L-lab committee disbanded

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jects, another faculty committee in a position to oversee any research involving the use of social science data and research is very much the air, and is a matter of great concern to the committee right now," said Dr. Warren Point, Associate Medical Director and chairman of the Human Use Committee. "We've been studying the question intensely for several weeks now and haven't been able to formulate any clear guidelines.

The Human Use Committee, which is charged with "making sure human experimental subjects aren't mistreated or abused," normally would have jurisdiction over Lincoln research, Point said. But many people working with social science data on individuals, he said, don't realize that their work falls in the committee's jurisdiction, and so don't report to the group. "It's very difficult to ensure that people report to the committee this type of research," Point said. "Computerized data is the worst kind - many people don't realize the possibility for abuse of such data. They don't think of the data as representing people."

The MIT research in question involved computer modeling experiments, based on data exemplified by the US Army Intelligence Command on satirical cels. The data reportedly was received at Lincoln over the ARPANET, a research oriented computer network funded by the Department of Defense.

The nature of the work would make it "unlikely" that researchers would report to his committee, Point said. "To be perfectly honest," he told The Tech, "there are a lot of loopholes in the way the committee's charge is set up. There are a lot of projects that go on without any review."