MEMORANDUM

TO: MIT Faculty

RE: Recommendation of Prof. Mildred S. Dresselhaus

FROM: Killian Faculty Achievement Award Committee:
Bruno Coppi, David H. Marks, Bruce Mazlish, Edward
B. Roberts, and William L. Porter, Chairman

DATE: May 21, 1986

The committee is extremely pleased to recommend Dr.
Mildred S. Dresselhaus as the Killian Faculty Achievement Awardee
for 1986-87. Professor Dresselhaus has achieved distinction as
scientist, teacher, administrator, and professional colleague.

Her research on the structure and
electronic properties of graphite and
its related intercalated compounds has
gained worldwide recognition. While
most of this work has been concerned
with the basic physics of electronic
materials she is alert to possible
engineering applications as evidenced
by her current interest in graphite
fibers and polymeric conductors.¹

Just since 1977 Dr. Dresselhaus has authored well over 100
publications on subjects within in her fields of specialization,
many in collaboration with other distinguished scientists.

Her career at MIT began with her appointment to the
faculty as Abby Rockefeller Mauze Visiting Professor in
electrical engineering in 1967 followed by appointment to the
permanent faculty in 1968. She later held appointments in
physics as well as electrical engineering and computer science.
This last December she was named Institute Professor, an honor
reserved for a small and extremely distinguished group of MIT
faculty who have demonstrated extraordinary accomplishment as
scholars, educators, and leaders.

Professor Dresselhaus has been responsible for the
development a number of graduate and undergraduate subjects and
has brought great energy and joy to teaching, even while heavily
involved in other assignments. Her major administrative
activities have included being associate head for electrical
engineering of the Department of Electrical Engineering and
Computer Science from 1972-74, and director of the Center for
Materials Science and Engineering from 1977-83. She has served
on numerous Institute committees, and has championed the
professional and personal development of women at MIT. Professor
Dresselhaus was a founder of the MIT Women’s Forum, which began
as an IAP seminar to explore the roles of women in science and
engineering, and which has since broadened to include issues of
interest to all women at MIT.

¹Letter of nomination from Prof. David J. Epstein
...her consistent support of the women faculty group at the Institute has made a significant difference in the lives of those of us who are women faculty. She has set for us an example of excellence in teaching and research and diligence in pursuing our goals, combined with a concern that we maintain a balance between our academic and personal lives. She is serving as an excellent role model for both women and men faculty.**

For a number of years she also led a freshman seminar in engineering, which, though designed to build confidence in young women students, drew a large audience of both sexes.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Dr. Dresselhaus received the BA degree from Hunter College and, following a year as a Fulbright Fellow at Cambridge University, England, an MA degree from Radcliffe College and the PhD from the University of Chicago in 1958. She has been a visiting professor at universities in Brazil, Israel, Japan and Venezuela, and serves on the visiting committees at The University of California, Berkeley, Harvard, and the University of Chicago. She is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and just completed a term as its president. In this capacity Dr. Dresselhaus found means to initiate a process of bringing together the variety of frequently diverging disciplines that have flourished in the society over the last twenty years and of fostering genuine communication among them.

Numerous awards have come to Dr. Dresselhaus including the Achievement Award in 1977 of the Society of Women Engineers and Hunter College’s Hall of Fame Award in 1972. She has received honorary degrees from Hunter College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Smith College, and the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Mrs. Dresselhaus and her husband have four children and live in Arlington; and the musician Dresselhaus, as violinist and violist, is a devoted and skilled player of chamber music.

The Killian Committee is especially pleased to recommend Professor Dresselhaus who, through her professional and her personal lives, gives distinction to MIT, but also human coherence and purpose. We look forward to hearing from Millie how she does it, in hopes that some might rub off on the rest of us!

**Letter of nomination from Prof. Karen R. Polenske