NEW GA holds first meeting

By Sam Cable

The GA, the legislative arm of the Undergraduate Association (UA), held its first meeting of the 1981-82 academic year last night. Steve Earl '83 and Steve Llorente '83 were elected GA representatives to the UA Finance Board.

GA President John E. DeRubies '83 initiated informal discussion of future goals for the GA. Among goals suggested include increasing communication between dormitories and fraternity members. Investigation of the commons system with the object of increasing the quality of food or eliminating the commons requirement, the establishment of a shuttle and a student bank, and increasing GA involvement in MIT policy decisions.

Institute Vice President Constantine B. Simonides '77 was guest speaker at the meeting. Simonides addressed several issues of major importance to MIT such as trends toward increasing engineering enrollment, increasing tuition, budget cuts in research funding by the Reagan Administration, and a nationwide decrease in the number of graduating high school seniors.

Simonides said that, in the future, "MIT could be facing a different mix of people and we need to be prepared." He said that, due to rising tuition and smaller graduating high school classes, it is possible that fewer students from lower income families will be attending MIT in the future.

Simonides challenged the GA to take steps in integrating all aspects of education at MIT, notably curriculum, services, such as counseling and placement, the residential aspect of students lives, and student activities.

Vice President Constantine B. Simonides talks with new representatives of the General Assembly of the Undergraduate Association. (Photo by Bill Coderre)