Students Voice Concerns About Calendar Proposal

By Eric Richard

At last night's Undergraduate Association Council meeting, mem-
bers of the council heard students' questions and concerns about the proposal to increase the length of the academic year.

Students emphasized that proposed changes should consider the financial losses and additional stresses which would be placed on them. Many said the present proposal would not justify its costs.

Professor of Chemistry Robert J. Silbey, chairman of the committee, and committee member Stephen D. Immomen, director of student services, and Registrar David S. Wiles '61 defended the rationale behind the calendar proposal.

Under the proposal, independent activities periods would be extended by two days to four full weeks, and each term would be expanded to have three terms, with the summer being shortened by two weeks, and classes would start before Labor Day in three of the first seven years.

The committee's recommendations state that the proposal will provide more class days, as well as academic opportunities, while still creating "a variety of educational possibilities."

Some faculty want longer terms to "there is a strong feeling among a vocal portion of the engineering faculty that the term is too short to do things— not that they want to put more things in, but that they can't do the things that they have always done," Immomen said. "They wanted more time for thinking about the topics already in the curriculum."

J. Paul Kirby '92, former UA president, suggested that the main problems stemmed from the rapid growth in the engineering disciplines, not from a lack of school funds. "It seems as if it is only the engineering disciplines that are pushing for longer semesters. The humanities department doesn't have a damn. . . . The management department doesn't give a damn."

President of the Panhellenic Association Marquita C. Gillfahan '94 stressed the idea of weighing the proposal's costs and benefits. "I understand that teachers want more school days, but they are only getting three or four more days of classes, at a great cost to us. How much (or these extra days) worth? If we look at the benefit versus the cost, the cost wins."

A common complaint among students was that the fact that the proposal would enable them to alleviate the stress at MIT while still taking away from the free time during the summer. "I've talked to a lot of professors, and they've admitted to the fact that if you increase the number of days, they will add to what they have to teach you," Line Muller '91 said. "And yet, those same people will admit that during those 62 days, MIT teaches you one and a half to two times more than any other school in the country."

"I think what we are missing is a little bit of contemplative time to think about what you are learning," Silbey said. "The alternative would be to cram things in a little bit more into some subjects..."

Shorter summer a concern

Several students said that the shorter summer would impose a financial burden on them because they would not have as much time to work.

This complaint was emphasized by students in humanities and sciences who said that of the research and work week, their summers would be drastically affected. At the meeting, students and faculty gave varying numerical analyses of the effects of the proposal.

"With the way that the rush system works, you are realistically cutting the summer down to nine weeks!" for people who come back for Residence/Orientation Week. Gillfahan said.

"Companies do not offer internships for nine weeks," Gillfahan said. "Do you expect MIT students to make $600 during the year without being able to get jobs over the summer?"

"There is a substantial concern on our part. That is a cost that the MIT students have to bear," Silbey said.

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Tewhey Complaint Was Without Merit

By Josh Hartmann

Only one complaint was filed against former Associate Dean James R. Tewhey during his tenure here and that was without merit, Provost Mark S. Wrighton said yesterday.

"I know of no problem," Wrighton said. "There is no one thing I received either a verbal or written reprimand for anything I have done," Tewhey said. "It is inevitable that there are going to be complaints. You make a lot of decisions about very controversial issues."

Tewhey, who resigned April 20, said he had considered resigning since February, shortly before filing his own personnel complaint, claiming that a colleague had created a hostile working environment. In the weeks before his resignation, Tewhey and Katherine M. Nolan, the financial aid officer with whom he had an 18-month affair, obtained

MTG Focuses on Quality of Shows

By Edward Grauman

The arts are alive and well at MIT. The Musical Theatre Guild provides a prime example of how students are getting involved in humanistic pursuits outside of the classroom. "We're dedicated to fun," MTG President Robert J. Dykeman said. But recent MTG has focused on the quality of its shows, he continued. The group is currently in the process of applying for grants from the MIT Council for the Arts to start musical theater workshops. These workshops would allow students to develop their skills in the area of musical performance.

The MTG is also encouraging its members to take on theater classes at MIT. "Theater department is excellent," said Dykeman, who is majoring in theater. "The group has been fairly pleased with its success to date. Dykeman called this year's fall show, "The Baker's Wife" pretty successful. Moreover, the Independent Activities Period show, "Jesus Christ Superstar," did better than expected, selling out four of its six performances. The Guild recently performed The Apple Tree and is planning to perform Cheka for its summer show.

By Jackson Jung

This Sunday at 12:30 a.m. an MIT student was robbed at gunpoint on Memorial Drive near Building 17. The thief approached the student and said, "I got a gun at your back. Empty your pockets and give me your wallet." The student handed over his wallet, which contained $500 in cash and $500 in traveler's checks. He was then told to get down on the ground as the robber fled.

Despite the vicinity of the area, the campus police did not apprehend the suspect.

A second MIT police officer and campus police, believes the victims used the emergency phone located about 60 feet from the crime to contact campus police, which is plan-

This was one of the emergency phones installed following the murder of Yvonne K. Rassett '94 on Memorial Drive last year, in order to improve the safety along the road. Glavin noted that the emergency telephones do not actually stop crimes, but give potential victims more accessibility to the campus police.

In the crime bulletin describing this incident, the campus police recommended utilizing campus safety shuttle service, A Safe Ride, after dark. However, in this case, the closest shuttle stop was at 77 Massachusetts Ave.

Glavin said that this was not an unusual crime, considering this is an urban campus.

In an unrelated incident, an MIT student confronted two suspicious, white, teenage males in the courtyard of the New West Campus Houses. Accordin-

The student and other witnesses described the intruders to the campus police, who were later arrest-

The Class of 1994 and 1995 councils and the Undergraduate Association Social Committee provided free banana splits in front of the Student Center Sunday.

The Weather

Today: rain or snow, 48°F (9°C) Tonight: cloudy, cold, 3°F (–15°C)

Tomorrow: partly sunny, cool, 5°F (–15°C)

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