Staff Expenses Its Concerns at Town Meeting

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(describing MIT’s predicament) the Institute is caught “in a budgetary vice” because its expenses continue to exceed its revenues, he said.

“Don’t have all the detailed answers” to these problems, Vest said, though the Institute is “going too far into deficit spending” and cannot have its future hobnob by it. The Institute “cannot balance its budget by increasing tuition at faster and faster rates,” Vest said.

The research volume has been growing, he said, but the Institute “cannot afford to do it.” The three panelists then turned to addressing the two dozen or so issues raised.

Mechanism for staff cuts

All three panelists discussed the mechanisms for reducing the number of employees. The administration would “take out the work that we don’t need to do” before removing employees, Wrighton said. Wrighton does not expect that early retirement would be offered, nor does he anticipate a salary freeze, which would yield a savings of $8 million, he said. He does expect “constrained but meaningful compensation in the years ahead.”

Bargaining unit provisions, if applicable, would be used to determine who will get laid off, Dickson said. For others, length of service, skills, and retraining potential would be among the factors considered.

Already the biggest challenge is management to reduce the number of the staff reductions will not need to be made through layoffs, Dickson said. Dickson also said the Institute would “look carefully at opportunities for out-sourcing some of its operations.

Since the biggest chunk of employees are part of the administrative, support, and service staff, the biggest staff cuts would be in this area, Vest said. He noted that changes in federal defense policy and changes in Federal laws at Lincoln Laboratory last year.

In addition, over the next 10 years, the size of the faculty will shrink through attrition from 950 to about 900. The policies concerning faculty compensation and benefits will be reviewed within the next year, Wrighton said.

MIT needs to maintain reputation

“Morale is up to you,” said Vest, addressing the audience. MIT is not facing a crisis, but “we face difficult times ahead of us,” he said. The administration will try to “minimize pain, but it has a responsibility to keep the Institute strong.”

Vest identified criteria for measuring the success of this endeavor to reduce the budget deficit. The budget must be balanced, and MIT must be maintained as one of the preeminent institutions in the world, primarily focused on science and engineering, he said.

Dickson foresees little effect on employee benefits, though he conceded that federal law may impose changes on areas like health care. He also said parking fees would be considered.

Vest observed that MIT’s full service medical department takes “a big piece of the financial pie,” and therefore “must be looked at very carefully.”

Vest said that maintenance and improvements to MIT’s physical appearance would continue. “Students pay heavy tuition. We owe them good living conditions and good learning conditions,” he said.

The meeting was broadcast live to viewers in the mezzanine lounge in the Student Center, and was rebroadcast on MIT cable last night.

ATTENTION! Student Activity Board Leaders: Upcoming ASA ExecBoard Actions: SPACE ALLOCATION

Activities wishing to gain/retain office space should read the new policy and submit a Room Request Form by the last day of classes (December 9). Groups currently holding space are not exempt and need to fill out the form.

Derecognition

This IAP, the ExecBoard will derecognize all activities for which we do not have current information (Spring 1993 or more recent). To update your information, fill out a Recognition Form before you leave for break.

Copies of all policies and forms are available in the UA office w20-401. Questions? Call us at x3-7984 or email us at asa-execboard@athena.mit.edu

POLICE LOG

The following incidents occurred on or near the MIT campus during the period: Nov. 12 to 22.

Nov. 12: Ofi, sex machine $1,035; Walker Memorial, suspicious activity; Student Center, wallet stolen, $70; Bombing threat.

Nov. 13: Cat, 64, sex machine, $1,035; Walker Memorial, suspicious activity.

Nov. 14: Baker House, annoying phone calls; Senior House, obscene phone calls; Bldg. 26, CD player and other items stolen, $277, and CD Player, calculator, stolen, $290; Westgate lot, portable radio and various items stolen from a Honda. $7,390.

Nov. 15: Bldg. E25, computer parts stolen $700; Bldg. 7, annoying phone calls.

Nov. 16: DuPont locker room, locker broken into and wallet stolen, $100.

Nov. 17: Bldg. 38, harassing phone calls; Bldg. E51, bicycle stolen from rack, $530.

Nov. 19: Bldg. E39, various small items stolen, $10; Bldg. 2, computer parts, $70.

Nov. 20: Walker, hand truck stolen, $200.

Nov. 21: Westgate lot, radio stolen from a Ford Taurus. Bldg. 1 bicycle rack, $500 bicycle stolen.

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