Grant Will Benefit Facilities Used by Entire Community

More Flexibility Allowed in Creation of Research Groups

Grant, from Page 1

Kastner said, "Basically, this program allows and really encourages people to work together. Without this program, it is difficult to work together in a coherent way.

"The vision of our center is to show that there is more to be gained by working with people of different backgrounds," Kastner said.

Kastner also emphasized the importance of the NSF grant to the MIT community. "This grant helps to pay for shared facilities such as the electron microscopy laboratory, which is used by virtually everyone in the materials community, as well as industries."

Fortunately, groups from MIT received good reviews from the anonymous referees from the NSF, Kastner said. "It's not easy these days for great research universities to do well ... This was a great success for MIT and shows that in a fair competition, when we work very hard, we can do extremely well."

The grant is from a new NSF program called Materials Research Science and Engineering Centers, which emphasizes fundamental problems in science and engineering that have societal implications, Kastner said.

"It was understood early on by the NSF that, to manage problems in science, particularly in materials science and engineering, you needed people with different backgrounds working together to try to solve problems that were technologically important or had scientific interest," Kastner said.

The revised NSF system reflects a change from the previous Materials Research Laboratories program, with increased flexibility regarding appropriation of the money, said Kastner.

"Previously, all materials science labs were very large, having between three and six groups of faculty, students, and postdocs. Under the new program, you could design a center of any size, from four or five groups working on a project to five or six groups working on different projects."

Convenience Store, Dining Hall Appeal to Different Customers

West Campus Dining Halls Continue to Be Problem for Aramark

Dining, from Page 1

p.m., attracts a different set of customers, Cogliano said. The convenience store is popular since it targets consumers who are interested in snack foods and late-night dining, Cogliano said. The two cannot be compared, he said.

The convenience store was introduced tentatively to meet the needs of residents who requested snack foods and light breakfast items early in the day. After its initial success, Cogliano recognized the need to make it permanent, he said.

Efforts are being made to promote the Next House dining hall through improvements and advertising, Cogliano said. Next House dining hall is one of two dining halls that remain on west campus.

The McCormick House and MacGregor dining halls were closed in spring 1993 for financial reasons. The future of Next House dining hall has not been set, Cogliano said.

"I like having the convenience and variety (of the Next House Dining Hall)," said Next House resident Thomas T. Kawamoto Jr. '96, "I think it could be better, but if it continues to be like this, I'll continue to eat here."

"I don't think it would be a big loss," Next House resident Bruce L. Wright '95 said, "I would deal with eating at Lobel's Court."

The issue of dining on west campus comes as part of a larger trend of taking control of dining services. As part of general budget cuts, campus food services have been evaluated, McBurney said. This year, unlike past years, there will be no budget deficit for food service, McBurney said. McBurry refused to disclose past deficit amounts.

Additionally, beginning this year, the Institute no longer subsidizes food services, McBurney said. Instead, Aramark Food Services has been given the responsibility to provide services around campus. The five-year contract with Aramark, which has been renewed in the past, is scheduled for termination at the end of spring term 1996. McBurney did not know if it will be renewed.

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