Tenure depends on finances

To the Editor:

I would like to offer some comments on Professor Frank E. Morgan’s tenure case, which has received much attention in The Tech recently and which has been fairly treated. Earl Ven’s article “UA urges tenure review,” Feb. 4, was objective and accurate, while the letters from Marino Tavarez (“Teaching not a priority at MIT,” Feb. 7) and Miller Pooker (“Make you views known to MIT,” Feb. 7) offered eloquent personal testimony to the deep impression Frank has made on many MIT undergraduates over the last seven years.

In the discussion, emphasis has been placed on Frank’s teaching and his contributions to the Institute. Perhaps I could add some remarks about his research. Mathematics research is usually not easy to describe to non-specialists, and Frank’s papers are as technical as anything. Yet many undergraduates know something about his professional work, because of his efforts in class to communicate the excitement he feels in doing it.

Frank’s research is in the theory of minimal surfaces. These are surfaces which have minimal area for a given boundary. It has been a long-standing problem to understand how they can often be realized by spanning the wire and dipping it in soap to produce a surface which has minimal area. The classical case is for a given boundary, if stable, there will be the least area surface. The classical problem is in a certain sense, there, but let it pass) that Nature shows a unique minimal surface. The classical classical problem is in a certain sense, there, but let it pass) that Nature shows a unique minimal surface. Frank’s research has been on this about the uniqueness. Much of

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