Industrial Liaison Program expanded and revitalized

By Rich Newcome

A new revenue-sharing scheme involving MIT's research community with industry and a drive to increase the number of industries working with the Institute have revitalized MIT's Industrial Liaison Program in recent months, according to ILP officials.

These innovations, along with the appointment of a senior faculty member to head the program—a sign of increased priority for the program—have brought about a 25 percent increase in ILP membership in the last 18 months.

The program, which has worked since 1948 to make MIT's research expertise available to industry, is working on expanding membership—and revenues—to counter the Institute's budgetary problems. ILP generated $1.28 million in unrestricted fund support for MIT last year, with an operating budget of about $500,000.

The drive for increased membership came as ILP institutes a plan to share the revenue gained from industrial members with on-campus researchers. Under the plan, 10 percent of the revenue from new members is given to faculty and staff members to supplement their research funding. In return, the researchers agree to participate in ILP's information gathering and dissemination, industrial workshops, and other activities.

"They (the researchers) encourage membership among industrial corporations and get extra money for their students and research projects at the same time," said Eric Johnson, an ILP officer. "Everyone concerned benefits.

The membership drive also coincided with the appointment of Samuel A. Goldblith, Underwood-Preckston Professor of Food Science, as Director of Industrial Liaison in September, 1974. Goldblith is the first senior faculty member to head ILP in several years. Johnson said: "He is interested in several different industrial fields in the Liaison Program, and I think the office's recent record reflects his active leadership."

The two changes have apparently had an effect. ILP's membership has grown from 96 companies to 120 firms in 18 months, a 25 percent increase. Each company pays a fee to be listed in the directory, which is updated every year.

Also, a list of publications is mailed each month to members listing 60 to 70 publications which can be distributed to interested members prior to appearance in the journals.

The office holds more than 20 one-day symposia and half-day seminars on major research efforts at MIT each year. The symposia are detailed programs supplying information about various fields of research.

Presently the program is actively pursuing members in Japan, Latin America, and Europe to supplement the 18 foreign companies that are already members. "However, the office has no immediate plans for expansion of staff," said Johnson. "In fact, our clerical staff was cut back a short time ago to increase productivity."

XEROX

For students interested in the COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE or the COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE the Nominations Committee will hold hearings to nominate undergraduates to these committees on

Monday, March 1

according to the following schedule:

COD 7:30pm CAP 8:30pm

Hearings will be held in Student Center Room 400. For information and an appointment call the UA Secretary at x3-2696.

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