ASA will study need for space

By Gary J. Dirik

"It is unlikely that more space will be allocated for student activities in the near future," said Ira M. Summer, '83, former chairman of the Space Committee of the Association of Student Activities (ASA), at a meeting of that committee held Monday in the Undergraduate Association office.

The committee discussed a motion it originally made in December concerning the reassignment of subjects, according to Felix M. H. Villars, chairman of the faculty.

"I would like to see increased post funding for junior faculty to help them establish their programs at an early stage," declared Professor Mildred S. Deselphaus, director of the Center for Materials Science and Engineering, a panelist in the fourth discussion of industry funding and academic freedom. Monday.

"I don't think we've reached a new, special charge," Villars said.

"In principle, the COC has finally said on humanities distribution subjects will be determined internally by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences," he said. "The decisions will be made within the department as proposals for the COC."

The COC has the same responsibility to determine allowable humanities distribution subjects as it does to determine subjects allowed to satisfy the laboratory requirement for our dependence on federal research contracts," he continued, citing US Department of State restrictions on foreign nationals working with sensitive research.

"The Institute survives because the federal government requires certain student activities in the near future," said Professor Charles E. Wiener. There is a clear pattern, he said, of 'the use of the threat of an impending financial crisis.'

The major threat to research funding is the increasing military support and support by industry in only certain fields, he explained. Department of Defense sponsorship in mathematics and science rose from 33 percent in 1981 to 41 percent of all departmentally sponsored activities, Summer said.

The motion also called for several student groups to move into available rooms in Building 20. The MIT Committee for Review of Space Planning in February last year for the rooms, obligating ASA to revise the December motion.

The association should propose temporary solutions for the spaces involved in the original reassignment plan, suggested Keri C. Allison '84, ASA president. The groups require fast solutions "since the problem cannot be resolved before finals week," she said.

It is also necessary to find a long range solution, the Space Committee concluded. The committee determined to formulate a set of criteria to determine how effectively student activities use their space.

The committee will first establish some basic guidelines, it decided, and distribute the information in survey form to the presidents of all 120 groups in the ASA. The committee will amend the guidelines based on the responses to the surveys. The survey will be distributed by the end of the term and the amendment process will continue through the summer, Allison anticipates.

The committee will recompile the updated information and send it to all members of each of the activities in the ASA for criticism. (Please turn to page 12)

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By Ron Normas

The Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Professor John V. Guttag, following reports of an excessive workload in Computer Language Engineering (6.035), made concessions allowing students to take the class pass/fail, drop the class, or drop any other class by submitting a card to Guttag by last Wednesday.

Guttag also cancelled the final part of a class project and extended the deadline for the most recent assignment by one week, according to a message in the 6.035 computer file. The changes came after Guttag reduced the workload and recitation from two hours to one hour a week each.

"The problem was that the course was too time consuming," said Guttag. "It took more time than I anticipated." The course was changed from previous years, according to Guttag, who taught a similar course at the University of Southern California, but not previously at MIT.

A combination of running a new subject without enough man (Please turn to page 2)

Inside


The making of the Student Center. Page 2.

Dean John M. Deutsch '61 talks about the new control. Page 7.