

AC 232

BOX 19 FOLDER 5

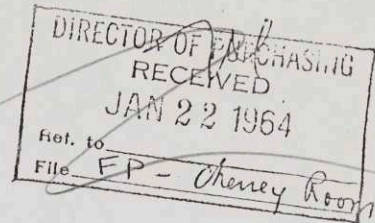
Mattfield 1964 women students

See needs for + at  
the Cheney Room

File Women  
Students

January 21, 1964 at

MIT



MEMORANDUM to : Mr. Malcolm G. Kaspert Mr. Philip Stoddard, Pres. Stratton

From : Jacquelyn A. Mattfeld

Subject: The most immediate needs of the women's programs at M.I.T.  
(a first draft that is not much more than an outline.)

At present there are nearly 250 women registered at M.I.T. as full or part-time students. 203 of these are regularly enrolled degree candidates, nearly evenly divided between the graduates and undergraduate degree programs. (104 regular undergraduates, 99 regular graduates, 19 special undergraduates and 26 special graduates) The construction of McCormick Hall and recent coverage of its dedication and the reference to women students at M.I.T. in newspapers and Time magazine seems directly responsible for the striking increase in the number of applications from women for undergraduate admission to the Institute for 1963-64. (50% higher to date than a year ago). It is highly probable that there will be a parallel increase in the enrollment of women in our graduate programs. Although there has not yet been long-range planning about future balance in numbers of men and women, it is safe to assume that within the next ten to fifteen years the number and academic qualifications of women students enrolled at Tech will rise steadily.

M.I.T. has a long and distinguished record of making available its splendid educational facilities to those few women who, having discovered for themselves that women were admissable to M.I.T., could then meet its academic requirements for admission and survival. M.I.T. had not until very recently, however, looked to see how her women students were faring or felt that she must find the means to assume responsibility for providing programs or creating an environment that would meet the non-academic educational needs of women students. The remodeling and refurnishing of the Cheeney Suite in the main building, and the addition of a second tower to McCormick Hall that would provide not only additional housing, but also space and facilities for the recreational and social activities of our women are the most urgent requirements in physical plant for our expanding program.

#### McCormick Hall

The units of McCormick Hall already constructed and in use provide beautiful and comfortable living accommodations for 116 students, a gracious, formal drawing room, dining facilities, Master's suite, and many other splendid features. In all further building we will want to reflect our awareness that students, like their elders, are most productive when it is possible for them to balance concentrated, often isolating, study and the tensions of a rigourously demanding and highly competitive academic institution with companionship and recreation in a friendly, supportive, and relaxed living environment. Since so little time is available for non-academic pursuits, and that often in small blocks, it is highly desirable that in so far as is possible recreational facilities be incorporated into the house. We should very much like to provide, either in the second tower or in an adjacent additional unit, a swimming pool, game room,

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gymnasium, and other equipment appropriate for a woman's physical<sup>education</sup> program. Swimming, modern dance and ballet, folk-dancing, fencing, and certain sports are activities popular with women students elsewhere and often asked for by our girls. We need to take cognizance of the fact that scientific and musical aptitudes are closely correlated. Over 30% of our present women students play musical instruments; many sing. We need sound-proofed practice rooms with keyboard instruments kept in good repair and tuned regularly, a room for small groups to sing or play ensemble music, and at least two or three listening booths with record players and earphones. Many of our students have other well developed avocational interests or hobbies which should be encouraged. Sewing, painting and sketching, and shop work are those which present women students repeatedly indicate they enjoy and for which provision could easily be made. Certainly we should hope to include office space for our Student Government groups and a small auditorium or lecture room for lectures and recitals.

