Rush week ends today.

MIT women achieve on par with men

By Laura Farhie

There is no significant difference in academic performance of men and women students at MIT, according to a report released by the Advisory Committee on Women Students Interests (ACWSI). Women participate fully in extracurricular activities and receive a substantial share of awards, the report states.

Grading at MIT shows no condition to sex of student, says report. Men and women are indistinguishable by grades across all departments averaged over the past five years.

A study has not been done to determine whether a higher percentage of women are enrolled in "easier" majors, according to committee member Dorothy L. Bowe, Associate Director of Student Financial Aid.

There is no significant difference in the percentages of women and men on academic warning, the report continues.

Fifteen percent of academic awards in June 1981 went to women students, while women comprised 19 percent of the undergraduate population. Academic awards are recommended by students' departments, and "women students may not be as well known in their departments, even if their grades are as good or better," Bowe said.

Some women may be less involved in their departments because they are more involved in extracurricular activities, Bowe claimed. Women received 11 percent of extracurricular awards, 21 percent of athletic awards, and 20 percent of military awards in June 1981.

Twenty-six percent of Phi Beta Kappa members at MIT in 1981 were women, according to the report.

The engineering honorary society, Tau Beta Pi, offered membership to 11 percent of the 277 women enrolled in engineering last fall, the report says. Almost 15 percent of the 1332 men enrolled in engineering were invited to join.

The Committee on Discipline heard 82 cases in the last five years. Only three cases involved women, according to the ACWSI report.