Panel to review MIT financial aid policy for Academic Council

By Barry S. Sumas
President Paul E. Gray '54 has appointed a special Academic Council task force to review the Institute's policy of providing financial aid to all undergraduate students demonstrating financial need.

"The time has come," Gray said in his charge to the task force, "to review this policy in the light of likely future developments, Institute funding priorities, and the changing policies and priorities of universities with which we compete for students.

"It is essential," Gray continued, "that this review reflect our commitments to social and economic diversity in the student body and to the principle that access to an MIT education not be determined by economic status.

Gray directed the panel to consider alternative admissions and financial aid policies, such as need-sensitive admissions and merit-based financial aid, and to review the Institute's policy of substracting outside scholarships from a student's aid package.

"I don't know even what the nature of the recommendations might be," said Associate Provost Frank F. Perkins '55, chairman of the task force. "We first have to figure out how we want to proceed.

The panel will consult "anyone and everyone" with expertise in admissions and financial aid, Perkins said. "Obviously, student opinion... will be heard from as well.

Other members of the task group, Academic Council members Constantine B. Smonides, Vice President for Financial Operations, and Stewart C. W. Cowen, Dean for Student Affairs, were present.

The task force will report in March to the Academic Council, a decision-making committee composed primarily of MIT's deans and vice presidents.

Group Velocity fails in record try

By Jake Tino
Mechanical breakdowns plagued MIT Group Velocity's entry in the eighth International Human-Powered Speed Championships in Irvine, Calif., last weekend, frustrating its hopes of breaking the land speed record for a human-powered vehicle.

Group Velocity spent over a year designing and building its human-powered vehicle. The machine finished in fourth place in Saturday's race, finishing in fourth place with a speed of 42.338 miles per hour, according to Peter Boor, Vice-President of the International Human-Powered Vehicle Association.

While Lightning, a group from Northrup University, finished in first place on Saturday, with a speed of 50.943 miles per hour, Boor said.

Today's competition, Group Velocity finished in third place with a speed of 49.424 miles per hour, behind White Lightning and Vector Group, a team sponsored by New York University's Center for Dynamics Corporation, according to Boor.

Vector Group holds the current land speed record of 62.92 miles per hour. Their top speed Sunday was 57.699 miles per hour, Boor said.

An entry from the Northeastern University was also hindered by mechanical difficulties. Boor noted, attaining a top speed of only 11 miles per hour Sunday.

Group Velocity's cyclists did not coordinate well mechanically, and several components of the vehicle, including the chains, broke down, Boor explained.

The five riders are top New England cyclists who were chosen in a rigorous audition process for the record attempt, said Group Velocity member John Hsu '84.

Group Velocity's machine, the New Wave, "has four front wheels and is designed for five riders," states a recent Group Velocity progress report. "The drive wheel powers the front two wheels, which are mounted side by side, and also steers and brakes. The rider powers the rear wheel at the point and the rear of the vehicle, each powered by two riders using both pedals and hand cranks. Outrigging wheels provide additional stability at low speeds. The riders sit in a reclining position, since the human body can provide much more pedaling power in this position."

Using Group Velocity's student members, the team attempted to crack Vector Group's record last Tuesday morning at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Mass., but failed when one of the outriggers snapped at high speed, causing the vehicle to fall on its side and skid on the runway.

New House master resigns

By Tony Zamparutti
Professor James H. Williams, Jr. '67 resigned last Saturday from his position as housemaster of the New West Campus Houses (New House).

Williams announced his resignation in his concluding remarks at a ceremony dedicating New House I in honor of the late James B. Fisk '31, former president and chairman of Bell Laboratories, and New House VI in honor of Dr. George W. Thorne, former MIT Corporation chairman.

"We were informed, just as everyone else was, in [his] closing remarks," Williams said he did not notify anyone in the administration of his intention to resign before Saturday. The program for the dedication listed Williams as housemaster at the beginning of the program, but only as Professor of Mechanical Engineering for his concluding remarks.

"He had given us a letter to that effect," said Saturday, McBey noted, but she said she did not read it before the dedication.

SCC budget tops $102K

By Ron Norman
The Student Center Committee (SCC) passed a proposal of a $102,500 budget for 1983 and elected Kenneth E. Dumas '83 chairman Sunday.

The proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1983, projects $100,000 in income from arcade games, $1,500 from interest and $1,000 from dinner and refreshment fees.

Income from SCC's pinball and video game room last year was more than double that of previous years. The additional revenue was being used effectively, claimed Steve Thomas '83, outgoing SCC chairman. "We're trying to improve social life in the Student Center," he said.

The budget does not include the SCC 24-Hour Coffeehouse. The coffeehouse budget is "about a quarter of a million dollars," according to Undergraduate Association Finance Board Chairman Charles P. Brown '84.

SCC plans to spend $50,000 for Friday night events, $8,000 for midnight movies in the Student Center, and $5,000 for Friday afternoon clubs on Kresge Oval.

Friday night events include live band parties at the Student Center. More popular Boston bands have been hired recently, Thomas said, as greater expense to SCC than in the past. Friday afternoon clubs are warm-weather parties featuring local bands on the Student Center steps.

In the interim, I feel that the residence program is in the very capable hands of Jeff and Betsy Lang," Williams said. Professor Jeffrey H. Lang and his wife, Elizabeth Lang, are New House's Junior Faculty Residents.

"As I said on Saturday, the past seven years have been the best seven years of my life," Williams said yesterday. "There is a buzz that goes on in the dormitory that excites me — I'm sorry to leave that."

The Office of the Dean (for Student Affairs) will begin a search for a new housemaster, McBey noted.

Tech photo by V. Michael Bove