Almost 1000 students took the optional writing examination, Waiters said. "Students don't seem to realize that there are other ways to meet the writing requirement." Students may also complete the first part of the requirement by scoring 50 or higher on the College Board Achievement Test in English Composition with Essay, Waiters said.

"Most students have a good idea of how they write," Waiters said. The writing requirement is intended to be "as flexible as possible," she claimed. The Committee on the Writing Requirement recognizes that some students are unable to write well under pressure, she said.

Students were allowed 90 minutes this year—and 30 minutes last year—to complete a 500-word essay, Waiters said. "I don't think the readers are grading harder," she said. "I'm really puzzled" about the high number of failing grades.

Enrollment in expository writing subjects is "roughly in line with the highest in recent years," said James Paradis, associate professor and director of the Writing Program. "There's some indication there's a slight increase in enrollment" over last year.

Approximately 450 students are registered for one of three expository writing subjects offered by the Writing Program, an increase over 30 or 40 last year, according to Paradis. "A lot of people would take [the subjects] whether or not there's a requirement." (Please turn to page 14)

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**Activity members and deans discuss role of Dean's Office**

By Thomas Huang

The Student Center Committee elected John Mark Johnston '84 chairman of its regular meeting this week, after discussing the cancellation last week of its midnight film series.

Johnston, former summer chairman of the committee, defeated Michelle F. Fraid '84, former treasurer of the group, after she reportedly dropped out of the race in a closed meeting of the committee.

The committee is scheduled to hold its annual elections in November; its term expires in January.

Johnston's election required ten votes, because three of the committee's 21 members resigned last week. Two members attended the meeting.

The Student Center Committee is also a coordinator for its Midnight Film Series, canceled the series last week despite numerous phone calls from movers and "lots and lots of people were calling up to see what the midnight movie was, and there wasn't one," said William M. Hoobrich '66, secretary and former acting chairman. "They're getting really obnoxious."

Committee members complained about the poor timing of the midnight movies, saying customers against leaving valuables on the shelves after several students lost their valuables. See story, page 15.

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**How to meet both parts of MIT writing requirement**

The MIT writing requirement has two parts. The first, concerned with basic writing competence and completed during the freshman year, may be satisfied by:

- Scoring 750 or higher on the College Board Achievement Test in English Composition with Essay.
- Passing the essay evaluation offered during residence/orientation week.

The second part of the requirement, concerned with specialized writing within a student's professional discipline, may be satisfied by:

- Receiving a grade of B or better for the quality of writing in a cooperative subject, in Workshop in Writing for Science and Engineering: English as a Second Language (21.337), Workshop in Writing for the Social Sciences and Architecture: English as a Second Language (21.338), or Science and Engineering Writing (21.780), based on a project in the student's field; or
- Submitting a ten-page paper of expository prose written for any MIT subject or UROP activity within the student's professional area.

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**Johnston is SCC chairman**

Group cancels movies; seeks film coordinator

The book drop at the MIT Coop put up new signs warning customers against leaving valuables on the shelves after several students lost their valuables. See story, page 15.

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**Women's field hockey drives against Pine Manor**