DCAA Investigates Indirect Cost Billiing Practices at MIT, Other Universities

By Eva Moly

It is often difficult to decipher the matriarch of university billing practices, the Defense Contract Audit Agency. The agency's investigations at Stanford, Columbia and the University of Southern California were all undertaken under the direction of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Financial Management, who has since stepped down from his position.

The DCAA has been investigating indirect cost billings at MIT for over a year, looking into the practices at both the university and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The audit includes MIT's handling of indirect costs, which are costs that are allocable to a project but cannot be directly charged to it. The DCAA found that MIT's handling of indirect costs was not in accordance with the regulations and that the university had overstated its indirect cost base by $21.6 million.

The DCAA has also found that MIT has been overbilling the federal government for its use of facilities and services. The DCAA discovered that MIT had been charging federal agencies for the use of buildings and equipment that were not actually being used by the federal government.

MIT has denied the DCAA's findings and has called the audit a "political witch hunt." The university has also filed a lawsuit against the DCAA, alleging that the agency has violated its due process rights.

In November, the DCAA released its report, which included a recommendation that MIT repay the federal government for the overbilling.

MIT has said it is reviewing the report and will take appropriate action. The university has also said it will appeal the DCAA's findings.

Little Changes with End of Project Athena

By Kevin Subramanya

One year after the completion of Project Athena, the end of the project is marked by the end of the controversial initiative to change the way college students use the Internet.

Project Athena was created by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1994 to address the growing problem of Internet addiction and cyberbullying.

The project included a number of changes to the way students used the Internet, including the establishment of a "Digital Harkness" where students could discuss their online activities and the introduction of a "digital signature" system to track online activities.

The project was controversial from the beginning, with some students and parents expressing concern that the changes would infringe on their privacy.

In 1996, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology announced that Project Athena would be ended after one year.

The end of Project Athena marks the end of a controversial era in college life, but it also means the end of a set of practices that continue to shape the way college students use the Internet.

Aerosmith Donates Money for List Exhibit

Aerosmith has donated $10,000 to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to support a new exhibit on the history of the band.

The exhibit, "Aerosmith: From the Vanishing Point to the Present," will focus on the band's career and its impact on the music industry.

"Aerosmith is one of the greatest bands of all time," said Aerosmith guitarist Brad Whitford. "We feel honored to be able to support this exhibit and the MIT community."