MIT may fund bio research

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MIT of a partnership with WI. "The association . . . will, without overlapping existing facilities, provide opportunities for collaborative research in areas of mutual interest," according to Low. Because WI will be completely responsible for providing the necessary research capability in a new structure with the technical support of MIT, "the proposed location for the 300,000 square foot facility will be the Cambridge Center urban renewal project in Kendall Square." It is anticipated that most of the faculty level members of WI will also be appointed to faculty positions at MIT with teaching and university responsibilities. Full responsibility for their compensation and then as will be appointed by WI. They will be appointed by MIT following the usual procedures. This should allow us to enrich our teaching programs and to expand into new areas. A number of MIT graduate students will be able to pursue their research activities at WI with full funding from WI.

The Whitehead Institute has also offered to donate $5.3 million of endowment money for "MIT's programs in the areas that interface with WI mainly biology," according to Low. Low also noted, "the presence of WI will provide some difficulties for MIT. These include possible competition for graduate students, faculty and research support: possible research directions taken by WI independently of MIT departments. But significant, in my view, the establishment of professional appointments at MIT for which MIT does not have a financial obligation. Concerning conflicts between academic and commercial interests as a result of the proposed partnership, Low indicated, "although WI will have the rights to any patents that result from research at WI, no company will have a preferred position with respect to licenses under such patents." And added, "WI has indicated that it will be guided by the principle that its mission is to use its knowledge and that all other goals must be subservient to that one."

Whitehead has promised to fund construction of the new facility for WI, estimated to cost $50 million, establish an endowment to provide $5 million in income per annum for operating expenses, and create an additional $100 million endowment to provide additional income. According to Low, Whitehead is founding WI "because his wealth came from advances in medical research and he felt it was appropriate to return some of that wealth to its source." Whitehead's fortune came from the operation and subsequent sale of his Technique Corporation, which developed and sold automated equipment for clinical laboratory analysis. WI will be governed by a Board of Directors which will include Baltimore, three people chosen by MIT, and three chosen jointly by the WI Board and MIT. "Although the MIT representatives will not be appointed until all agreements are approved by the MIT Corporation, Corporation members Jerome W. R. Weinert and W. Gerald Austen '41, and Sloan School Dean Abraham J. Siegel have agreed to serve," stated Low. "the other new members are being chosen now."

The proposal for MIT-WI partnership will be discussed at the regular September meeting of the Faculty September 16, according to Low's letter and Secretary of the Faculty Jack P. Rusin, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

Friends sometimes question your taste in movies. But they'll see them with you anyway.

Löwenbräu. Here's to good friends.

Strike negotiators consider offer

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In order to put on a full-fledged strike . . . we would need two working days [to prepare]. I hoped a decision would be reached by Monday, and if the union chooses to strike, it would come "Wednesday or Thursday at the earliest." The contract between MIT and Local 254 of the Service Employees International Union, upon which the offer to the Dining Service employees was based, called for a 10 percent pay increase effective July 5, 1982, increased vacation benefits for senior employees, wide-ranging improvements in pension terms, and increases in allowances for safety shoes, funeral leave, and mental illness insurance.