Whitaker College denies Wolfe tenure

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Associate Professor Jeremy M. Wolfe PhD '81 receiving the Baker Teaching Award last year. Wolfe, who was recently denied tenure, teaches the popular Introduction to Psychology (18.000) course.

Smith — who as director of Whitaker heads the college's tenure committee — said Wolfe's case was judged by "service, teaching and research." BCS initially voted to approve Wolfe's position as a tenured faculty member, but in April switched to a "mini-tenure process," he said. "This was very much in favor of Wolfe," he added. "If something more valid, we just don't agree with it..."

As often happens when the college makes a tenure decision, the new position "specifically directed at Dr. Wolfe, but continuing on the approval of the department and the Whitaker council," Wolfe said.

The process did not stop there, however, as BCS faculty and academic administrators joined together to forge an appeal. Wolfe, who was away when the appeal was made, was impressed by the efforts of his colleagues.

"People who knew about the case were very much in favor of it... in the sense of working hard on it," he said. Wolfe also noted the efforts of Dean for Undergraduate Education Margaret L. A. MacCluer '65, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences Anna F. Friedlander PhD '94, and Merritt, who "went out of their way, quite on their own initiative," to push for Wolfe's tenure.

In response to the efforts of this group, Dorow created the new position "specifically directed at Dr. Wolfe, but continuing on the approval of the department and the Whitaker council," Wolfe said. Dorow said he was "pleased that the Office of the Provost intervened in this matter, in a way which demonstrates the value we place at MIT on undergraduate education.

This offer led to a significant change in the BCS judgment of the case, switching from a small majority in favor to unanimous approval of Wolfe. Birzi attributed this marked change to the fact that "the standard rules were suspended, giving specific recognition to an object as a teacher."

The case was "treated as an exception," Birzi explained. "Essentially we said MIT obviously wants to recognize and make a specific position for a teacher who has a significant role in the department and the School of Humanities."

The "first time around, research and teaching was evaluated, but the second time was specifically in recognition of education," Birzi said.

Smith confirmed that he did have "an informal discussion" with the Academic Council, the next level up in the tenure process. However, he did this only to inform the council of his decision, not to solicit the members' opinions on whether the case should be brought before them, he said.

"Basically, Smith said, it is "the end of it." It is "unlikely that there will be intervention [since the provost said to me that he felt it was closed]." Wolfe agreed that his chance of receiving tenure at MIT is "essentially dead."

IFC votes to recognize new Delta Pi fraternity

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Delta Pi "falls between the cracks," someone said.

Advisor to Fraternities and Intercollegiate Groups Neil H. Dorow welcomed Delta Pi to the IFC at a meeting last year. In response to public discussion on the recognition of AEPi, Dorow said, "Let's just get the facts about this... Some parts of the Jewish community feel that this may be an anti-Semitic issue.

Dorow emphasized that MIT's decision to recognize the fraternity was a result of the "way [the national] went about removing