Examing the tuition hike

By William Lassor

It will cost the average American family of four approximately $450 more to send a student to MIT next year than it did this year.

The estimated $550 increase in total costs at the Institute based on a $350 tuition hike, and projected increases in room, board and medical expenses—will be met by $100 more in direct scholarship aid, and an additional $300 in loans and part-time earnings, and $150 more in direct support from the student's family.

These figures apply for a typical family of four, whose annual earnings are equal to the United States Census Bureau average of $17,513. The family of the average MIT student has a significantly higher income.

The total cost of attending MIT this year is estimated at $7410; the family of undergraduates receives $4300 in financial aid, of which over 47 percent is in the form of direct aid. The exact figure for the equity level will be $2500, and, could be as high as $3000 in loans and part-time earnings, and $1500 in direct support from the student's family.

“The struggle to keep the aid program at MIT from deteriorating continues,” said Jones, but he expressed the hope that through the Leadership Campaign, and through increased yield from state and local scholarship programs, the system can be kept viable. Currently, MIT undergraduates receive a total of over nine million dollars in financial aid, of which over 47 percent is in the form of direct grants. The average student on aid receives $4300 a year.

Jones asserted that “the aid system continues to be valid,” despite next year’s increases, adding that “students who are marginal to the aid system can expect the parameters to change favorably.” Thus, a student may be eligible for aid next year even if he was not this year.