GA sends letter to Governor Dukakis

By Ellen L. Spero

The Undergraduate Association General Assembly unanimously decided last night to send a letter to Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis requesting he delay action on a bill to take away state financial aid from those students who have not registered for the draft.

The legislation, Massachusetts bill 50-7a, is an extension of the Solomon Amendment, which denies federal financial aid to draft non-registrants.

"We urge the governor not to take action on this bill until the federal courts have determined the constitutionality of similar legislation at the federal level," the motion stated.

The US Supreme Court is presently considering the constitutionality of the Solomon Amendment. Dukakis has until November 12 to sign the bill into law.

The General Assembly also endorsed a letter written by Undergraduate Association President Michael P. Witt '84 to Gray expressing, "disappointment at the institute's decision to bill student activities for a portion of the employee benefit fund."

"It seems unreasonable and unjust for undergraduates and graduate students to be coerced into helping to fund graduate research programs," the letter stated. "especially when their expected contribution, although insignificant in the total picture, is so vitally important to the student organizations."

"I urge you to consider this matter and then forgive this surcharge for all student activities," Witt concluded.

The General Assembly debated a proposal to have the MIT community vote whether or not they favor the showing of pornography on campus. The proponents of the referendum, Ishai Nir '85, member of the Executive Committee of the General Assembly, and James A. MacStravic '84, said the referendum would be a "vehicle for obtaining community standards on pornography."

Steven E. Barber '83, chairman of the Student Committee on Educational Polcy, said actions to reduce the overcrowding in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science will be taken by MIT before the fall of 1984.

Possibilities considered by the Faculty Committee of Educational Policy include having people apply to a specific department when entering MIT, choosing students for different departments based on their freshman year performance, and reviewing their records after sophomore year to allow them to remain in various departments, according to Barber.

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