By Barry S. Sarman

Members of the Class of 1986 will take a diagnostic writing test Friday, as the Institute moves closer to implementing its new writing requirement.

While freshmen are not required to take the diagnostic test, said Associate Professor Kenneth R. Manning, chairman of the Faculty Committee on the Writing Requirement, the committee expects "a good turnout."

Fresmen taking the test will be given one hour to write an essay on one of two topics provided, Manning said. His committee will contact students after evaluating their essays.

"We are trying to encourage the freshmen that do take it," Manning said. This year's test, he explained, is designed to provide freshmen with "an indication" of any weaknesses in their writing ability, and to assist his committee in developing the writing needs of incoming students.

"It's stated in the MIT Bulletin that the test is not required for graduation for members of the Class of 1986," Manning declared.

Students entering the institute beginning with the Class of 1987 will, however, be obligated to meet the new General Institute Requirement.

The writing requirement will be met in two stages: basic expository writing proficiency, including diagnostic testing and remedial measures, demonstrated in the freshman year, and experience in more specialized writing related to the student's major, gained for a year in the institute.

Manning praised the Undergraduate Academic Support Of fice (UASO) for its help in planning Friday's test.

"The test is not a test with logistics," said Peggy Richardson, head of UASO. Her office will serve as a resource to freshmen taking the exam, she said. "We're trying to keep it as light as possible."

Manning would not say if next year's test will follow the same pattern as this year's. "We've had a lot of the things about next year," he said. "I don't want to say anything about next year right now."

The Committee on the Writing Requirement is expected to work out final details of the requirement, including the format of the diagnostic test, during the academic year.

This year's test will be held in the Athletics and Special Events Center at Union Friday. All freshmen will be allowed to take the test, Manning said.

Student Center suffers from poorly used facilities, lack of lounge space

By Laura Farbik

(Editors' note: This article is the second of a two-part series on the Student Center Committee's report to the Corporation Planning Committee on Student Affairs.)

The Student Center suffers from a lack of lounge space, segregated student activities offices, outdated and poorly utilized facilities, and excessive use by non-student functions, according to a draft report prepared by the Student Center Committee (SCC).

"The lack of visible and open lounge space prohibits students from feeling comfortable and relaxed in the Student Center," the report states. "People quickly realize there is no place to sit at the Student Center, the draft report claims, so they spend their time in libraries, living groups, or other areas instead.

A new student who wanders into the Student Center "would feel alienated from most areas since they are closed and segregated into student activities offices," the report continues.

Student activities offices, the 24 Hour Coffeehouse, and the TV room should be more open and visible to attract new members and increase social interaction between activities, SCC recommends

The barber, optician, and bowling alley are poor utilization of student activities offices, the report continues.

"Those not assigned to living groups, pledged already," Sorrells added. Most fraternities and independent living groups have already met their rush goals, and several of them are considering overcrowding their facilities to accommodate the additional members, Sherwood noted.

"There are some houses that have not filled their houses yet," Sorrells noted. "A number of houses have expressed interest in having overcrowding." Houses interested in meeting additional freshmen are: Alpha Delta Phi, Alpha Epsilon Pi, Chi Phi, Delta Psi, Phi Kappa Psi, Pi Kappa Phi, Nu Delta, Phi Kappa Theta, Pi Sigma Kappa, Zeta Beta Tau, and Zeta Psi, Sorrells continued.

Sorrells attributed the success of the 1982 fraternity rush to the degree of cooperation shown by fraternity rush chairman that year, and the fraternity chairmen this year.

Most fraternities and independent living groups have expressed interest in overcrowding their facilities to accommodate the new members, Sherwood noted.

Sorrells compared this year's rush to that of previous years, saying: "The fraternities seem to be real ahead of this time last year."