UA requests funding increase

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the new funding Student Counci- l on Educational Policy, and $300,000 on "outreach programs." While he was a bit hesitant about the Course Evaluation Guides, Rodriguez feels confident that the UA will receive the other monies. Rodriguez said that without the budget increase, the UA simply could not meet its budget.

The UA made the following observations in its request for more funding:

- the UA budget has remained constant at $56,500 for the past several years, meaning a decrease in real dollars for the same period;
- requests for funds to the UA have been accelerating during the same period;
- the Finance Board has been spending an average of $25,000 annually from its invested reserve, but that fund is now depleted. These factors "cause concern for the UA and must be addressed," McBay said.

Regarding the UA's budget shrinkage, McBay explained:

"When SLAM started we were trying to gain control over its budget. With an activities fee, the UA would get its money directly from student's term bills - the UA would get its money directly from student's term bills — the money would not have to be appropriated," McBay noted. "If we wish to make this emphasis clearly — in the years of reenforcement we have not been able to get the student line items."

Rodriguez said the ODSA was placed in determining what student events will or will not happen by allowing groups to make direct requests for special event funds.

Activities fee considered

The UA is also considering implementing a student activities fee to gain control in its budget. With an activities fee, the UA would get its money directly from student's term bills — the money would not have to be appropriated. On the student's bills, the activities fee would be charged so the student would have the "house tax" paid in denominations. About $350 of student's tuition is currently going to the UA — the money would become the activities fee. A student referendum as well as administration approval is necessary for an activities fee to be implemented.

Rodriguez said the activities fee would increase interest in the UA. Students would realize that their money is being spent and that the UA Council could raise the fee. This would prompt greater interest on the part of students and UA activities, Rodriguez said. Rodriguez noted that house tax "make for great house meet- ings" and increased "living group spirit." He said the activities fee would have a similar effect — putting pressure on UA Council members to act responsibly and providing motivation for the student body to get more involved in the UA.

Rodriguez said that living groups might have to reduce their activities because an activities fee was started. But "living group budgets should be decreased and campus-wide budgets increased," he asserted. "One of the great things about college is learning to talk and listen to other people different from you; in living groups we talk to people like us, which is good for support, but not for learning," he said.

Endowment fund possible

The Finance Board is also looking into raising a $2 million activities endowment fund. Such a fund would annually produce about $120,000; this income would supplement, not replace, money received either from the Institute or directly from the students.

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shoved a new AIDS research, Confronting AIDS, Baltimore, a 1975 Nobel Prize winner, feels that there should be more government leadership for AIDS research. The commission recommended by President Reagan is "totally inadequate" and only a "meat grinder" in an overwhelming problem, Baltimore asserted. "Right now, AIDS research is not at the appropriate priority and in a number of areas there is no visibility that presidential leadership would induce," he said.

Baltimore co-chaired the National Academy of Science's AIDS committee, which last year outlined a national strategy for combating the disease in its report, Confronting AIDS.

Also on the committee was Jeffrey E. Harris, associate professor of economics, who makes models of the AIDS epidemic and its economic effects in an attempt to "understand the dynamics of the epidemic — the number of people affected, when it gets to a critical mass, and the incubation period." Harris also studies the government's methods of reporting cases and rates to determine "how many missed cases actually fall through the cracks," Harris said.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is not spreading as quickly among heterosexuals as previous reports had suggested, according to Harris. Transmission of the virus between two exclusively homosexual partners who do not use intravenous drugs is a "near event," Harris stated. In the July issue of Technology Review, he said: "This is not to say that the virus will not spread, but it is not moving as quickly as was thought."

"We still do not have a clear picture of the extent of heterosexual transmission, and there are risks we can't even quantify. These risks can be minimized, however, by the careful use of condoms and by controlled sexual activity. Our only protection now is prevention," Baltimore said.

Proposals to do related work to AIDS abound in various other M.I.T. departments. Harris noted. He cited people in the Sloan School of Management and the Department of Political Science who are interested in modeling the epidemic in trying to understand AIDS and how it will relate to the blood supply.