Build resource center for writers, report says

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Story" for Distribution credit, and three of four sections of the subject would be offered next term.

The Sivin Report urged reinvest-ment of the introductory "Writing and Experience," to the Distribution list based on an ins-ervice in the amount of work re-quired and a broad interpretation of guidelines for distribution subjects.

Another Committee recommen-dation is to establish a re-source Center to deal with "many sorts of writing needs that the regular curriculum cannot satisfy," a faculty that would in-corporate diagnostic, special workshops and tutorials, study aids, and all types of audio-visual and literary materials to meet student demands.

Unlike centers in other univer-sities, though, MIT's center should be designed to help "faculty in other disciplines to better deal with the writing of their students," a need the Com-mittee considered "urgent."

Other possibilities for the Writing Program include the design of a system to monitor the writing of all undergraduates at MIT, in place of an English com-position requirement, which the Com-mittee "did not feel prepared to recommend."

The Sivin Report also urged that "English for Foreign Students," now part of the Language Section, be transferred under the jurisdiction of the Writing Program.

As Hanham puts it, there is a wide-spectrum of writing talent among MIT undergraduates, moving from "the foreign student problem, especially Chinese with a very different grammatical structure to master, through dyslexics, through people who got through high school on 'talks and numbers,' through people who write very well.

"Studies have shown that col-leges with compulsory writing programs don't get a measurable improvement in students' writing. It's one thing to require, and another to motivate," Hanham said.

Hanham and Blackmer both felt that although there are problems to be ironed out, the Program has been successful.

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By Allan Mink

R/O planned just for frosh

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