feedback

Libraries head defends fee, reserve decisions

To the Editor:
Recent articles and editorials concerning changes in policies of the MIT Libraries contain factual errors and misrepresentations of statements, especially with regard to the decision-making process.

Decisions regarding reserve collections in the Student Center Library and increases in fines and photocopying fees were not made by an "ad hoc Library task force" but rather as part of the regular budget process. These decisions were reviewed with, and approved by, the Faculty Committee on the Library System that includes in its membership two graduate students and two undergraduates. As provided for in the Rules and Regulations of the Faculty, the decisions were also reviewed by the Academic Council and were approved by the Institute Administration. The Library task forces to which I referred in conversations with Tech reporters was established to develop a series of options in connection with the nature of collections in the Student Center Library. Once this review has been completed, members of the Libraries' staff will be meeting with the Student Center Committee to discuss various alternatives prior to making any major decisions.

The decisions made during the budget process were both difficult and unavoidable. The Libraries are faced with a substantial decrease in operating funds coupled with continuing inflation in the cost of materials and services. Every effort was made to minimize the impact of these changes upon our users while, at the same time, enabling us to continue to acquire books, journals and other materials needed to support education and research at the Institute, and to provide reasonable hours of access and essential services.

Jay K. Luckler
Director of Libraries

opinion

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