Gray will not waive benefit requirement

By Thomas Huang

MIT will not waive the requirement that student activities contribute to the employee benefit program. President Gray said yesterday afternoon.

We are absolutely impression that we will not waive the (requirement) in a permanent sense," he said. William R. Dickson '56, senior vice president, made the recommendation, Gray said.

"I think it is a major priority of the MIT employee benefit fund. The requirement is part of a change in the benefit program which began July 1.

Dickson said, "I know the larger groups, such as the Lecture Series Committee and the Student Center Committee, can pay. There will be no hardships on those groups." Dickson must decide whether the Institute should waive the requirement. Gray said, "If it were a decision to go ahead and waive it, we would allow certain student activities to gradually increase their contributions to the fund.

Groups which employ students must pay an amount equal to 33 1/3 percent of their payroll to the MIT employee benefit fund. The proposal to amend its bylaws was rejected by a 2-1 vote Sunday to enact the amendment.

The committee must again approve the amendment this Sunday, by a majority of three-quarters present and voting, to effect the change. The committee's bylaws currently permit funding only to groups using the Student Center, its steps, and Kresge Oval. The amendment would change the bylaws to allow the committee to support outside activities.

The Student Center Committee had passed a similar change in the bylaws at its Oct. 23 meeting, but lacked a three-quarters majority during the required second vote Sunday to enact the amendment.

The committee, in closed session, defeated the original amendment last week. The new amendment, proposed by Gray and Senator Richard B. Smith '84 at the Oct. 23 meeting.

The committee's interest in changing the bylaws followed requests for funding by Sigma Phi Epsilon at the Oct. 23 meeting. Arunas A. Chesonis '84, a member of the fraternity, had asked the committee for funding for a carcinoma-party open on the campus. The fraternity expects 600 people to attend the cruise, he said.

His fraternity had not appeared at the Undergraduate Association Finance Board for funding, he said. The Finance Board appropriates funds budgeted by the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs for student activities.

The Student Center Committee gives the Finance Board the interest earned on a high-yield $40,000 activities trust fund, treasurer Mark J. Brine '85 said at a previous meeting.

The Student Center Committee meets about $500,000 per year more than when the bylaws were last seriously considered," committee chair John Mark Johnson '84 said at the Oct. 23 meeting.

Micheline K. Fradd '85, a member of the committee, had said the Student Center Committeee could support the cruise, since it has much more money than the Undergraduate Association Social Council, which usually funds such events.

Committee members questioned the wording of the original amendment Sunday. The bylaws now state "the Student Center Committee desires that the building be used in accordance with [its] principles."

The original amendment would have changed that passage to "the Student Center Committee has the responsibility to see that the building and funds generated."