Paul Gray next President

By Steven Sullick

Chancellor Paul Gray '54 is expected to be named the 14th president of MIT at this morning's meeting of the MIT Corporation.

According to informed sources, Gray was chosen by the Corporation Advisory Committee on the President. The two week search was relayed to the Executive Committee of the Corporation yesterday and will be presented to the entire Corporation for approval this morning.

Gray acknowledged his selection and said he was "looking forward to the headaches, heartaches, and happiness of the job." His appointment is expected to be officially announced at a special meeting of the faculty called for noon today, and a press conference for national and local media will follow.

Gray succeeds President Jerome Wiesner, who retires this June. It is expected that Wiesner will become life member of the Corporation.

According to informed sources, the Office of the Chancellor, which Gray will vacate in June, is likely to be combined with the Office of the Provost. The exact organizational structure of the new administration is to be determined by Gray, however, and he indicated that he would "spend quite some time in the next nine months thinking through questions of structure for the presidency."

The post of Chancellor was created for Gray by the Corporation in 1971 to provide a "deputy" for the President.

Various informed sources have also indicated that the current Provost, Walter Rosenblith, plans to retire in June, with the end of the current administration. Rosenblith said it would be "premature to comment at this time" and added that "next year could only be determined after we have a new President." If Rosenblith does retire, the selection of a new Provost/Chancellor would be largely at the discretion of Gray.

Today's faculty meeting is scheduled for 12:15pm in room 10-259. The result of the Corporation election will be announced to the faculty there. The meeting will be open, but visitors will be limited in the event of a large faculty turnout. No other issues, such as selection of a new Dean, are expected to be discussed.

Gray has been at MIT since entering as an undergraduate in 1950. He served as Associate Dean for Student Affairs, where he was an early proponent of freshman pass/fail, and then as Associate Provost under then-Provost Wiesner. He became Dean of the School of Engineering and finally became Chancellor in 1971, when Wiesner was elected President.

The Corporation Advisory Committee, which was chaired by Carl Mueller, and the Faculty Advisory Committee on the President, also submitted names.

Gray said that for the last year, since President Wiesner confirmed he would be retiring, he "has been in a state of suspended animation."