Office of the President and the Chancellor

The annual reports that appear in this section are submitted by the heads of administrative departments and operations which report directly to the Office of the President and the Chancellor. The Council for the Arts reports to the President through Professor Roy Lamson, Special Assistant to the President for the Arts. The Director of Information Processing Services and the Director of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program report directly to the Chancellor. The Institute Information Services and the MIT Press report to Constantine B. Simonides, Vice President in the Office of the President and the Chancellor. The Director of the Plasma Fusion Center reports to the President.

Council for the Arts

The year 1977-78, the Council's fifth operating year, was one of continuing development for the arts at M.I.T. A staff of four -- Professor Roy Lamson, Special Assistant to the President for the Arts; Peter Spackman, Executive Director; Susan Knight, Associate Director; and Rebecca Burke, Secretary -- worked with Council members, faculty, and students to continue the development both of arts activities at M.I.T. and the particular arts-related goals established within the Institute's Leadership Campaign.

The Program Committee was chaired this year by Max Wasserman, following five years of leadership by Dr. Leo Beranek. Meeting three times during 1977-78, the Committee awarded $29,394 to 24 recipients representing a wide variety of programs in the arts. Grant recipients included the M.I.T. Dance Workshop, in support of their yearly activities; the Graduate Student Council to assist in funding a week-long residency of the Boston Repertory Ballet; and the M.I.T. Early Music Society to purchase two viols to expand the Society's instrument collection. Additional grants supported a year-long program of visiting poets and writers in the Department of Humanities; assisted the M.I.T. Logarhythms with their 1978 spring tour; funded a student laboratory for the study and creation of holographic artworks at the Center for Advanced Visual Studies; and supplemented a National Endowment for the Arts grant to the Committee on the Visual Arts to publish a 96-page catalogue/walking tour of the M.I.T. Permanent Collection.

In the fall, the Program Committee instituted a small fund-raising program to supplement the budget allocation established each year for the grants program. The Committee experienced moderate success, raising funds for specific projects from sources previously untapped, most notably businesses in the Boston-Cambridge area. The Program Committee expects to continue this funding approach with the aim of developing further contacts and support in the business community, as well as among local and state funding agencies.

Five new members were nominated by the Membership Committee and were appointed to the Council for the Arts by President Jerome B. Wiesner for three-year terms. They are Olga Hirshhorn of Washington, DC; Bernard Palitz, Class of 1947, of New York City; Samuel Sachs of Minneapolis; Barbara Sedlin, M.C.P. 1960, of New York City; and
John Kunstadter, Class of 1949, of New York City. Total Council membership at the end of the year was 83.

The Council’s major cultural event of the year was the debut performance of the M.I.T. Symphony Orchestra at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, on April 12, 1978, cosponsored by the New York Alumni Center. Marcus Thompson, M.I.T. ’s distinguished violist, was the featured soloist in a program chosen by conductor David Epstein. The program opened with Stravinsky’s "Scherzo à la Russe," and included the New York premiere of Kurt Weill’s Suite from the Opera "Silbersee," and "Harold in Italy" by Berlioz. Raymond Ericson, music critic for the New York Times wrote, "the orchestra, 85 players strong, showed how skillful its wind sections are by sparkling through the dry wit of Stravinsky’s bit of native color. The strings added luster to the Weill suite,... Mr. Epstein did everything right in the Berlioz, as did Marcus Thompson, the Viola soloist."

During the year the Council also sponsored a performance by the Merce Cunningham Dance Company during the Company’s five-week residency in Boston. Organized by the Massachusetts Arts and Humanities Foundation, the Cunningham residency included repertory classes, workshops, and formal performances. The lecture/demonstration by 20 Cunningham dancers at Kresge Auditorium drew more than 300 people from Boston and Cambridge, and added an important element to the residency program.

The Council also sponsored a dinner for the Contributions Council of the Conference Board (New York City) during its fall meeting in Boston. Held at the St. Botolph Club, the dinner meeting included remarks by Dr. Jerome Wiesner and featured two films made by distinguished designers Charles and Ray Eames who were also present to meet with members of the Board.

