search delayed for OME head

By Amy Garcia

The search for a new Office of Minority Education (OME) director has been postponed, according to Associate Provost and Acting OME Director Frank E. Perkins '75.

The OME has not had a director since Aug. 24, when Perkins announced Dr. William D. McLaughlin. Perkins promised in September that by October he would appoint a search committee to find a new director.

It has become necessary, Perkins said, to delay and rethink the issue and functions of the OME before the search can be begun.

Among the issues Perkins feels must be discussed are the OME's functions as an academic support service versus its place as a community affairs office, and the OME's commitment to MIT students versus its commitment to high school minority programs.

Perkins has been "provisional and eager to meet with any group" about these issues. A few members of the committee have already offered their opinions, he said, and the Black Asian Alliance suggestion of MIT has volunteered to help with the search process.

An ad hoc committee of representatives from OME, the faculty, and student minority groups has "taken the initiative in the search informally" to discuss these issues.

Rush, quality of gay student life discussed

By Mathews N. Chetina

Return to campus, the OME's commitment to MIT's gay community with student leaders and other concerned students Wednesday.

The meeting was the last of four organized by the Dean's Office to discuss student concerns about issues of campus life in preparation for the Corporation's Student Affairs review of the OME in February.

The Dean's Office invited leaders of independent living groups, dormitories, gay groups, and religious groups for the open discussion.

Over 40 students attended the meeting.

The first discussion centered on undergraduates' living conditions. Students voiced concerns about the living group selection process.

One freshman said, "It was very difficult to choose where I wanted to live for the next four years." One week is "too short" to do serious planning, a fraternity member said, adding that he was "disturbed" that Residence/Orientation week became "time to force everyone to "take for three days."

Students suggested that freshmen spend their first semester at Institute housing to allow them to get to know students they wanted to live with. They could then pledge a fraternity if they wished.

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