Faculty should defend aid-blind policy

Proposed cutbacks in federal aid to colleges and universities are forcing many private schools, including MIT, to review or discontinue their aid-blind admissions policies. A reversal of such a policy, one the Institute has held for 15 years, would subvert the educational goals of students who are aid-dependent. By encouraging women, minority students, and economically disadvantaged students to apply, MIT’s aid-blind policy promotes diversity among the student body.

Admitting students regardless of need allows middle and lower-income students to have additional social mobility. Their MIT education provides them with valuable skills that permit them eventually to advance into managerial positions. In fact, ending aid-blind admissions at MIT may significantly decrease enrollment since such a large number of the Institute’s students are from minority groups. A reversal of this policy would be detrimental to those other elite universities such as Harvard. MIT will be more affected by such close-cut ceilings.

In theory, faculty and administration do not have an official opinion concerning the proposed reductions in Federal aid. Given the possible ramifications on all aspects of the institution, from admissions to research, it is time for MIT to make its voice heard. Such a protest could be achieved in two ways. First, provosts and administration could continue to lobby Congress and the Reagan Administrators. Faculty members must realize the severity of the cuts and respond by writing to politicians and national newspapers.

Second, the entire faculty should take a position. A resolution condemning aid cutbacks should be brought up at the next faculty meeting.

The Admissions and Student Financial Aid Office should explore all possible ways to maintain the current aid policy. It is possible, for example, to apply for more aid from the government if the student body is large enough.

More news needed

All of MIT benefits from a variety of student-run campus news sources, not only to provide more information and different ways of interpreting events, but also to give more students the opportunity to learn how news is gathered, presented, and distributed. Student-run newspapers have the spirit of free competition between various such groups will further promote an increased concern for accurate and credible reporting of campus events.

The Student Committee on Campus Information (SCCI) is currently considering starting a fund to provide initial operating costs for new news sources. The Board, together with the Activities Development Board, traditionally supplies funds to start credible student news organizations. Both organizations should continue to do so — but FinBoard should not have to finance such new organizations indefinitely.

There are two reasons for FinBoard not to underwrite new campus media indefinitely: guaranteed FinBoard funding might make the new group less responsible, and FinBoard should not be used to influence the editorial decisions of new sources favoring financial pressure. Newspapers especially pride themselves on their financial independence that allows them to continue operations in the face of financial pressure.

Both FinBoard and the SSD should explore ways to sponsor the growth of news sources. Such services, in addition to many legitimate sources of news, FinBoard, however, should have the wisdom not to become involved in forever prolonging the existence of such organizations.

By Ken Snow

I admit that when it comes to music I am not categorized as being into hard core or even into soft core punk. Actually, my musical taste lies more in the world of 1960’s and 1970’s rock and roll.

Please do not misunderstand me. I do not dislike punk music. I actually own some myself and at times in not so much around while dancing. Still, my hair remains the same color nature intended it to be and my fingers nails do not match the color of my socks.

Last Saturday night, though, I found myself in the Student Center listening to Human Sexual Response. For those less familiar with the punk scene than I, Human Sexual Response is a band. After making a name for themselves due to various levels of appreciation for punk were at the Student Center last Saturday night.

The evening began with some hometown talent — the Sacred Cows. The crowd pushed forward to hear an array of jangly rock and get into the music. Nobody was really dancing, including Americans. Actually, we were all dancing together, sort of. Everybody, in including myself, had a very enjoyable time, although I admit I was not able to take part in the floor dancing.

As about thirty people lay sprawled out on floor. I began to wonder about the type of person that MIT actually accepts and more importantly, the type of person that MIT graduates.

Imagine Director of Admissions Peter Richardson sitting down in his office interviewing a prospective freshman. If the professor had orange hair, Pete might lose all of his

Or about commencement? Paul Gray might be handing outCold B and a senior might approach with a safety pin through his nose. Actually, no one really shows up at an interview or commencement punked out. When I realized this, I began to worry about what happens to these people after they leave the Institute. Little does IBM know that the ghastly number of grunges dressed in the three piece suit might actually be the potentials for the future.

The Cows ended and the Humans came on stage. I was surrounded by electrical engineers, computer scientists, chemists and others punked out. These people are the future leaders of America and they were dressed with safety pins through their skin.

At the end of the evening I was exhausted, but pleasantly. Being punk really takes much energy. Then I realized that punk, like many other activities at MIT, is another way that students vomit excess energy and anger at the end of the week. I understood why I had an occasional evening of punk, I will not punk out any more. I would not look right green.