Self-help level conforms to criteria

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Gray expressed doubts on whether the percentage of tuition revenue returned as financial aid can continue to grow. Tuition income goes directly into unrestricted funds. MIT is spending $4.5 million from those funds on financial aid, according to the SFG. The office also administers a $36 million scholarship endowment.

Gray warned against extrapolating past success into the future. "I worry about what happens when . . . students can't raise that much self-help," he added. MIT's self-help level, $4900 for next year, is approximately 12 to 13 percent higher than that of comparable universities.

Gallagher said he is "not as concerned as Gray is." It is possible to "measure the goodness or badness of a self-help level in many ways," he said, citing the following criteria:

- Is the self-help level so high that juniors in high school do not apply to the school?
- Does the self-help level deter freshmen from entering MIT?
- Will students forced to choose lucrative careers because they are concerned about repaying their self-help debt?
- Must a student work 20-25 hours per week because of a self-help level?
- Is a senior's accumulated debt enough to prohibit entering in graduate schools?
- Will alumni have difficulty repaying their debts?
- Does MIT's self-help level look unreasonable compared to other schools' self-help levels?

"I am convinced the self-help level is not too high or unreasonable, " Gray said. He could not be sure whether high-school juniors were discouraged from applying because that factor could not be measured, he added.

Jordan Voelker '85 starts his teaching and tutoring program in front of Random Hall.