package that will minimize the impact.

One solution would be to add $2 million to the general operating budget and dedicate it to UROP. This is "a possibility, but a very difficult one," Wrighton said, signaling MIT's budget deficit as the main problem.

Another idea, trimming $2 million from the $50 million budget for the schools of Science and Engineering, would be equally difficult, Wrighton said. Most UROP projects are funded from MIT "via the MBTA. If your competition is internal, you would lose or even get problems.

Current Institute policy states that only about four-and-a-half dollars of every dollar of endowed principal may be spent on MIT enterprises, according to Wrighton. At this rate, MIT would need a 50 million endowment increase to cover a $2 million deficit. 

Instead, Wrighton looked toward "private foundations, and governmental agencies. He specifically mentioned the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as possible donors. These agencies "have a major stake in furthering research at MIT, he said. The Institute is going to try all of these options, according to Merritt. At the same time, they will "do everything possible to get the government regulation repealed."

However, the working group will "also behave as if there will be no new funding," Merritt added. In addition to any action taken by the Institute, Wrighton encouraged students to talk to their congressional representatives in an attempt to negotiate the regulation. "I believe that communications like this ... will be important in providing an educational base on which these people can make informed decisions," Wrighton said. Through well-organized tones and a coordinated effort, students will be able to inform congressmen and others "not only the nature, but the magnitude of the problem," Wrighton said.

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