Reagan's budget proposes $2.3 billion financial aid cut

By Ellen L. Spero
Director of Student Financial Aid Leon G. Gallagher '54

Aid cuts would burden Institute

By David P. Hamilton
Associate Provost Frank E. Perkins appointed Associate Provost S. James Gates acting director of the Office of Minority Education since the search committee finds a replacement.

Gates worked on Project Interphase, an OME program, from 1971 to 1982. The organization of a search committee to find a director for the OME is almost complete, Perkins said. "I hope by the end of the week to have the (committee) ready," he said.

The committee will include several minority students, Perkins said. He has received a number of nominations for the positions. The application deadline was last Wednesday.

Gates, who has participated in Perkins' plans to run the OME, said he is not being director for this semester, and possibly part of the summer. Gates, in contrast with Perkins, is not planning to initiate any major projects. He does, however, have some objectives he wishes to accomplish as acting director.

"I've set a modest goal, which is to get more students involved in the office," he said.

The purpose of the OME has been "to provide a means for minority students to interact with [the MIT bureaucracy] so that changes could be made," he concluded, which I perceive as an estrangement between students and the office," Gates said. The OME "has always been concerned with providing aacade to the student," he said. Some "quasi-academic" programs such as internships for students at MIT have also been fostered outside the OME.

Changes have occurred in both the minority community and the OME since its formation, but it would be difficult to predict any future course, he said.

Gates said that minority problems at MIT are the same as those at all the University of Washington. "Forces which tend to make the society apart are also present at MIT," he said.

Although Gates is not involved in the search for a new OME director, he described the quality he would like the director to have. The most important quality would be the ability to listen to students.

Difficulties have occurred when past OME directors tried to impose their solutions to problems without consulting first to students, he said. Perkins does not plan to initiate any major projects. He does, however, have some objectives he wishes to accomplish as acting director.

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