Faculty OK's Whitehead, Corporation to approve

By Tony Zampanini

The faculty approved a motion in favor of the Whitehead Institute proposal, though expressing "deep concern over the risks involved in the [plan]" and remaining "uncomfortable" at a packed meeting Wednesday afternoon in Room 10-290.

The MIT Corporation will decide at its December meeting whether or not to approve the negotiated affiliation between MIT and the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research. The executive committee of the Corporation decided to unanimously recommend the agreement, provided that President Paul Gray '54 recommends it. Gray's recommendation, although not yet formally announced, should echo the approval of the faculty. A letter circulated last week among the faculty and signed by 33 professors spoke of "deep concerns" over the Whitehead agreement. The letter, written by Anthony P. French, Physics Professor and James M. Buchanan, Biology Professor, questioned the concept of an independent research institute tied to MIT with joint professors. Even though Whitehead will greatly affect biology research at the Institute.

Opening statements at the faculty meeting by President Paul Gray '34 and Whitehead's Friend show that Gray works with MIT in favor of the Whitehead Institute. The shared loyalties of joint MIT-Whitehead faculty "will not conflict with, or weaken, the life sciences here, or produce activities inappropriate to this academic community," said Gray. The novel relationships between MIT and Whitehead will not bring new conflicts-of-interest, Gray declared. "MIT would not be what it is today if we had not reached out to new opportunities and adapted MIT to a changing environment."

"It's a non-substantive issue," said Professor of Urban Relations. President for Urban Relations. Walter Milne, Special Assistant to the President for Urban Relations. (Photo by Kevin Orosbro)