MacVicar to study MIT's curriculum

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Dean for Student Affairs, the joint head of Undergraduate Education and the Dean for Graduate Education, will work closely together in "focusing on all aspects of the living environment at MIT.""If you have a structure designed to support particular curricula, then things go better," Keyser said.

Undergraduate Association President Richard R. Moser '87 said that he saw no disadvantages with the new organization of academic offices.

"It's just common sense," he said. "We'd like to streamline the offices. Any- thing that centralizes tasks more is helpful."

The changes put the provost in a position to jointly view affairs "in and out of the classroom," Deutch said.

Deutch cited examples of educational issues to be discussed in the future by provosts Keyser, MacVicar and the faculty. They include the emphasis given to the Humanities program, the structure of the Humanities Distribution requirement and the science core requirements.

Keyser said that in reorganizing undergraduate education, the faculty must ask itself a number of fundamental questions about the goals of an MIT education.

Keyser asked: "What is it that our students ought to know when they graduate? the undergraduate education--is it too intense or too narrow?"

Deutch said that he suggested the rearrangement of the academic offices to President Paul E. Gray '74 when he accepted the position of provost. Gray agreed to the idea. At the same time, the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) was conducting a year-long study on the structure of MIT's academic offices.

Deutch said that it was a "happy circumstance" that both he and the CEP had similar ideas about reorganizing the offices. Simo- nides agreed that the change in the organization was partly a result of favorable timing.

"A good idea must have the right times, and the right timing, it seems," Deutch explained. "I take this time for a battle of consensus and agreement."

The changes were "primarily the thought of the new provost (Deutch), but he talked to every- body," he said.

Deutch said he felt that Keyser and MacVicar are "an outstanding combination and are working with faculty to make a major, positive change."

"The choice of Keyser had an element of genius in it," Simonides said. Keyser is "deeply involved in the academic programs."

Keyser is also the housemaster of Senior House. "I think it's very good to be a housemaster," Keyser explained. "It's absolutely crucial to have an understanding of student life after 5 o'clock. At night, the character of MIT changes. The Institute is a city for the students. You have to understand the environment."

The choice of MacVicar as Dean for Undergraduate Education was "another 100 percent strike," Simonides added. Her position as a professor of physical science and as the founder and director of UROP "combine the research interests of the faculty with the students."

"Formally, I will still be the director of UROP," MacVicar said, "but I'll step back from the operational development. If I had to give UROP completely, that would have been a big sacrifice."

MacVicar will also chair the Committee on the Undergraduate Program, which is one of 14 committees created upon the dissolving of CEP.

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