Faculty meeting

Faculty altering member rules

By Gerald Radack

The Faculty took the first step toward reducing the number of ex officio members with voting power at its regular meeting on Wednesday.

Presently, various members of the Dean for Student Affairs office, have been designated ex officio members of the Faculty, and have had the power to vote at faculty meetings.

Seven deans and six other members of the administration are now considered Faculty members with full voting privileges. Under the proposed rules, any others named by the Faculty as ex officio members will not have voting privileges.

Since this change is an amendment to the Rules and Regulations of the Faculty, it must be brought up at the next faculty meeting in order to be put into effect.

According to Professor of Chemistry John Ross, Chairman of the Faculty, the Faculty currently has no official rules regarding ex officio members — they have simply been appointed on an ad hoc basis.

Dean for Student Affairs Carola Eisenberg questioned the proposed change, saying that voting powers for associate deans "in a privilege that we think our office should have," and that "it's upsetting to have the rights withdrawn."

President Jerome Wiesner responded that a "lack of symmetry" — other associate deans do not have voting power in Faculty meetings — would make this inequitable under the current system unless a large number of ex officio members are added. "There was a lot of concern on the part of the CEP (Committee on Educational Policy) about the size of the ex officio group," he noted.

Rather than have a large number of ex officio non-voting members of the Faculty, Professor of Electrical Engineering Louis Smullin proposed the creation of a new body that would allow a large number of MIT community members to express their views.

In addition to full, associate, and assistant professors, the Faculty rules list the following voting members of the faculty: the President, the Chairman of the Corporation, the Vice Presidents, the Provost, the Deans of Science, Engineering, Architecture and Planning, Humanities and Social Science, the Sloan School, the Graduate School, the Dean for Student Affairs, the Directors of Admissions and Libraries, the

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