Bernstein addresses International House

Call it a little help from a friend. Vice President of Arts and Sciences Mel Bernstein met with the members of the International House yesterday afternoon just to chat with students whose position he once shared years ago — Bernstein himself was an international student hailing from Greece.

Although the talk was open to all members of the Tufts community, Bernstein focused on issues that were perhaps more pertinent to the international community. Freshman Aubrey Duffy, Downhill Representative of the International Club, mentioned a few of the talk’s highlights. “We talked a lot about the size of the Spanish classes, how they’re getting too big here,” he said. “Seniors who have been majoring in Spanish haven’t been able to get into classes.”

The group also discussed providing post office boxes for international students, since many expressed concern over not being able to provide a permanent address when needed — getting a Massachusetts driver’s license, for example — as well as Tufts’ need to increase its visibility to the global community as a whole.

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along Powder House Boulevard.
Traditionally, graduating classes donated money to extend the fence. This began with the class of 1924, which made the initial contribution to build the fence. During the following years, graduating classes and families of deceased alumni donated money for the fence — until the Great Depression, when the tradition was practically forgotten as funds dried up.

Tufts now hopes to raise money from alumni and graduating classes to complete the fence project. The construction of the fence will help to celebrate Tufts’ 150th anniversary in 2002, and its planners hope to channel the excitement drummed up by the anniversary to support the project.

Each section of the fence, which consists of two pil- lars 30 feet apart and connected by wrought iron, costs $50,000. According to the plan, a portion of each donation will go toward financial aid.

“We’re not just building a fence, but also helping students in need,” said Jeff Winsey, Director of Reunion and Leadership Giving for Arts and Sciences and head of fundraising for the project. Winsey said that the extension of the fence is a long-term project for the university, which he hopes will be “another nice beautification to the surrounding campus.”

Most students agreed that extending the fence would add valueable beauty and prestige to the campus, and that the concurrent financial aid donations dispel any concerns that the money should be better spent elsewhere.

“We really need the money for things, such as financial aid, which I am glad [the fence project] will provide,” said sophomoric walking their dogs on the Tufts campus or taking their children sledding on “the hill.”

Junior Bill McCarthy, a TCU senior and a Medford resident, dislikes the fence project and believes it will do little to help the school’s relationship with the towns. “I don’t like the idea,” he said. “It would look ‘pris- on-esque’ and has a keep-people-out kind of concept.”

McCarthy also cited College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. as an example of a perim- ter fence that looks like an enclos- ing and excluding fixture on an otherwise beautiful campus. “I would hate to see Tufts become like that,” McCarthy said.

Kathy Gatto, owner of the Aquarium in Davis Square and Somerville resident, did not agree that the fence would exac- erbate towns-gown relations.

“There already is a fence, which they put up two years ago. I’m not sure if that was a great move,” she said, referring to the chain link fence that the University constructed, which encircles the sports fields and the areas around the dorms in that vicinity.

“The fence is already up. It doesn’t matter if it’s an iron fence… a fence is a fence,” Gatto added. “I actually like the wrought iron fence better and think it would look nice.”

Most simply, the extension of the fence, which still has no fixed starting date, hopes to add beauty and tradition to an already picturesque and historic campus. Freshman Daniel Hannon echoes this sentiment. “I like the way it looks around the Hill as it is, which leads me to believe I would like it around the entire campus.”