MIT has projected dormitory overcrowding at 150 students next year.

Ken Browning says that there are "No specific plans for where to put them yet."

Activities: 'real world' preparation

By Peter G. Balbus

To people not familiar with the MIT community, MIT exists as an academic institution renowned for its reservoir of research. But for those who are familiar with the facilities here, another strong face of the multi-faceted, fleeting "real world." One of the best mechanisms to acquire this inter-personal awareness is an extra-curricular activity. And as written in a past issue of Sports Illustrated, MIT sports a full roster of 21 athletic teams (without football) — more than any other NCAA-member school in the nation. So the basis also exists for a superior athletic education. As indicated by student involvement, intramural sports are also very big, with over 50% of the 4200 undergraduates here participating regularly, in addition to a high level of departmental, graduate, and professor interest.

But what exactly is "inter-personal awareness?" As Dean Browning further explained, "inter-personal awareness includes character development in such areas as leadership, responsibility, communication skills, and maturity. It enables individuals to utilize their education in the world outside of the college campus — the proverbial "real world.""

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Feature

By Mike McNamee

Budgetary considerations won out over housing capacity this week as MIT Academic Council decided to admit 1100 students that fall as members of the Class of 1980 - 150 students more than the housing system can handle.

The decision continues MIT's policy, announced last spring, of raising revenues by increasing undergraduate enrollment by about 10 percent over the next four or five years. Such an enrollment increase, MIT officials feel, can be made without upending more on educational or administrative resources.

But the decision will place a heavy strain on the housing system, which was stretched last fall to handle 55 students more than "normal" capacity. The Dean for Student Affairs office is searching for ways to soften the blow of the overcrowding, but Associate Dean Kenneth Browning '66 anticipates "a difficult job."

"No specific plans"

"We don't have any specific plans for where we'll put them all quite yet," Browning told The Tech. "I'll be meeting with dormitory officers and room-assignment chairpeople in the next week or so to find incentives to make overcrowding more palatable and even acceptable for dorm residents."

Such incentives might include large rent reductions for students living in overcrowded rooms, special services for students affected by overcrowding, and prerogatives for dormitories that accept overcrowding. "We might even be able to make overcrowding attractive for the student, who wants very low rents and is willing to put up with some inconvenience," Browning said.

DSA is also exploring possible expansion of the housing system through addition of one or two independent living groups, Browning said. One national fraternity — "a very good group" — is considering colonizing at MIT, and plans for an all-women living group are also being worked out. "We're doing what we can to cut the 150 number down," Browning said.

Revenue a key factor

The housing decision is part of MIT's "policy posture for growth," an integral part of the Institute's budget-handling measures. Chancellor Paul E. Gray '54 said "We clearly can use the marginal income that those students represent, and we feel that we can add ten percent to the student body without increasing staff, faculty, or teaching resources."

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By Michael Balbus

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