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Faculty will meet again to debate WI

By Tony Zamparuti

The faculty will continue its discussions with the Corporation concerning the Whitehead Institute for Biological Research (WI) at a meeting on Wednesday, September 22. The meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. in the Corporation Room.

The Executive Board of the MIT Corporation will consider the proposed affiliation between MIT and WI at its meeting on October 2. "The Corporation will not set until it has full faculty input," commented Walter L. Milne, Assistant to the Chairman of the Corporation.

The proposal was tabled at the Wednesday, September 16 faculty meeting and conclusion of debate was postponed due to lack of time.

Sheldon Penman, Professor of Biology, who raised a number of questions at the faculty meeting, noted: "The questions I put forward were answered as open, sincerely and as possible...but no one was able to answer them to my satisfaction."

"Did our administration consider the implications of WI on undergraduate biology?" asked Penman. "They were clearly advocates..." commented Walter L. Milne, Assistant to the Chairman of the Whitehead Institute, who contends. The implications of WI on undergraduate biology, Penman said, "in all my time at MIT, nothing has had this large an implication for education."

The issue concerns the "responsibility of faculty members to outside institutions." In the past, noted Penman, university professors had outside connections and interest, such as to the church. Universities have evolved from such arrangements, but WI could represent a return to such ties, said Penman.

The implications of the precedent set by WI, an issue Penman raised at the faculty meeting, "certainly wasn't answered." Chales E. Holt '62, Professor of Biology, asked about the commitment of Whitehead faculty to undergraduate education at Wednesday's meeting. "My concern is still there," noted Holt. "Some efforts are being made to make changes in the arrangement to enhance the involvment of the Whitehead faculty in education," said Holt.

"I don't have any broad worries about the [Whitehead Institute]," declared Holt.

Maurice Fox, Professor of Biology, noted that "the Department of Biology has a spectrum of views," on the WI issue, but few professors "are overrepresented," Penman, however, said he perceived an "undercurrent of concern" among professors.

Stressed that any MIT student, graduate or undergraduate, who wanted housing would be accommodated, Nine graduate students have already moved into the dormitory, noted Sherwood. Also due to these openings, the department of Dean of Student Affairs in "considering very seriously" guaranteeing transfer students housing for all years at MIT, rather than for only one year. He commented, "I've always been against treating transfer students as second-class citizens."

Sherwood speculated that the housing projections which led to the decision for WI were accurate for three reasons. First, the ratio of freshmen who entered to those who accepted during the past five years was 10 percent higher than the 1980 ratio and the lowest yield since 1976. Second, the number of transfers was underestimated because the number of graduate students instigated a quota on transfer students to alleviate departmental overcrowding. Finally, the number of readmitted students opting for institute housing was substantially less than projected because the estimate was only a "shot in the dark" since this was the first year of guaranteed housing for them.

Sherwood said he was very pleased with the opening of 500 Memorial Drive and that despite many apparent negative factors, the opening was unfinished, it was located far from campus, it had forced commuters, and it charged one of the highest rents — students seemed to be satisfied as 215 freshmen and transfer students newly constructed dormitory as their first home.

All the dormitories except for Random Hall lost people to 500 Memorial Drive since fewer students picked them as their first choice. The largest losers were Baker and MacGregor Houses, who lost 68 and 58 people respectively.

Nine seats open on city council

By Tom Loreda

A November 3 election will be held to fill three seats on the Cambridge City council. According to Sullivan, the city council seats is whether or not Cambridge will maintain a system of rent control. Cambridge has had a rent control system for 11 years.

Sullivan indicated that the Cambridge tax policy was another divisive issue in the election. He supports tax reform at the local and state levels that would shift the tax burden to those better able to pay. He supported support for the local income tax policy that was available for comment.

Sullivan also supports the regulation of development of residential neighborhoods. For this reason he is in opposition to a recent state law that permits the building of 6,000 units of housing on the campus. He maintains that such development "is contrary to the best wishes of the neighborhood and to the proper development of the city..."

The referendum would be voted on calls on House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neil (D-MA) to oppose sending troops, advisors, or military aid to El Salvador. Truesdall felt that the referendum would pass and that it "will be a significant reafirmation of the people's will."

Three seats are open on the City Council. One seat is being vacated by incumbent Charles D. Logue and two seats are being vacated by incumbent William Morgan and Harvard College Trustee Robert F. Brown.

The primaries will be held July 27 and the general election will be held November 3.

Sullivan and F. Thomas Brown are running as a single ticket. Brown, who was a former mayor, is a member of the Cambridge City Planning Board. Sullivan is currently serving on the Cambridge City Council.