MIT to create faculty ceiling

(Continued from page 1) Professors are reaching a point of resignation," said Professor Mary C. Potter, chairwoman of the faculty. They must devote more time to teaching and collegiality, she explained.

We would like to see our faculty devoting more time to teaching and collegiality, she explained.

Recognition of the problem

Many years ago there was a consensus in the Institute that "it would be good to expand, increase activities...and so do it by raising external support," Low said.

With this external support, MIT "averaged itself into becoming a large community," Potter said. "It was easy to increase our faculty size, especially in the good days of the sixties." But the national climate has now changed, she continued, leaving the Institute "out on a limb," she said.

The likelihood of drastic federal budget cuts — whether or not the Gramm-Rudman Budget Reduction Act is declared unconstitutional — "brings to a head" the need to act on the problem, Potter said.

Faculty dissatisfaction with the need to raise part of their salary from grants has "always been latent," Potter said. "They could always live with it...but never were deluged."

Faculty members raised the issue of outside salary support when they were asked to suggest priorities for MIT's upcoming endowment drive, she added.

Low recognized that the difficulty of finding grants was increasing when he heard faculty complaints during his term as provost from 1980 to 1985. "The consequences were getting harder and harder," he said.

Low, while provost, began to suggest that the faculty limit the size of the faculty. He reversed this trend toward increasing the percentage of salary paid by research sponsors.

Possible solutions

MIT would have a "better-balanced structure" if it had likewise its present endowment or a somewhat smaller faculty, Low said. A major fund drive will address the need for endowment, but until it is completed the faculty must be reduced a little, he continued.

Potter described MIT's intention to restrict the size of the faculty as a "praising effort," which would allow for growth in the most promising fields while taking advantage of mission in standard or less promising ones. Cutbacks would take place "here and there, not in any particular sector," she emphasized.

Deutch explained that areas, not schools, would be selected for growth or shrinkage to achieve a goal of "average reduction." It is important to "preserve opportunity for certain key areas," such as the new Department of Brain Science, he said.

MIT sometimes makes extra faculty appointments to hire more women and minorities. This practice "will go on without question" despite limits on appointments, Deutch said.

Potter and Deutch said they felt a modest reduction in faculty size could only help MIT in the long run. The aim is to "make the path smoother" for the best people, Potter said, so that MIT is not a "hardship pool."

Students protest at Harvard

(Continued from page 1) In light of considering its investment policies in South Africa, Harvard's present policy allows companies doing business in South Africa. Heffron said. In the past two years, Harvard has sold stocks of four companies, totaling $12.4 million, that were following the South African principles.

"Harvard condemns the racist apartheid system," Heffron said. "But [Harvard president] Mr. Bok and the Corporation do not believe in substituting to complete divestment. We believe we can effect a change in South Africa by encouraging a commitment to practice racial integration and by voting responsibly in our proxies."

The protesters have no plans to take down the statues and are considering the possibility of letting the issue stand through the commencement exercises in June. Heffron refused to say how long the administration will allow the statues to remain.

Conservatives respond

The Harvard Conservative Club on April 23 nulled a shack representing a Soviet prison or gulag in Harvard Yard.

"The purpose of the gulag is to draw attention to the very serious issue of Soviet oppression of human rights all over the world," said Saudi Khashim, president of the Conservative Club. "The gulag symbolizes the more than 30 nations from Afghanistan to Democratic Vietnam that are under Soviet oppression, not including the Soviet Union itself."

Many thanks to everyone...