GSC TO FUND ANTI-HARASSMENT BOOK

By Nick Nass sa P

The controversial Undergraduate Guide on Sexual Harassment at MIT has received the endorsement of the Graduate Student Council, a move that will ensure funding for the guide.

The guide's anonymous authors present the guide as an alternative to the administration's policy on sexual harassment. The guide criticizes MIT's response to sexual harassment.

Most of the disputed amount stems from disagreements and policy changes rather than erroneous or improper accounting.

The GSC responded to the DCAA's audit in early April and is waiting for a response from the DCAA and the Office of Naval Research, the agency to which the DCAA reports. ONR will make the ultimate decision based on the DCAA's audit and MIT's response.

The audit has been ordered by the House Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.), after the university's refusal on Stanford's use of government funds a year ago, according to Dennis B. Fitzgibbon, a committee spokesman.

Schools with a high proportion of funding from defense-related programs for graduate students, the guide's anonymous authors wrote. "The Undergraduate Guide provides extremely valuable information that is not available in MIT's official guide. It contains realistic assessments of where students should turn. Victims have a right to know all this information, especially in light of the current lack of guidelines and confusion that exists at MIT on the official level."

Mery P. Rowe, the president's special assistant who handles harassment-related issues, was among those critical of the guide.

"I take the concerns expressed very seriously," she said at the meeting. She added that she had never knowingly pursued a complaint or broken confidentiality to obtain formal and explicit permission to do so.

"I do not think this guide is fair," said Samuel J. Keyser, associate provost for Institute life. Keyser said he found the guide to be very useful, but added that it also contains allegations and incomplete facts that could be damaging to individuals within the administration.

The guide's authors argue for the credibility of the guide's anonymous sources. "All statements can and will be supported if needed," said a representative of the authors. The authors added that the Course Evaluation Guide relies solely on anonymous student evaluations of faculty members.

The charge of being a bad teacher is not the same as saying that someone is helping sexual harassment," said James R. Tewhey, associate dean for residence and campus activities. The authors admitted that some of the specific passages referring to individuals were true, there were also incorrect and hurtful statements. They also said that the incidents involving members of his staff were not accurate and he wanted the publication to be damaging.

"We are all on the same side," Keyser said, but he did not agree that "ends justify the means." He said that although he was dismayed with the GSC decision, the decisions will not affect the administration's willingness for cooperation in any way.

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rejecting funding for the current fiscal year of the Educational Evaluation Guide, the NEA's National Commission on the Arts, Cultural Freedom, and the Arts in American Public Life, said that the quality and relevance of the proposed guide "may well be a positive step for the NEA's own efforts to improve its own programs." The NEA has not awarded any grants to the guide.

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