Students strongly support program

A resolution, approved by the Undergraduate Association Council on Nov. 18, calls on the MIT administration to create a new, stronger program in psychology.

The resolution also recommends hiring Wolfe to administer the program. J. Paul Khoury '92, who co-sponsored the resolution, said it was largely based on proposals "tossed around" by various faculty members in Courses 1 and 21.

Rebecca D. Kaplan '92 has organized psyche@athenna, an account in Course 11 that has been a major force in this fight to keep both psychology and Wolfe at MIT. "Students are in favor of psychology program in HASS and of keeping Wolfe," Kaplan said.

According to Kaplan, the elimination of psychology would be harmful to MIT because "psychology is fundamental to the understanding of other fields, especially science and engineering." Wolfe also emphasized the importance of a permanent program in psychology. "I am fond of the fields of cognitive science and brain science, but we are not the same thing as psychology which deals more with the human element," he said.

"A major university needs psychology represented, at least at the undergraduate level," he added.

Khoury does not believe that a psychology program is essential to the function of the Institute. "If we were a full university, we'd have humanistic psychology," he said. "The decision was made in the not too distant past that psychology ought to merge more with brain sciences."

Khoury pointed out that this wouldn't be the first occasion where MIT wouldn't have a department that "schools like Harvard, Princeton and Stanford have. "We also don't have departments or programs in sociology or religion," he said.

In refusing the argument for a specific psychology program, Khoury made an analogy between psychology and women's studies courses. "People were hired in the literature, music and anthropology programs, and they teach in the area of women's studies, but there is no [department] in women's studies," he said.

He thought that even without an official program in psychology, students would still be allowed to minor or concentrate in psychology. "We can't create a position from nothing," he said. "The decision was made in the not too distant past that psychology ought to merge more with brain sciences."

Khoury also emphasized the importance of hiring Jeremy Wolfe, "a popular Introduction to Psychology," he said. Wolfe also emphasized the importance of hiring Jeremy Wolfe, "a popular Introduction to Psychology," he said. Wolfe also emphasized the importance of hiring Jeremy Wolfe, "a popular Introduction to Psychology," he said.

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