Gray refuses GSC request

By Ron Newman

MIT Chancellor Paul Gray has refused the Graduate Student Council's (GSC) request that students be appointed to the Ad Hoc Committee on MIT and Intelligence Agencies.

In a letter dated March 23, 1978, Gray stated that, "Contrary to your representation in the student press, I do not see this Committee's task as that of investigating past activities involving intelligence agencies and their relationships with individuals or groups on this campus." The letter went on to say that the Committee's primary aim is to draw guidelines for the activities of faculty members related to intelligence agencies. "As you know," the letter continued, "other faculty committees concerned with faculty activities do not have student members."

Gray's letter was written in response to a March 21 letter by GSC President Steven Hortz, which stated that "to the extent that the CIA might have an influence on our education, as well as in finding out about us through our activities on campus, I feel it is our right to be informed of the process to which we have not yet been sent due to the absence of UA President Peter Berke."

According to Professor of Mathematics Kenneth Hoffman, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, the possible CIA-Institute relations to be studied include "the identifying of students and faculty by colleagues as potential intelligence agency employees without the knowledge of the individual concerned," and "the formal and informal recruiting of students and faculty for employment by the agencies." The 1976 report of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities reported that such activities are common on US campuses.

Gray's letter claimed that "it is quite likely...that the process of its deliberations, the Ad Hoc Committee may well gather information and discuss...policies and practices that go beyond the activities of faculty members." It went on to assert that student views would be solicited, possibly through open meetings. "The primary charge, however, remains in the area of faculty activities," the letter continued.

Hortz said in an interview last week that he felt "fairly satisfied" with the response, and that he would not pursue the matter further unless "we get indications that graduate students would be affected." Undergraduate Association (UA) Nominations Committee Chairman Barry Newman '79 said that a letter similar to Hortz's had been prepared on behalf of the UA, but had not yet been sent due to the absence of UA President Peter Berke.

Editor's note: Pete & Berke, a well-known Dannon that Lisa and Paul Heftman's Masson, '80 have taken me up on and donethers. I'm doing myself, too. William Colby spoke to a capacity audience in the former CIA director William Colby spoke to a capacity audience held at the MIT Student Center. If you want something else, you'd do if you won. I think they have a good perspective on the job and would be entertaining and exciting as a UAP/UA Treaty. I agree with many of the things they've written and think their approach would be entertaining and exciting as the UAP/UA Treaty will work. Hakula and John Lomanto have organized a student committee to affect Institute policies that affect you. Hakula would be a wise, intelligent, and thoughtful UA. Since he is a freshman, he'll be less inclined to accept the status quo to which we're all thoroughly here.

If you like what these candidates are trying to do, help them. If you want something else done, start it yourself, or with others. These people will help you — whether or not they win.

Remember, vote.

Bogdan Dawidowicz

V.P. '79

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