Students discuss issues at NomCom forum

**NIH proposal to cut funds for research**

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> "It is conceivable that NIH would be boycotted by the thirty or forty largest contractors," Milne continued. "Neither NIH nor Schechter would want that, because of the importance of the biology research. But that's not to say that this "job action" has been proposed. NIH is MIT's fourth largest federal sponsor after the Department of defense, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Energy, according to Cowan. "Between here and Lincoln Labs, there is about $300 million direct and $60 million indirect funding. NIH funds $10 million of the indirect costs," he said.

Indirect research costs include utility, administration, and other "general costs which cannot be identified to a particular project," Cowan explained. Direct costs include materials and salaries for research assistants and laboratory associates.

Cowan called the proposal "a budget gimmick by NIH to shift funds from indirect to direct costs." The danger, he said, is that outside research with low indirect costs would be more profitable for MIT researchers, and "this could be a wedge between faculty and administration."