The big picture on the big decisions

By Michael McNamee

Don’t look now, but two decisions are going to be made today — decisions which are going to have a lot to do with whether MIT is like, five years from now.

The Academic Council will meet this afternoon to discuss and polish on the decision on next year’s operating budget and the size of the equity level for student financial aid. Each of these decisions is probably going to be a surprise to the majority of the MIT community and the effect of the two together is going to be profound, both in the short run and in the long run.

The largest increases in class size and equity level in recent memory — if not the largest increases ever — have been announced this week. The size of the class is expected to be between 1100 and 1150 students — 100 to 150 more than the class of ’78, and administration officials are predicting that the equity level will rise to more than $2200 next year as compared to the present $1750.

Each of these decisions is being made for reasons that concern the administration about MIT’s future. Each represents possible changes in MIT policies which could be devastating in their impact.

The class size decision, for example, reflects an administration decision to increase the size of the undergraduate student body, and the administration, in increasing the size of the undergraduate population is seen as an important step toward academically efficient use of MIT’s facilities.

On the other hand, the increase in the equity level to a level of need of a student must have has resulted in restricted scholarships and reduced financial aid and loan programs, to name a few. The rise will be used to support MIT’s flexibility in granting financial aid to cover the ever-rising tuition bill, the quality of MIT students and, of course, the艺术 and athletic programs which middle-income families are encouraged to support.

Other short term questions deal mainly with increased lecture and recitation sizes in MIT’s classes and the increasing financial aid to cover the equity increase, and so forth. These questions, while necessary and, in some cases, complex, are not nearly as

interesting as the long-term issues which are associated with the Academic Council is to make the decisions.

For example, will the increased equity level, combined with the ever-rising tuition bill, eventually help to make true the prediction that classes will be only for the very poor and the very rich? With the Federal government placing more and more of its emphasis on basic graduate population is seen as an important short term issue. The class size increase is going to urge students to get more out of higher education. Is this a trend that MIT student body will always be one of the students which it admits but is it not going to be for the very poor and the very rich? With the Federal government placing more and more of its emphasis on basic graduate population is seen as an important short-term issue. The class size increase is going to urge students to get more out of higher education. Is this a trend that MIT student body will always be one of the students which it admits but is it not going to be for the very poor and the very rich? With the Federal government placing more and more of its emphasis on basic graduate population is seen as an important short-term issue. The class size increase is going to urge students to get more out of higher education. Is this a trend that MIT student body will always be one of the students which it admits but is it not going to be for the very poor and the very rich? With the Federal government placing more and more of its emphasis on basic graduate population is seen as an important short-term issue. The class size increase is going to urge students to get more out of higher education. Is this a trend that MIT student body will always be one of the students which it admits but is it not going to be for the very poor and the very rich? With the Federal government placing more and more of its emphasis on basic graduate population is seen as an important short-term issue. The class size increase is going to urge students to get more out of higher education. Is this a trend that MIT student body will always be one of the students which it admits but is it not going to be for the very poor and the very rich? With the Federal government placing more and more of its emphasis on basic graduate population is seen as an important short-term issue. The class size increase is going to urge students to get more out of higher education. Is this a trend that MIT student body will always be one of the students which it admits but is it not going to be for the very poor and the very rich? With the Federal government placing more and more of its emphasis on basic graduate population is seen as an important short-term issue. The class size increase is going to urge students to get more out of higher education. Is this a trend that MIT student body will always be one of the students which it admits but is it not going to be for the very poor and the very rich? With the Federal government placing more and more of its emphasis on basic graduate population is seen as an important short-term issue. The class size increase is going to urge students to get more out of higher education. Is this a trend that MIT student body will always be one of the students which it admits but is it not going to be for the very poor and the very rich? With the Federal government placing more and more of its emphasis on basic graduate population is seen as an important short-term issue. The class size increase is going to urge students to get more out of higher education. Is this a trend that MIT student body will always be one of the students which it admits but is it not going to be for the very poor and the very rich? With the Federal government placing more and more of its emphasis on basic graduate population is seen as an important short-term issue. The class size increase is going to urge students to get more out of higher education. Is this a trend that MIT student body will always be one of the students which it admits but is it not going to be for the very poor and the very rich? With the Federal government placing more and more of its emphasis on basic graduate population is seen as an important short-term issue. The class size increase is going to urge students to get more out of higher education. Is this a trend that MIT student body will always be one of the students which it admits but is it not going to be for the very poor and the very rich?