Witt proposes reorganization of Undergraduate Association

By Burt S. Kaliski

Undergraduate Association President Michael P. Witt '84 'claims that a "unified student government" last night at the first regular meeting of the Undergraduate Association General Assembly.

Witt plans to place the following organizations under a unified student government: the MIT Social Council, the Student Center Committee, the MIT Lecture Series Committee, the Technology Community Association, the Student Information Processing Board, and intramural sports.

The plan would also place the Undergraduate Association Finance Board, Association of Student Activities, and Nominations Committee under close supervision of the General Assembly. "Allocation of money and other resources has to be more closely supervised by this body," Witt said. The General Assembly, instead of having a separate Finance Board, should allocate funds itself, Witt recommended.

The General Assembly has "loose ties" with the Finance Board, he said. "They do their thing and we . . . rather snap it when they're through." The reorganization would tighten the ties, he claimed.

Raymond E. Samuel '84, chairmen of the General Assembly, said that the General Assembly now has the power under the constitution to reverse decisions made by the board. But the General Assembly "does not make its own representatives report their activities on the Finance Board." Three of the Finance Board's 14 members are selected from the General Assembly.

"We can talk an awful lot," Samuel said, "but to get something achieved is another question." He asked Witt whether the General Assembly is "afraid" to reject appointments of new members to its general committees.

Witt said he plans to draft a proposal for a new Undergraduate Association constitution by Nov. 1, and will then hold a campus-wide referendum ballot. He said the General Assembly has other proposals, including those disbanding the General Assembly. "The whole Undergraduate Association constitution could be thrown out the window and no one would miss it," said Kip Dee Kuntz '85, a member of the General Assembly. "The importance is not something done on the document," but is instead the involvement of the students, he said.

The Office of the Dean for Student Affairs ideally "would rather leave us alone and not get involved," (Please turn to page 15).

PROPOSED reorganization of MIT student government

Editor's note: the following is the text of the proposals delivered by Undergraduate Association President Michael P. Witt '84 last night's General Assembly meeting.

GOAL:

• A unified student government

Benefits:

• Better management of student resources
• Stronger, more effective representative governing body
• More effective voice in the administration
• Accountability to students
• Increased communication

PROPOSAL:

1. The General Assembly must assert its role as the sole legislative, judicial, and representative body of the Undergraduate Association.

2. The General Assembly must use its authority to act as the power in which an undergraduate, or undergraduate resources, are concerned.

3. The responsibilities, and jurisdiction of all student organizations must be rigidly defined.

4. All allocations of student resources must be more closely supervised and confirmed by the General Assembly.

5. All student activities, committees, and organizations must be ultimately accountable to the General Assembly.

6. The General Assembly and the Graduate Student Council should form a joint committee to originate legislation which concerns both graduates and undergraduates (student activities, institutes, etc., etc.).

7. That many of the functions of such organizations such as the Associated Student Activities, the Student Committee on Educational Policy, the Nominating Committee, etc., be reviewed and perhaps absorbed by the General Assembly.

Arts and Media on schedule

By John F. Pirelli

Construction of the Arts and Media Building (E40) is on schedule and will be completed by the winter of 1984 at a cost of over $30 million, according to Nicholas P. Negroponte 66, director of the new Media Laboratory.

The total cost of construction will be in the neighborhood of $25 million. Negroponte said, and millions of dollars for the building will have a total cost of over $5 million.

American and Japanese companies, including those from the communications, entertainment, publishing, and personal computer industries, provided most of the funding for the new building, Negroponte said.

The building, located at 20 Ames Street, will house the Media Laboratory, a research center within the School of Architecture and Planning. The Albert and Vera List Visual Arts Center, the Council for the Arts, and Educational Video Resources will also occupy the building.

The Media Laboratory will consolidate programs involved with finding new applications of computer systems to learning, communications, cinema, visual arts and electronic music. Negroponte said.

Programs in the laboratory include the Personal Computer Laboratory, the Telecommunications and Electronic Publishing group, which is to assume some of the projects of the Architecture Machine Group; the Learning Research Laboratory, which applies computer technology to education; and the Machine Rec.

Crowded software lab drops all sophomores

By Diana Jean-Jones

The Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) dropped all sophomores from Laboratory in Software Engineering (6.170) at the beginning of this term, according to Jack B. Dennis '53, professor of electrical engineering and computer science, who lectures the class.

"At the first lecture, we found we were oversubscribed in relation to the computer facilities for the course," Dennis said. The planned enrollment for 6.170 is 150, and about 200 students attended the first lecture, he explained.

Professor Frederick C. Hennie '55, executive officer for the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and Dennis decided on the limit of 150 students, Dennis said. "It's based on the history of enrollments, but as well as on the facilities," he continued.

About 170 students remained registered for the subject after all the sophomores had been dropped, according to Dennis. Many upperclassmen had been waiting to take the class, which is offered only one term a year and was last offered in the Fall 1982 term, Dennis said.

"Last spring, it was announced that 1,670 was a prerequisite for [Computer Language Engineering] 6.035, which is required for computer science majors," Dennis said. This fact was an important reason for overenrollment in 6.170 among upperclassmen, he said.

"There's been sort of a regular history of overloaded courses in this department, especially com-

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