GSL program faces cuts

By Jeri-Lynn Sceflfield

Despite the Reagan Administration’s announced intention to save considerable Federal funds by modifying eligibility requirements for Guaranteed Student Loans (GSL’s), “Most of us think that if the program changes the way it is, no money will be saved,” commented Director of Student Financial Aid Leonard V. Gallagher ’54.

The alterations were “designed to save continuing amounts as substantial as $20,000,” Gallagher noted. “The savings under the modified requirements are expected to be substantial,” he continued.

According to Assistant Director of Financial Aid J. Samuel Jones, “The second shoe is about to be dropped. The [Reagan] Administration realizes that its budget cutting wasn’t good enough.”

Jones emphasized that changes made to the current system are to apply to most loans for the current academic year. He estimated that 90 percent of these loans had already been disbursed.

Frosh class limit, units discussed

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Both Villars and Flemings said that the decision to adopt or re- ject the proposal will rest deci- sively on a faculty vote, but only after extensive discussion with the rest of the MIT community. Neither is sure what the outcome will be. They are hopeful that the proposal will be accepted by next spring.

Among the questions raised was how the new limit on freshman course loads would affect freshmen wishing to use exist- ing extra units to explore new areas. Reimick replied that the vast majority of freshmen use these units to overload rather than diversify, and that the new proposal would be a “very limited subjects that could be taken on listener status. However, she did not know how the proposed system would affect the minority of freshmen who do actually wish to use their extra units to diversify their freshman course load.

Another concern expressed was that since many departmental eight-unit courses would be counted as “full subject” along with the twelve-unit courses, the workload in them might increase. The increased workload would result in the same problem of sophomore overloading in departmental sub- jects in an effort to get them out of the way.

Villars commented that he did not see this as a problem because, in his experience, the workload in a class is determined by the amount of material to be learned, which is determined by the number of lecture hours involved. Therefore, he concluded, an eight-unit course with three lecture hours a week would not ap- pear to overload freshmen in work load.

Another issue that was raised was the possibility of difficulties of transition from one system to the other. Villars said that the dif- ficulties have not been considered yet. Flemings indicated that MIT aid. Jones indicated that for a family with one student at- tending MIT, parent’s earnings could be as high as $100,000 below which the student would be prohibited from borrowing under the auspices of the GSL program.

Gallagher noted that under the new guidelines for GSL disbursement, money designed by an institution for an- ticipated work-study earnings would be considered part of a stu- dent’s resources, and would reduce this GSL eligibility. Ac- cording to Gallagher, “It’s almost imperative for us not to call that program work-study anymore...Before, it was con- firming, now it is downright prohibitive.”

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Last union settles

By Barry S. Surman

Negotiators for MIT and the Research, Development, and Technical Employees Union (ROTEU) came to an agreement on a new contract Tuesday at noon, according to James J. Fandel, Manager of Labor Relations.

“They [the ROTEU negotiators] said ‘drop the wage structure’ and said ‘sign,’” said Fandel. “[The Institute] chose to accept the proposal that MIT offers and the contract offer proposed by MIT last Thursday included changes in wage rates, in which the union claimed would make it harder for MIT to stay under the top brackets, while reducing pay in- creases for promotions, and ex- cluding entry-level employees from pay increases.

The agreement also calls for a “neutral party [to] investigate past- time employees’ rights,” and make recommendations to the In- stitute and the ROTEU, according to Fandel. Other terms of the contract are identical to those agreed upon by physical plant and dining service workers in re- cent weeks, including 10 percent annual pay increases for two years, and improved vacation, health, retirement, and funeral leave benefits.

The ROTEU represents 950 in- stitute employees in academic and administration offices, including the Francis Bitter National Magnet Laboratory, the Haystack Observatory, the Research Laboratory of Electronics, and the Laboratory for Nuclear Science, explained Fandel. Fandel characterized its members as “technicians in sup- port of both teaching and research.”

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