The "ideal" number per house is considered by the Committee on Student environment<sup>to be</sup> between 350-400. The second tower for McCormick Hall would probably bring housing facilities for this number of women. In planning we shall need to consider special needs of graduate resident women, and to investigate possible economy housing (such as the cooperative dormitories successful in various other colleges) for self-supporting women students. Hopefully, we will take into account recent studies by various educational institutions that indicate that the presence of interested mature adults at the ratio of approximately 1 to 30 students is of great merit in counseling and otherwise creating optimum conditions for the neophyte adult in the freedom and anonymity of a large, often impersonal institution. This would mean providing for resident tutors, graduate student or Jr. faculty couples in residence on each floor of a dormitory constructed in the way the first tower of McCormick is.

It would also be of great value to our women students to have a "visiting professor suite" where women scientists could be in residence for a semester or an academic year within the women's house. Such a woman could be subsidized to do research, or teach, or both and be given such an apartment to use with the understanding that she would occasionally be available for informal talks with students, and one or more public lectures on some aspect of her work.

The Cheeney Suite served for many years as the locus of whatever women student activity took place at M.I.T. Since the completion of the first section of McCormick Hall we have watched carefully to see to what extent these rooms would continue to be used, and what changes would emerge in the pattern of how they would be used. The only pronounced differences observed in the use of the facilities in Cheney Room are 1) that the lockers formerly used by nearly all freshmen living on Bay State Road and by other non-resident students living at a distance from the Institute are now used exclusively by the commuting students.

Memo to : M. Kispert, Pres. Stratton, P. Stoddard --3

2) that few of the students living in McCormick Hall use the lounge or study facilities in Cheeney Suite except in hour breaks between classes since their dormitory is nearby and far more attractive. It is now clear that even if all single undergraduate women were to be housed on campus by next year, the suite would still be a vital area for student life since it remains the center for non-resident women students, graduate and undergraduate, regular and special, who now comprise 64% of our women student population. We may assume that there will continue to be a significant number of commuting undergraduate women both because of the national trend for early marriage and the continuation of women's education to completion after marriage and because of the spiraling cost of higher education<sup>that</sup> is expected to increase the number of young people who will be able to finance college only by attending a local institution and living with their parents. It is also probable that there will be an increase rather than decrease in the number of non-resident graduate and special women students since among them the proportion of married students is considerably higher than in the regular undergraduate group, and because many will continue to live in shared apartments as an economy measure.

For commuters the Cheeney Suite serves some of the purposes of the NRSA building: it is the place where one can study between classes, rest in case of minor indispositions, fix coffee or eat a lunch from home, bathe and change clothes after classes before an evening social event. More importantly it often provides the only pied-a-terre for these women within our predominantly male institution. The lounge of the Cheeney suite further serves as the meeting place for the Association of Women Students and as the on-campus place where staff members may meet informally with groups of students for social or student government purposes. It could well be adapted to use for the talks, lectures and even movies of special interest to women which we hope to be able to offer as we work to develop a sense of community within the women students.

At this time, the entire suite is in poor condition for the many important functions it must fill. The locker, toilet, and bathing facilities are in need of modernizing. The six bays of precious space so choicely located could be far more effectively used if several basic structural changes were carried out. All of the areas are improperly illuminated for the activities to be carried on in the suite. All badly need redecorating and refurnishing if we are to use this space for our long range plans. Should funds be found to carry out the proposed plans, the on-campus needs of the sort just described would certainly be met for the non-resident women at Tech during the next 10-15 years, and the general house-based programs for all women students would be handsomely complemented.

For maximum utilization of the total space a reconstruction budget of approximately \$40,000 and a redecorating and furnishing budget of \$15,000 would be necessary according to carefully drawn up estimates of the Physical Plant and Purchasing departments. A minimum budget for "economy" renovation that would meet the basic needs would be approximately \$25,000 for space changes and \$11,000 for redecorating and furnishing.

