A major restructuring of graduate student funding is urgently needed, based on honesty and fairness, not on expediency.

without assistantships.

Graduate students who are ineligible or have exhausted federally guaranteed loans are left with only restricted MIT-funded loans. Such loans may cover last-minute gaps near graduation. But during the opening phases of degree programs, graduate students must prove to MIT's financial aid office that they can cover most of their costs from other sources, or they are refused MIT loans altogether and forced to give up their studies. Foreign graduate students get no loans during their first year of study.

Recognizing that unfunded graduate students needed to pay full tuition could not complete doctorates, and discovering that many of them were breaking their registration and moving to other schools, the Institute set up an "assistant" status for those with approved thesis proposals. Students pay 13 percent of the state graduate student tuition (whether assistant or not) with only minimal, if any, facilities, taking employment or funding tuition waivers. Both programs have been restructured:

- These payments exceed the market value of their services.
- All out-of-state tuition waivers. Both Harvard and California at Berkeley offer.
- In the Schools of Architecture and Planning and Humanities and Social Sciences, less is little research money. Stipends are typically $9,000 to $12,000 per year (as opposed to $4,000 to $5,000 a year for teaching). Students who have lived at Athena for full duration of their studies.
- The MIT administration's blindness to this problem is epitomized in the article written by President Charles M. Vest in the January issue of The Faculty Newsletter. Vest argues that by spending RA costs "across the entire institute, this procedure has held down the cost of research assistants to grants." If, by making these payments explicit, students could be charged directly as far as possible. 

A meeting of the Undergraduate Association Council.

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Grad students in MIT need help to fund their research. In the February MIT Undergraduate Newsletter, I reported that over 60% of graduate students in the School of Science, covering only partial tuition or none at all. Many students in these schools, along with students in the Schools of Architecture and Planning and Humanities and Social Sciences, have virtually no access to centrally-allocated scholarship money. This is particularly true of graduate students in the Schools of Architecture and Planning and Humanities and Social Sciences, who are left with only restrictive MIT-funded loans. These payments exceed the market value of their services. All out-of-state tuition waivers. Both Harvard and California at Berkeley offer....