OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 1, 1957

To Members of the Faculty:

I am happy to announce the appointment of Dr. Claude E. Shannon as Professor of Communications Sciences in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Professor of Mathematics. For the past year he has been Visiting Professor of Electrical Communications, and M.I.T. can be very proud that he has agreed to remain as a permanent member of the Faculty.

Dr. Shannon is regarded as one of the world's foremost authorities on Information Theory. A week ago he received the 1956 Research Corporation Award for his contributions in this field, and to a considerable extent the development of Information Theory as a new branch of science and mathematics has been the result of his creative work.

Dr. Norbert Wiener wrote in his autobiography: "Shannon is one of the major spirits behind the present age of the electronic computer and the automatic factory. Moreover, it is through his work that a training in symbolic logic, that most formal of all disciplines, has come to be one recognized mode of introduction into the great complex of scientific work of the Bell Telephone Laboratories."

Dr. Shannon has made important advances in the theory of computers, automata and automation. His work in applied mathematics has also led to the development of maze-solving machines, and he has more recently undertaken such problems as the design of reliable machines using unreliable components.

As a member of the Institute faculty, Dr. Shannon is expected to play a key role in the evolution of the new and rapidly expanding field of Communications Sciences, seeking to merge new segments of the vast areas of the physical and life sciences. Studies centered in the Research Laboratory of Electronics will attempt to integrate the disciplines of mathematics, electrical engineering, psychology and physiology for the purpose of a better understanding of communications within man, communications and control between man and machine and communications and control between machine and machine.

JRK Shannon Appt.

Dr. Shannon is a native of Gaylord, Michigan, and received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and mathematics from the University of Michigan. He received a master's degree in Electrical Engineering and a Ph.D. in Mathematics from M.I.T. in 1940, serving during his four years of study as a research assistant in Electrical Engineering and an assistant in Mathematics. For a time he was in charge of the operation of the Institute's Differential Analyzer.

In 1940 Dr. Shannon went to the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton for a year and in 1941 became a research mathematician for Bell Laboratories, where he made important contributions in the field of communications. He will continue to have a collaborative relationship with Bell Laboratories.

His work has been recognized by the award of the Alfred Noble Prize of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the Morris Liebmann Award of the Institute of Radio Engineers, and the Stuart Ballantine Medal of the Franklin Institute. In 1954 he was awarded the honorary degree of master of science by Yale University. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Shannon is a member of Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Eta Kappa Nu, Tau Beta Pi and the American Mathematical Society and a fellow of the Institute of Radio Engineers. He is co-author of a book on the Mathematical Theory of Communication, co-editor of a book on automata, the author of a number of technical papers, and the holder of several patents.

James R. Killian, Jr.
President