Cheney Room Suite

Possible Ways and Means for Improvement

March 23, 1983

*painting every 10 years - was done 8 yr ago*

Kitchen & Eating Area

- |   |      |                     |
|---|------|---------------------|
| 1. Repaint walls, ceilings                              | est. | \$ 500.00           |
| 2. Repaint cabinets                                     | est. | 175.00              |
| 3. Install 4'x4' tackboard on sliding door              | est. | 225.00              |
| 4. Fabricate and install one magazine rack              | est. | 300.00              |
| 5. Wash down furniture and cabinets                     | est. | <i>get students</i> |
| 6. Repair rush on one seat<br><i>(carpet for Blend)</i> | est. | 30.00               |

Lounge

- |   |                  |          |
|---|------------------|----------|
| 1. Repaint walls  | est.             | 250.00   |
| 2. Clean existing draperies   | est.             | 150.00   |
| 3. Fabricate and install new draperies  | est.             | 1,100.00 |
| 4. Relocate portrait  | est.             | 50.00    |
| → 5. Reupholster existing seat and back covers for built-in sofas and provide 4 additional seat cushions      | est.             | 3,250.00 |
| 6. Reupholster two existing chairs and ottomans   | est. (\$600 ea.) | 1,200.00 |
| 7. Provide 2 new coffee tables  | 500.00 -         | 1,000.00 |
| 8. Provide 4 new modular seating pieces   | 700.00 -         | 2,800.00 |
| 9. Provide 2 new rugs, 12x12', 8x10'  | est.             | 2,250.00 |
| 10. Remove some existing shelves; provide 36 basket rack, w/lockable baskets in storage area, size 12"x12"x8" | est.             | 500.00   |
| 11. Sand down & refinish counter and table top on north wall  | est.             | 100.00   |
| 12. Provide 8 lounging pillows  | est. (60. ea.)   | 480.00   |

Study

- |  |      |        |
|--|------|--------|
| 1. Repaint walls and ceiling                               | est. | 300.00 |
| 2. Provide 3 more study carrels on west wall               | est. | 575.00 |
| 3. Provide 2 wall hung wood shelves on east and west walls | est. | 575.00 |

find out where maint. cleaning  
gets pd from. - Howard Miller  
3-2837

Cheney Room Suite

Possible Ways and Means for Improvement

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Study (cont'd.)

- |   |      |          |
|---|------|----------|
| 4. Provide 6 undershelf lights, installed                     | est. | 600.00   |
| 5. Provide 10 new study chairs on casters,<br>\$150. ea. est. |      | 1,500.00 |
| 6. Provide new draperies                                      | est. | 435.00   |
| 7. Clean existing carpet                                      | est. | 100.00   |

Entry

- |  |      |        |
|--|------|--------|
| 1. Repaint wall and ceiling  | est. | 350.00 |
| 2. Cover mail pockets w/tacking surface,<br>4'x4'                  | est. | 250.00 |
| 3. Provide additional tacking surface at<br>door, est. 1-1/2' x 4' | est. | 65.00  |
| 4. Provide 2 dozen hangers   | est. | 25.00  |
| 5. Provide wall hung literature pockets                            | est. | 125.00 |

Telephone Room

- |   |      |          |
|---|------|----------|
| 1. Paint walls and ceiling  | est. | 200.00   |
| 2. Install door stop  | est. | 25.00    |
| 3. Install cubbies w/lockable doors or                                  | est. | 1,000.00 |
| 4. Remove existing cabinetry and install<br>18, 12"x12"x15" box lockers | est. | 375.00   |
| 5. Clean carpet   | est. | 35.00    |

Locker Room

- Paint Lockers*
- |  |                   |          |
|--|-------------------|----------|
| 1. Paint walls (now painted)                                     |                   | 200.00   |
| 2. Paint cinder block walls                                      |                   | 200.00   |
| 3. Convert existing lockers for two person<br>occupancy, repaint | 3-3902            | 4,000.00 |
| 4. Tile existing shower <i>Charlie Newbold</i>                   | <i>on price</i>   | ?        |
| 5. Relocate sink, install new shower                             | <i>efficiency</i> | ?        |

35  
40  
1400

Cheney Room Suite

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Locker Room (cont'd.)

