The Strategic Housing Planning Committee recommended in a report released Monday that Senior House remain an undergraduate dormitory and that Ashdown House, currently a graduate dormitory, be converted for undergraduate use.

By Daniel C. Stevenson

The committee also recommended the primary and driving concern of the SHPC, Randolph said. A stress on other priorities, such as an emphasis on an exclusively undergraduate campus-wide judicial board, would produce different scenarios, and therefore different recommendations, he said.

"I have confidence that the president will take the recommendations seriously," Randolph said. Along with the specific conclusions of the report, the committee presented Vest with a larger list of options that could also be considered, he said.

Dean for UESA Arthur C. Smith directed the committee, which he said will look "very seriously at the idea of undergraduate housing system was the primary and driving concern of the SHPC," Randolph said. A stress on other priorities, such as an emphasis on an exclusively undergraduate campus-wide judicial board, would produce different scenarios, and therefore different recommendations, he said.

The committee's report has gone to President Charles M. Vest. Vest said last month he will make a final decision about the short-term plans for the dormitories by the end of the Independent Activities Period. "I have confidence that the president will take the recommendations seriously," Randolph said. Along with the specific conclusions of the report, the committee presented Vest with a larger list of options that could also be considered, he said.

Dean for UESA Arthur C. Smith directed the committee, which he said will look "very seriously at the idea of undergraduate housing system was the primary and driving concern of the SHPC," Randolph said. A stress on other priorities, such as an emphasis on an exclusively undergraduate campus-wide judicial board, would produce different scenarios, and therefore different recommendations, he said.

The committee's report has gone to President Charles M. Vest. Vest said last month he will make a final decision about the short-term plans for the dormitories by the end of the Independent Activities Period. "I have confidence that the president will take the recommendations seriously," Randolph said. Along with the specific conclusions of the report, the committee presented Vest with a larger list of options that could also be considered, he said.

"I have confidence that the president will take the recommendations seriously," Randolph said. Along with the specific conclusions of the report, the committee presented Vest with a larger list of options that could also be considered, he said.

By Christopher Falling

A working group headed by Robert M. Randolph, senior assistant dean for Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs, has released a preliminary draft report that concludes six months of work to lay down the foundation for a new judicial committee.

The new committee will run in parallel to the existing Committee on Discipline, Randolph said. This is the first attempt to establish a campus-wide judicial board in at least 15 years, he added.

The working group was formed in response to student demand to create a more representative board for hearing formal complaints, Randolph said. The decision to make changes in the existing system has come about in no small part because of the large number of complaints the dean's office was receiving and the effort's option that they could do a better job, Randolph said.

Complaints are currently brought before either the COD or the Office of Residence and Campus Activities, Randolph said. COD has choice over what cases it decides to hear. But cases not heard by the COD end up being heard by RCA without any input from students or other MIT offices such as the UESA, he said.

The new board will improve on the existing RCA model by having a broader base of representation, including students and other deans not associated with the RCA, Randolph said. "This is an attempt to open up the judicial process to make it more of a student-friendly process," he said.

"The new Judicial Board will replace RCA's authority to hear formal complaints," said Imry H. Sultan, staff assistant for the UESA. Sultan, who is also the COD administrative officer, contributed to the decision to dismiss the case, Stearns expressed concern that "the government's interpretation of the wire fraud statute would serve to criminalize the conduct of not only persons like LaMacchia, but also the myriad of home computer users who succumb to the temptation to copy even a single software program for private use."

While he found LaMacchia's actions legal, Stearns reserved harsh words for the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science major. "If the indictment is to be believed," he wrote, "one might at best describe his actions as heedlessly irresponsible and at worst as nihilistic, self-indulgent, and lacking in any fundamental respect."

By Randy A. Arnaud

On Dec. 28, a federal court judge dismissed the case against David M. LaMacchia, 95, who had been indicted on April 6 on criminal charges of theft and conspiracy.

According to the indictment and a statement from the U.S. Attorney's office, LaMacchia was alleged to have facilitated the illegal copying and worldwide distribution of more than $1 million of copyrighted software through a server he ran on Athena workstations.

In a decision expected to have important legal ramifications, District Judge Richard G. Stearns ruled that although his conduct was questionable, LaMacchia broke no law.

In his written statement, Stearns said that in this case, existing wire fraud statute did not apply, and the case was more properly a matter for copyright law. However, even that law does not cover LaMacchia's conduct, he said.

"LaMacchia did not do what he was alleged to have done for profit or commercial gain, and the copyright law makes criminal only infringements for profit or commercial gain," said LaMacchia's attorney Harvey A. Silverglade.

In his decision to dismiss the case, Stearns expressed concern that "the government's