**MYTHS ABOUT COMMITTEES AT MIT**

**Myth:**

Students aren't important on these committees anyway.

**Reality:**

Student members of every Committee are full voting members. These Committees need your input. In fact, the Committee on Discipline will not hold a hearing on an undergraduate unless two of its three undergraduate representatives are present. Student representatives are respected by the faculty, administration, and other students.

**Myth:**

I'm only a freshman. I can only get on a Committee if I'm an upperclassman.

**Reality:**

OMCOMM considers students from all classes for most positions. In some cases, the Committee specifically needs a member of a certain class. For example, the Commencement Committee needs a senior and the Committee on Student Affairs needs one student from each of the four classes. In general, all positions are open to all undergraduates.

**Myth:**

A student representative, all I have to do is show up at Committee meetings.

**Reality:**

Wrong! As a student representative, you will be accountable to the student body. You would be expected to be an active member of the Committee, to file reports to NOMCOMM, and to respond to student opinion.

**Myth:**

I won't be nominated for a Committee if I don't have any experience in MIT activities.

**Reality:**

Experience is a plus, but it is not a requirement for any student position. NOMCOMM is looking for enthusiastic and responsible student representatives.

**Myth:**

Committee work will take up too much time.

**Reality:**

Some Committees require members to put a lot of time and effort into Committee work. These Committees meet often and involve a heavy time commitment. Some committees meet only once or twice a term and do not require much time and energy from its members. Each Committee is different. Most student representatives take an active role on Committees and find that their efforts are worth the time spent.

**Myth:**

I want to become active at MIT, I have to run for a class or UA office.

**Reality:**

You can run for an office, but you can also become a student representative on an Institute Committee. Student representatives are nominated at NOMCOMM hearings at the beginning of each term.