Reorganization plans halted

By Preobrakh Milk

Discussions concerning the reorganization of the Department of Humanities into several smaller departments have 'founded for two reasons,' according to Prof. Travis R. Merritt '64, dean of humanities and social science. The discussions involved two committees formed to study the possibility of combining the literature, foreign languages, and writing sections; and another to study the merger of the science, technology, and society programs with the history and anthropology/archeology concentration. Professor Merritt noted that both committees reached stalemats because of fears that individual sections -- which presently operate without departmental administrative support -- would lose such advantages as hosting offices which function with almost as much independence as individual departments.

The discussions of grouping the sections into individual departments began last fall, when freshmen were proposed to the council of the School of Humanities. A reorganization would enable sections to work together in creating small graduate programs, Merritt said. She also felt that breaking up Course XIX would give more prominence to the individual sections and help them to attract more students.

Right now, Merritt said, the department "playing a service role to the institute." She believed that a reorganizing would give the sections a more functional role.

Professor Travis R. Merritt, head of the Undergraduate Academic Support Office, chaired a 1965 committee on the history and current status of MIT's HASS programs and felt reassured that this would enable Course XIX sections to operate once again under departmental administrative control. In its present condition, Course XIX has no reason to consider itself as a single department, Merritt noted.

The committee that studied the merger of HASS, history and anthropology/archeology began to come apart in mid-January. Talks at the beginning of this year forced the proposed reorganization, considering only HASS and history.

Similarly, the committee on merging the literature, foreign languages, and writing sections -- recognizing the need for an extensive reappraisal of its own programs, dropped out of the talks in mid-January.

The committee, which discussed the possibility of creating a languages and literatures department, was finally suspended last summer.

Despite its present setbacks, the issue of reorganization may not be dead. Although Friedlaender declined to commit himself on the future of the Department of Humanities, she maintained that changes in the administration of the six sections in the department of and the STS program are needed.

Lobbies 7 and 13 to be renovated

By Laszlo B. Bagchi

A new renovation plan designed by Siah Armajani hopes to transform Lobby 7 from an "uninstructive" state to one that will combine both practicality and elegance. Armajani was commissioned by the Center for the Arts to create a master plan for renovation.

The Lobby 7 Committee and the Center on the Visual Arts plan to submit the proposals to an advisory group for their comments.

Despite the failure of the Allen Committee to make three recent recommendations, Dean of Students Shibley M. McIlroy said she has received a "renewed interest" among some faculty members in re-examining when residency sections should make changes. These faculty members have questioned whether the present R/O system is in the best interests of freshmen.

Many of these faculty members are freshmen advisors who hear of freshman commitments of their advisees, which can be 'very traumatic.'

One way to address this issue would be to have someone look into what could be held," McIlroy said. One possibility would be an increase in residence selection for a year, with all freshmen (Please see next page)

By Harold A. Stern

The committee which met last year to discuss the Residence/Orientation Week at MIT failed to formulate any conclusions, said Thomas J. Allen '66, chairman of the R/O Committee.

The committee's inability to reach an agreement was largely the result of its large size, Allen said. Furthermore, governing bodies, deans, or administration, the Undergraduate Academic Support Office, the Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Education, and faculty members were not all agreed on the committee.

"Many different constituencies were represented," he said. "Those who represented large groups were more locked in with other seven schools in the conference than would overshadow the other many people were afraid that it would result in a loss of MIT's kind of foot-

When the football program was re-established a decade ago, many people were afraid that it would result in a loss of the former R/O planning to upgrade the programs to Division III status because of discussions of the football program's fate and the existence of a relatively small group.

Professor Kline said. The remodeling plan encompasses two podiums on top of two new structures, since the Lobby 7 remodeling is one of two major renovations that are planned at MIT at this time. The Lunch facilities of Lobby 13 are also planned at MIT at this time.

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