Financial aid limits to be raised

By Jordan Hollander

The Student Financial Aid Office has increased the standard student budget for 1978-79 to $9,350, raising the maximum possible financial aid by $50.

Changes were made in all four of the budget's components. Tuition has been increased by $350. Room and board, which now have risen $85, medical fees have gone up $25. The maximum allowance for books and personal expenses has increased $85.

To partially balance these increases, the allowance made for food has been cut $185. This was done by charging the base from the cost of the most expensive Commons meal plan to an average figure including some meals eaten on Combos and some eaten elsewhere.

Food Service data show that only three percent of the student body subscribe to the nineteen-plan and only twenty percent of students eat on Commons. The new allowance grants $300 per student for Commons meals plus $5 a day for other meals, giving an average of $38 per week per student. This is a much more reasonable figure for the student body's need, said Jack Frailey, Director of Student Financial Aid.

The lower food allowance helped prevent an increase in the $2500 equity level, according to Frailey. This is the first time in several years that the equity level has remained constant.

The student financial aid a student is eligible to receive is the standard student budget minus the equity level. Though the equity level remains the same, students still need to raise additional funds to cover the food allowance. All other increases are for fixed expenses.

According to Frailey, the increase in fixed costs will be met partly through the normal increase in the parent's contribution, due to the inflationary rise in wages, and partly through a reduction in the University's contribution to the student. Frailey noted that MIT undergraduates receive over $10 a month in financial aid, with an average need of $5.97.

Of that figure $3.2 million dollars comes from MIT — $2 million dollars in endowed funds set aside for scholarships and $1.2 million dollars in unrestricted funds, which have been used for scholarships for the past five or six years. said Frailey. The rest comes outside scholarships from National Merit, SEOG, BEOG, ROTC programs, corporations, etc. and from various types of loans.

One of these loan programs, the Parent Loan Plan, lends money to the parents of students to help them meet their expected contributions. Although only in its first year of operation David Willey, Administrative Associate, Analytical Studies and Planning Group, said that it was "working well" and would be extended next year. The plan is sponsored by MIT and financed with MIT-invested funds.

Parents of any full time undergraduate or graduate student at MIT with incomes between $15,000 and $60,000 may borrow money for up to 8 years of school, whether or not they are eligible for financial aid.

Some changes have been made in the Federal Perkins loan program. Since last year the maximum loan per person has been increased from $6000 to $7000. Restrictions on how the loan must be spent have also been loosened.

Most importantly, the program is now open to upperclassmen. Applications were mailed to incoming seniors and are available in the Student Loan Office and in the Financial Aid Office for upperclassmen.

According to Willey over 80 families participated this year, borrowing an average of $4,000. He said he felt the number of participants will increase this year as opportunities become more reasonable.

New College plan announced

By Mark James

A new program in science, technology and society has received $2.5 million in grants from three foundations, Associate Dean of the School of Humanities Donald Blackmer told faculty at Wednesday's meeting.

The "new college" in humanities, as the program is known, is now under Blackmer's direction. A two full-time professors and several part-time and visiting members now compose the program. Blackmer said that this core group would serve as the center of a program that would involve participants from all of MIT's schools.

Blackmer described the program as providing "focus for teaching and research on the connection between science, technology, and social issues. The present Technology Studies Program will be abolished at the end of this year, and its present participants are invited to join the new program.

Early plans for the program, formulated over a year ago, called for the program to eventually separate from the School of Science, MIT, "a new college" that would cooperate with members of all Schools. Blackmer said at the meeting that changes in plans make it premature to discuss this possibility now. The program is now planned within the School of Humanities, and will remain there during its development, he said.

A recruitment committee is searching for members in four fields, the social study of science, the history of technology, the history of modern biology, and the study of modern industrial societies. A faculty advisory council is giving joint appointments to professors already at MIT, Blackmer said. Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics Leon J. Rubenstein now has such an appointment.

Blackmer would not give details on the funding of the program, as no official announcement has yet been made. He said that the program may eventually lead to an undergraduate major for "a handful" of students interested in the social and historical implications of technology.

In other reports at the meeting:

* Vice President John Wynne discussed implications of the new federal law prohibiting involuntary retirement before age 70. Tenured faculty are exempted from the law until July 1, 1982. Blackmer noted that MIT has several options in dealing with the law; stop mandatory retirement at 65 now, wait until the law goes into effect in three years, or strongly encourage, by financial or other means, retirement even after the law goes into effect. Wynne noted that the present pension structure would give "extensive" pensions to late retirees if it was not adjusted. Chancellor Paul Gray '54 said that the Academic Council would probably decide the issue by the end of the summer.

Students who do not receive substantial support for their thesis work will now hold copyright on their theses under the new federal copyright law. MIT rules now give the copyright to the Institute, in conflict with the new law, according to Jay Lucker, head of the MIT Libraries.

* MIT is now awarding a master's degree in Science Communication as part of Course XXV (Interdisciplinary Science). Another new program will lead to a PhD in Human and Clinical Nutrition.

Equity level remains constant

"But soft, what light upon young Shakespeare's brow! It is the Shakespeare Ensemble's production of Romeo and Juliet, running now through Sunday.

The varsity baseball team's season has been a series of ups and downs. This spring has seen everything from five game losing streaks and 18-0 losses to victories over top New England teams.