6. Install draperies		300.00
7. Remove 6 existing lockers, cut down base, patch floor		500.00
8. Provide 4 sleeping cots	est. \$60.	240.00
9. Remove 46 existing lockers; cut down base, patch floor, install 80 lockers		5,000.00

Sleeping Room

1. Repaint walls and ceiling	est.	150.00
2. Provide two new bunk beds	est. \$500.	1,000.00
3. Provide 2 end tables	est. \$100.	200.00
4. Provide draperies	est.	300.00

VVS/mt

*get archie stu to build loft*

*windows - how to open function more easily  
need to open them when it's hot*

FP Cheaney Room

Proposed Changes

Alterations, furnishing & redecorating

3-310 Cheaney Room

Space Changes

General illumination (not convenience center light)  
Fresh paint.  
Tile flooring.  
Ladies room with stall shower, towels racks, mirrors & vanity shelves.

Lighting-both general overhead and lamps.

50 built-in lockers, each with shelf.

Built-in cabinet of shelves 4"-6" apart for storing notebooks, pocketbooks, music.

Built-in closet with hooks and hangers for coats, hats.

~~Remove or rebuild built-in sofas in niches.~~

Book shelves in living area.

Book shelves over desks.

= Corners

- niches

More glass to corner  
More door to window end

Furniture & Equipment

~~8 desks.~~

8 Luxo study lamps w.c. or f.b.c.

window boxes. f. galls plants

12 pidgeon hole mail boxes for officers.

4'x6' bulletin board

4-6 Tech chairs.

Full length mirror

6 plastic covered cushions for sitting on floor.

Umbrella stand

end tables & coffee tables.

~~re-upholster or recover 2 old couches.~~

4 upholstered chairs.  
Stacking or folding chairs  
Kitchen

Refrigerator at least 12 cubic feet- automatic defrost & freezing section.

Stove (30"W) 2 ovens - 4 burners

Sink--double, roughly 33x21" Counter on either side of stove & sink.

Steel or plastic mixing bowls  
cannister set & bread box.  
punch bowl & 24 glasses  
cups & saucers, dessert plates.

midday had 40-50 girls

Oddments

Drapes

Piano repaired & tuned twice an academic year.

Pay phone installed & Institute phone.  
Electric Clock  
ash trays.

Plants & flower boxes.

Additional pictures.

Requested Extravagances

T.V.  
FM Radio.  
Standard Electric typewriter chained to its own desk.

Dishwasher.



Inventory of Present Furnishing

3-310 Chesney Room (at present)

C O P Y

Bad

Paint & wall covering  
need to be replaced.

Floor has filthy rug  
covering part of floor.,  
should have wall to wall,  
or tile & area rugs.

2 built-in, ugly & not very  
comfortable couches into  
alcoves.

2 1930 ventage arm chairs,  
not bad looking, very  
unattractive.

Kitchen

Cabinets.,  
some china dishes.

Dispose of:

3 Army-type metal cots  
2 infirmery-type metal  
tables.  
1 wood dresser or sideboard.

Salvagable--but

8 floor lamps (exposed  
bulbs, not good light.)

2 wall lamps.

2 barca lounges, need fresh  
covers.

2 small circular tables  
wood.

2 small rectangular tables  
wood.

6 molded plywood chairs,  
metal legs.

3 shelf-metal bookcase.

Gray metal clothes hanging  
device.

2 exposed bulb desk lamps,  
aluminum vase.

3 hanging fluorescent lamps  
over glass vanity shelf.

1 black painted wooden  
captain's chair.

Adequate to good

M.I.T. stuffed beaver.

~~Orange upholstered sofa  
needs reupholstering.~~

~~Blue- 2 cushions seat-  
sofa needs reupholstering.~~

Hanging telephone table.

7 metal desks.

4 fluorescent desk lamps.

large mirror.

overstuffed chair now in  
bedroom, could be recovered.

Portrait hanging in bedroom  
should be labeled.

Belgian King's citation  
framed in bedroom.

M-VI set & speakers should  
be checked for good repair.

Ironing board & iron.

5 formica topped dinette  
tables (each seats 4)

26 plastic covered chairs.

Blackboard.

Small bulletin board

wood step stool.