A particular highlight of the Council’s year was the Sixth Annual Meeting, held on November 2, 1977. The annual business meeting was opened by Chairman Luis A. Ferre who welcomed a record number of Council members and spouses to M.I.T. Brief reports followed concerning the Institute’s recent major acquisitions by Tony Smith, Larry Bell, and Trova; the regional events held in connection with the Charles Eames Bicentennial exhibition, "The World of Franklin and Jefferson" at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Art Institute of Chicago; plans for the M.I.T. Symphony Orchestra’s spring tour to Lincoln Center; and the results of last year’s grants program.

A major portion of the business meeting was devoted to a discussion of progress in the area of fund raising during 1976-77. Speaking on behalf of the Financial Development Committee, Chairman Gregory Smith reviewed the progress of the Leadership Campaign in general and the Council’s own fund-raising efforts within the framework of the larger campaign, reporting that efforts during the past year had yielded the highest return in the Council’s history. The successful year was enhanced by the Challenge ’77 program (a dollar-for-dollar matching program administered through the Alumni Fund) which nearly doubled the number of donors contributing to the Council’s programs. President Wiesner concluded the business meeting by announcing two major gifts to the Institute through the Council, one designated for a named professorship in the School of Humanities and the other toward a major new facility for the visual arts.

The second half of the morning session was "A Revue: The Arts at M.I.T.," a nine-part presentation by faculty and students working with different arts programs and activities at the Institute. Moderated by Professor Lamson, "A Revue" included a lively program of video works; early music performances; slides of recent acquisitions; film studies of the Center for Advanced Visual Studies project CENTERBEAM in Kassel, Germany; poetry readings; and dramatic performances. The fast-paced, multimedia presentation proved an ideal format for introducing to the assembled Council members the variety, richness, and excitement of the arts and humanities programs at the Institute.
Council for the Arts

At lunch in McCormick Dining Hall, the Council met with faculty and students in the arts, as well as with Leadership Campaign officers and directors. The luncheon was the occasion for announcing the fourth Eugene McDermott Award which carries a cash prize of $1,000 and is presented annually "for major contributions to the arts as a means of human fulfillment." On behalf of the McDermott Award Committee, Council Chairman Ferre announced that the committee had recommended unanimously and the Executive Committee had approved that the 1977 recipient be James R. Killian, Jr., Class of 1926, first Chairman of the Institute's Visiting Committee on the arts and life-long supporter of the development of arts and humanities programs at M.I.T.

A panel discussion entitled "Connections: Integrating the Arts and Sciences in Contemporary Education" was held in the afternoon. Panelists included Institute Professor Philip Morrison; Sarah Caldwell, Director of the Opera Company of Boston; John MacFadyen, an architect in New York City; Agnes Mongan, Kress Professor at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC; and David Rockefeller, Chairman of the Panel on The Arts, Education and Americans.

The Annual Meeting concluded with dinner at the President's House, followed by a showing of the recently released Roberto Rossellini film on Le Centre Georges Pompidou, the new museum of contemporary art at Beaubourg, Paris.

PETER SPACKMAN

Institute Information Services (I.I.S.)

During the past several years, the concept of the Institute Information Services has been useful in the improvement of the channels of communication among information-related offices. For the past five years, representatives of I.I.S. and other staff members across the Institute, whose responsibilities involve receiving and disseminating information, have met together in the Information Group to brief each other on current developments and to discuss common interests and tasks. This informal but continuous encouragement of more open and cooperative sharing of information across departmental lines will be especially helpful in this current period as the Institute continues to move toward making administrative services more economical and cost-effective.

The activities of the I.I.S. departments during the past year are reported below by Robert M. Byers, Director of the News Office, and Kathryn W. Lombardi, Manager of Campus Information Services.

CONSTANTINE B. SIMONIDES

NEWS OFFICE

M.I.T. was somewhat less in the news during 1977-78 than it was during the previous year, but, nevertheless, received considerable attention from national and regional news media. At year's end, the Alumni Association's honoring of a Pittsburgh steelworker and his wife who sent all four of their sons to M.I.T. received national television attention. Major attention in