Interview

Richardson discusses admissions, Course VI

Peter H. Richardson '81 has been Director of Admissions since 1979. He had previously served as Associate Director of Admissions and was the first person to have held the position. Richardson announced earlier this week that he plans to retire from MIT at the end of the year.

The interviews were conducted before this announcement.

Q: What do you think is the place of the admissions office in constructing a diverse student body?

A: To enroll and implement policies that are decided upon by the Class of 1989, the Admissions Committee at large.

Q: What do you think has restricted access to the MIT student body?

A: We seek a broader diversity student body, diverse in interests, and that's a very clear message. It's one that we would like to have. It's one that we would like to have.

Q: Do you think it will be possible to achieve this?

A: Yes. We should seek a more diverse student body, diverse in interests, and that's a very clear message. It's one that we would like to have. It's one that we would like to have.

Q: How have the admissions process changed over the last few years?

A: It's not a new idea, but we've gone through a phenomenon in the last few years where things have been going well outside MIT that have a tremendous impact on not only us, but on institutions around the country.

Q: What are these phenomena that have changed over the last few years?

A: Well, kids discovered there were computers, or parents discovered there were computers, and gave them to their kids. The marketplace has discovered that trends people with a sense of how to deal with these new things, like how to deal with computers.

Q: What are the new things that have come into play?

A: These phenomena that have come into play with the computer.

Q: Do you find you're getting increasingly more students interested in the computer, applying to MIT as more of them discover it?

A: That's a question which I'm not sure I'm ready to answer.

Q: Can you talk to us about one of the problems you've been dealing with?

A: I've been dealing in this office now for 12 years and I remember the day when the dean of engineering came down here and said, "Peter, there is a problem, and we need you to do something about it," because we can't get enough engineers.

Q: What was the problem?

A: The problem was that MIT wanted to ensure that we had enough engineers.

Q: What did you do about it?

A: We've sought to deal with this problem. We've sought to make sure that we have enough engineers.

Q: So changing the institution to meet demands is not always possible.

A: That's true. If we were dealing with today's problems, we would have looked'very much like them, so it's timin-

Q: What are the future challenges that MIT will face?

A: Some of the challenges that MIT will face in the future are:

Q: What is MIT's most serious problem at the moment?

A: The most serious problem at the moment is that MIT is going to have to look at a new set of admissions.

Q: Do you think you can get it across to the public that MIT is going to have to look at a new set of admissions?

A: Yes, we should seek a more diverse student body, diverse in interests, and that's a very clear message. Time and time

Q: What do you think will be the effect of that, and what are the special circumstances?

A: The intent of the faculty was that most students would make up the regular admissions, and they would not change the way the institution was run.

Q: What do you think will be the effect of that, and what are the special circumstances?

A: With the current trend, it's hard to see how we can. But then, that's true of the world at large. You go to

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.

Q: You're going to have to go across the country and start

A: Absolutely.