Construction begins on new Whitehead Institute center

By Sam Cable

Construction of the Whitehead Institute building in Kendall Square has begun and is proceeding on schedule, according to Turner Construction Corporation field engineer Steve Hennigar.

The Whitehead Institute is an independent biological research center affiliated with MIT. Edwin C. Whitehead, founder of the Whitehead Institute, is funding construction of the building and will endow a $100 million trust for the center. He also donated $3.75 million to MIT as part of the affiliation agreement between the two institutions.

All the building's piles have been driven, Hennigar said. The piles, which are now standing at a rate of about four a day and twent-five or more have been poured thus far.

Construction was originally scheduled to begin in August, Hennigar said, but was delayed until this month because the piles had to be redesigned. The construction was scheduled as a twenty-month long project but an effort will be made to finish it in seventeen months.

John Pratt, Associate Director of the Whitehead Institute, said building costs will be a little over $81 million. "The four faculty members (on the Whitehead staff) are now doing research in the name of the Whitehead Institute, but they will have full faculty obligations at MIT, including teaching MIT students." No future research has yet been scheduled. "The faculty are the real determining point," Pratt said. "The Whitehead Institute will pick up specific goals with the faculty."

Currie: Tuition to top inflation rate next year

(Continued from page 1) achieve more competitive levels of faculty salaries, particularly at the level of assistant professor and primarily in Schools of Engineering and Management.

"If you have large salary increases," Currie noted, "you have large tuition increases, almost by definition."

When adjusted for inflation, research funding decreased slightly between fiscal years 1981 and 1982, according to the Report of the Treasurer. Since a portion of research funds pay for overhead costs including libraries, heat, light, and administration, their decrease has meant "unrestricted endowments have to pick up a bigger part of the overhead," Currie explained.

"The only revenue stream we can really adjust is tuition," Currie said. The Institute can try several strategies to boost its revenue and decrease costs, Currie noted, including raising tuition, increasing the number of students, raising gift levels, and increasing investment income.

Increasing the number of students, "is not particularly viable," Currie said, especially since it would further crowd the School of Engineering. The Institute is constantly attempting to boost giving, he added, and investment income is "pretty much driven by the market."

Provost Francis Low is presently negotiating with academic departments on their fiscal year 1984 budget requests, Currie noted. This year's budget for the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs, libraries, the admissions and financial aid offices, physical plant, and other services is five percent lower than last year's. The Institute is still planning to cut support service budgets by another five percent next year, Currie noted.

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