1973 and 1974 are eligible to make nominations and to vote.

Younger members of the Corporation contribute new ideas for discussion at Corporation and committee meetings, according to Pamela T. Whitman '70, one of the present Representatives from Recent Classes.

The younger members also have "a more recent connection with the academic experience of the Institute," Whitman said, adding that they "keep the older members more honest."

In addition to attending the quarterly Corporation meetings, representatives may join visiting committees, which provide some of an opportunity for individual input, according to Whitman. The five younger members of the Corporation also serve on the screening committee which studies nominations for Recent Members.

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