Student work-study wages raised to $4.15 an hour

By Barry S. Surman

The minimum wage for on-campus student employment for the 1981-82 academic year has been raised to $4.15 per hour, according to Clancy Van der Veld, Director of Student Employment.

The new minimum, which represents a 16.7 percent increase over last year's minimum of $3.30, was set last week by the Office of Student Employment, major campus employers, under the supervision of Stuart H. Cogan, Vice-President for Financial Operations. The increase becomes effective June 1, 1981.

Van der Veld said her primary concern was to "increase at least partial equity with student cost increases." She felt that one obstacle to a larger increase was the perception that "there is a concern among staff that student wage increases might exceed their own. She dismissed such reasoning, however, as "comparing apples to oranges."

The practice of fixing the Institution's budget before student wages is also a limiting factor. "Since student help is such a large part of the budget," Van der Veld explained, "a nickel increase makes a huge difference."

MIT students are among the best paid in the country, claimed Van der Veld. "The majority of colleges use federal minimum wage requirements for student jobs... and many can go as low as 85 percent of the federal minimum wage," she said. The current minimum wage in the US is $3.35 per hour. This summer, the Student Employment Office will attempt to set a formula to determine the wage minimum for future years.

No student input has been involved in determining the minimum level in the past, but Van der Veld thinks students should have a voice in the process, if possible. "I'm not displeased," said Van der Veld of the new minimum. "I always want to be higher," she added.

Campus employers involved in the decision were Dining and Food Services, Physical Plant, Graphic Arts, and the Libraries' Administration.

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Committee decides on proxy

By Tony Zamparutti

The ACM! Corporation's annual Proxy Statement under the 1934 Exchange Act on Shareholder Responsibility (ACSR) recommended in its meeting on Wednesday, April 30, that the MIT Corporation abstain on a stockholder proxy question that called for International Business Machines (IBM) Corporation to stop all trade with the Republic of South Africa. MIT voted in favor of a similar question last year.

The ACSR voted against a similar proxy question to stop all sales of the Dupont Company to Communist countries. D. Reid Weldon, chairman of the ACSR and senior vice-president at Arthur D. Little, Inc., said in opening the debate on the South African question, "Last year we voted against management [and in favor of the 'out on sales'... the situation has changed a whole lot from last year," rather than the administration in Washington.

Peter Z. Henry of the Nuclear Engineering Department wondered: "There are ten companies which are going to do something good socially in South Africa, and IBM is number two.

If IBM pulls out, you lose these social benefits. Robert Solso, Institute Professor, countered "It is simply incorrect to have associations with South Africa."

The vote on the proxy question was a tie, and Chairman Weldon declared that committee's recommendation would be to abstain. Weldon said about the question to stop all trade with the Soviet Union, "There is substantial control on export licences. IBM says there are no licences now" being approved.

Glenn Steele '58, Treasurer of MIT, declared that in voting on the proxy "we're trying to send a message to the Soviet government, but I don't think they're listening.

"We still have the ASR voted four to two against the question on trade to communist governments.

The ACSR considered a total of 21 proxy questions. Subjects included limiting American Telephone and Telegraph Company's contributions to charities, calling for General Electric Company to report on its nuclear projects, and stopping corporations' gifts to schools with barriers on the faculty.

Nearly all the proxy questions fell under previous ACSR guidelines. The ACSR varies on the official corporate position in all but the South Africa question.

committee on proxy

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