Deutch, Widnall Join Clinton’s Administration in Defense Roles

I n 1993, President Bill Clinton nominated two MIT faculty members to his new administration. Institute Professor John M. Deutch was named Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition on Feb. 24. Former Associate Provost Sheila E. Widnall Sc’64 was sworn in as Secretary of the Air Force on April 16.

Deutch, previously a member of the chemistry department’s faculty, is responsible for the military’s acquisition, education, training, and career development programs as undersecretary, said a Department of Defense spokesperson in February.

Deutch has served in both advisory and consultative roles for every administration since John F. Kennedy’s, excluding Richard Nixon’s. During the Carter administration, Deutch held positions as Director of the Office of Energy Research, Assistant Secretary for Energy Technology, and eventually, Undersecretary of the Department of Energy.

During the late 1970s, he served on the Army Scientific Advisory Panel and the Defense Science Board. Deutch was appointed to the Defense Science Board again last year. He also served as a member of former President George Bush’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

Deuch is known for his work with non-equilibrium statistical mechanics, SIDEK and magnetic structures, criticality, light scattering, and polymer.

Deutch, who was named Professor in Residence in 1990, has been the recipient of numerous honors, including induction into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1990, the National Academy of Sciences in 1994, and the Royal Society of London in 1995.

Widnall, who was named Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics in 1991, is responsible for the first female faculty chair. Widnall’s research interests include fluid mechanics and aerodynamics, and she has been a member of the National Academy of Sciences since 1993.

Widnall has also served as a member of the Committee on the Status of Women in the Physical Sciences and as a member of the National Academy of Science’s Panel on Science, Engineering and Public Policy.

MIT Agrees to Build Shelter for CASPAR

A fter several proposals and counter proposals early in 1993, MIT and Cambridge agreed on a permanent site for the Cambridge Shelter Program for Alcohol Rehabilitation and a leasing policy on several Cambridge streets. On Feb. 24, MIT presented a new groundbreaking for the CASPAR shelter at 240 Albany St.

In February, the Cambridge City Council approved a proposal whereby MIT would build a permanent facility for the CASPAR shelter at the Albany Street site at a cost of $1.9 million. In exchange, MIT received ownership of one street and obtained the lease of three other streets and sidewalks around campus.

The shelter, which serves homeless individuals with addiction problems, had been searching for a permanent location for 14 years. Since 1979, the emergency shelter has been housed in two trailers on the Albany Street sidewalk. MIT owns the land on which it sits but leased it to CASPAR rent-free.

Groundbreaking symbolizes new era

“The groundbreaking officially marks this as the beginning of the project,” said MIT President Robert StewArt, who is chair of the CASPAR board of directors.

According to MIT and Cambridge officials, the event symbolized a new era of relations between the two communities. Robert Simha MCP ’57, director of planning, called the agreement a “wonderful step in the right direction of a relationship between MIT and Cambridge – a new, good future.”

The ceremony was open to the public. Several community and city leaders were present, including Cambridge Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves, President Charles M. Vest, Cambridge City Manager Robert W. Healy, the president of the Central Square Neighborhood Coalition, several city councilors, and Massachusetts public health commissioner Brenda Jepsen.

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