UA seeks additional funding

(Continued from page 1) preparation will not prevent him from requesting more money. He said the UA will go through the same channels again looking for increased funding for next term. "I think that with the knowledge we still won't make it...it's my responsibility to let her (McBay) know that."

The UA approached McBay last term on the funding issue with the knowledge that the budget would be strapped. McBay said there was no additional money. The UA then approached Associate Provost Samuel J. Keyser and Provost John M. Deutch '61 so that they would "know our situation," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez has asked all of the recognized student activities to write letters to McBay saying that they need increased funding to make up for "what the MIT community is losing. The UA will submit a budget next month to McBay for the 1988-89 academic year, he said.

The amount of money the UA has available does not correspond directly to the operating budgets of student activities, because some organizations, like The Tech and the Lecture Series Committee, are self-supporting, and others may receive departmental funds.

Rodriguez: UA must be able to plan campus-wide events

The MIT community is fragmented by living groups and other structures and needs to increase campus-wide activities and events in order to build a common community spirit, Rodriguez argued.

Last year's Student Life at MIT was one event that helped unite the MIT community, Rodriguez said. But the UA has had difficulty raising money for other such events, he said.

The UA initiated SLAM unsure of where it would get $4,000 for the budget. It just barely managed to raise the funds in time, Rodriguez said. "I don't think students should have to go begging from office to office for money," he lamented.

The lack of money has adversely affected community spirit, Rodriguez said. "You can't just get everyone into Kresge Auditorium to sit and 'be together,'" he said. "You have to have things for them to do."

Rodriguez urges activities fee or endowment fund

Two student committees are studying the possibilities of a student activities fee and an endowment fund, Rodriguez said. An activities fee, if established, would be a line item on students' term bills and would be subtracted from tuition. Rodriguez said. Rodriguez said if the UA decides to pursue the plan there will be a referendum in March when elections are held.

Rodriguez also suggested that an endowment fund of approximately $2 million would be extremely useful to the UA. He estimated about $120,000 a year could be earned from such a fund, though he was uncertain whether the development office would let the UA participate in the Institute's "Campaign for the Future" fund drive.

"It's clear that some people in the administration think other things are more important than student activities funding," Rodriguez said. "If [MIT has] a budget of $800 million and the UA has $56,000, it's just a matter of priorities."

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