House Approves $200M Cut in DoD Research

By Sarah Y. Knightley

The House of Representatives approved a $200 million cut in the Department of Defense research budget yesterday, which will mean a significant loss in sponsorship for the Institute, according to John C. Crowley, director of the MIT Washington office. The Senate was expected to vote on the bill last night or will vote today.

There is little doubt that the Senate will also approve the budget.

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Three robberies of customers at automatic teller machines on the outskirts of campus have occurred in the last week. Two of the robberies involved MIT students or people affiliated with MIT.

Robberies took place at the Baybank ATM at 522 Main St. in Kendall Square, the Baybank ATM on Massachusetts Avenue and Harvard Street, and the Baybank ATM at Third Street and Broadway.

Three ATMs were robbed.

Eric D. Kupferberg G was robbed at gunpoint after completing a transaction in the Kendall Square ATM last Friday at 5 p.m.

The robber was in the lobby of the ATM. Kupferberg said. A number of people were in line ahead of Kupferberg. After the other people made their transactions, they turned left and headed towards the subway and into Kendall Square, he said.

Kupferberg turned right, heading into the Sloan School parking lot, which was more isolated. The robber followed him.

"I became aware that he was following me when I was 15 steps outside of the bank. When I turned the corner to the Sloan lot, and he followed, I knew that I was in danger," Kupferberg said. Kupferberg then started running to Building E56, but the robber "ran and caught up quickly."

The robber showed Kupferberg the barrel of a gun and pointed it to his side. The robber also asked how much Kupferberg had withdrawn.

When told $50, the robber escorted Kupferberg back to the ATM where Kupferberg was forced to withdraw $500, the most that one can withdraw from an ATM. "When he demanded that I return to the bank he had the gun hidden under his jacket," Kupferberg said.

The robber then instructed Kupferberg to walk 15 steps to the right, and the robber waited the other way. Kupferberg immediately notified the Campus Police and the Cambridge Police. Kupferberg was not injured.

"No one noticed in the parking lot that my hands were up in the air," Kupferberg said.

The Defense Department funds 40 percent of U.S. universities’ engineering research. In fiscal year 1995, 18 percent of MIT’s research was funded through the Defense Department, according to Yeak-Faull. Kupferberg said.

The Clinton administration had originally budgeted $1.8 billion for DoD university research funding for fiscal year 1995, which begins tomorrow, but the cut reduces this more than 10 percent.

MIT has faced other serious proposals in Congress to cut and freeze various budgets, but this is perhaps the most serious reduction which has been put into law in the last few years," Kupferberg said.

The final $200 million cut is a compromise between a $363 million cut passed by the House in July and an $82 million cut approved by the Senate in August. The compromise figure emerged from a conference committee last week.

Rep. John P. Murtha, who chairs the House Appropriations defense subcommittee, said the original $363 million cut was made to "send a message" to Congress and the Pentagon to bring university research spending into line with other DoD spending, according to an article in The Boston Globe this summer.

Impact is not clear

"It will take some time to determine what the specific impact on campus programs is," said George H. Dummer, director of the Office of Sponsored Programs.

Because each branch of the DoD will determine how it wants to allocate the reduction, it will take a few weeks before MIT knows how much research funding is lost, Kupferberg said.

It is "quite unlikely that all ongoing activity will be reduced by an equal share," Crowley said. "There will be some programs that fare better than others across the nation."

U.S. News and World Report
Ranks MIT Fourth in Nation

By Venkatesh Satish

MIT ranked fourth in the latest U.S. News & World Report’s annual list of the best 25 schools in the nation.

The top three schools for the 1995 ranking were Harvard University, Princeton University, and Yale University, respectively. Stanford University was fifth, followed by Duke University and the California Institute of Technology. Dartmouth College, Columbia University, and the University of Chicago rounded out the top 10.

"It is gratifying to see that we are rated so high, since we are committed to excellence," said Provost Mark S. Wrighton.

However, he cautioned that the ranking should not be taken as an absolute evaluation though "it certainly encourages really outstanding people to think about MIT and shows that MIT is a very special place," he said.

The criteria used to evaluate the schools included student selectivity (which involved a study of acceptance rates, high school class standing, and test scores), academic reputation, faculty resources, graduation rate, financial resources, and alumni satisfaction.

Colleges received weighted scores in each category, and these were totaled to create overall scores, which were then ranked. Selectivity and reputation accounted for 25 percent, faculty resources 20 percent, graduation rate 15 percent, financial resources 10 percent, and alumni satisfaction weighed 5 percent.

MIT tied with Harvard and Stanford for best academic reputation.

Building Break-Ins, Property Losses Rile CCR Employees

By Don Lacey

A rash of break-ins in buildings 18, 66, E17, and E18 has caused the large number of crimes recorded on campus for the period of Sept. 16 through Sept. 23, according to Chief of Campus Police Anne P. DeHarow.

The total dollar value of stolen possessions jumped to $24,000 from almost $19,000 in the week before.

Last Wednesday personal belongings, laboratory equipment, and building keys were stolen from the Center for Cancer Research, located in E17. The theft of the keys required changing Eli’s locks, said CCR Building Manager Ward Delfsaw.

Outweighing the loss of property and the nuisance of having to change locks was the general feeling of a loss of security at CCR, which employs about 200 people, Delfsaw said.

"In a case like this, everybody feels violated, like they can’t turn around and have things unattended," he said.

The Weather

Today: Sunny and breezy, 49°F (9°C)
Tonight: Clear, chilly, 46°F (8°C)

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