Committees report their work

By Sarah Blagman
Will the faculty be converted into MIT's first permanent faculty? This was one of the issues brought up at Reportback, a forum held Thursday evening for undergraduates on Institute committees to report on their accomplishments and answer questions from the undergraduate student body.

The Faculty issue was brought up by Suzanne van Rosenberg '81 of the New Admissions Committee for Women's Interests. "Several national sororities approach Bob Holden (Associate Dean for Student Affairs) every fall," she said. The committee is now trying to determine if there is sufficient interest among MIT women to warrant any action. The committee will have first priority for the West Campus Information building when it is vacated next year.

The committee is especially concerned with the plight of single-sex houses, since 40 of 100 interested women students were turned away from McConnell last September, and the number of women students at MIT is increasing.

Robert Willis '82 of the Committee on Educational Policies (CEP) spoke on the proposed changing of the 1981-82 academic calendar to accommodate the late Labor Day holiday and the week before fall. The committee will submit a calendar in February for faculty approval.

Also on the agenda of the CEP is a discussion of exit changes and standardization between depart- ments as well as in individual courses. The committee seeks student input.

Along the same lines, Al Drake, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, spoke for the Committee on Curriculum (COC). The COC is studying students' perceptions and fulfillment of institutional requirements. "There is a difference between the theory and practice of science and liberal requirements," Drake commented.

The CEC is concerned over the addition of an excessive number of courses in MIT's catalog, which Drake said could make it "the death of all courses." He added, "Students tend to ignore in their plans the courses which are more quickly than we expected." This could cause many to fulfill institutional requirements to be needless, he said. Speaking to students, Drake emphasized, "Don't be reluctant to go in touch with committee members about petitions."

The need for Freshman Evaluations is being studied by the Committee on Student Affairs (CSA). The committee is also interested in the success of working freshmen into MIT residential and academic life during Residence/Orientation Week. How to slow things down? At MIT is a part of current CSA discussion.

Rashi Shreter has approached CSA over the plight of the Kosher Kitchen (in the basement of Walker Memorial) if the building is turned into a graduate student center or if the number of participants continues to increase. CSA is considering the possibility of Institute housing in Kendall Square, as well as a new two-year maximum stay in graduate dorms.

The Commencement Committee announced that it has sent a proposal to President Paul Gray that would institutionalize the practice of having an outside speaker at commencement.

The Commencement Committee is also pursuing the problem of graduation facilities, such as Raymond shutterman site. A discussion of graduation problems with MIT's old diplomas has led the committee to consider diploma material changes.