Faculty rejects CEP proposals

By Robert E. Malchman

The first option is the least damaging, according to the committee's report. An application and examination testing "basic proficiency, not degree of sophistication," would give students more time to consider career choices.

The plan would not pressure freshmen as was an evaluation of their first-year performance, the report states.

Anhui P. French, professor of mathematics, said he opposes and if Course VI would create a "two-class" system at MIT.

Frank E. Perkins '55, dean of the graduate school, said there is no way to eliminate freshman problems. The application procedure. Students could "find a mechanism" to include their performances in the essay, he said.

"Option one is thoroughly unacceptable," French declared. "I don't think you can imagine a test that satisfies the report's conditions. He supported a modified version of the second option, but urged the faculty to take more time to consider the problem.

He suggested his biased admissions process favoring a more balanced class as a better solution.

Admissions bias discussed

Felix M. H. Villars, professor of physics, said emphasizing verbal skills through that section of the Scholastic Aptitude Test would be better than biasing admissions away from students interested in Course VI.

Director of Admissions Peter H. Richardson '48 said he is "distracted by the icons" on Scholastic Aptitude Test scores. His office considers the entire scholastic record, and would have difficulty implementing Villars' suggestion, he said.

Joseph V. Letwin '47, professor of bioengineering and bioinformatics, said the first option conflicts with the spirit of the freshman year. "There's a year should be kept in violation," he said. The faculty should hold the examination after the first term of the sophomore year, he continued.

Smith replied that prolonging decisions until late in the year would be better than biasing admission policy.

Fairness question raised

Richardson said his office has seen telling applicants they would have freedom to choose their majors. It would be unfair to change the policy so late, he said.

"Option one, even with the uncertainty, is fair to those students we've been talking to for a long time.

The faculty then voted 180 to 34 against Moses' motion, replacing the "wo-class" system at MIT.

Analysis

EECS faces troubled future

By Bert S. Kaliski

The MIT faculty today faced with two unacceptable immediate solutions for enrollment pressures: Requiring either a department or Computer Science to continue enrollment until fall of 1985, and create new subjects and degrees to draw students away from the department. The faculty's decision not to invoke short-term solutions to crowding in the department, however, will strain the department's resources even further in coming years.

Had the faculty decided to require freshmen wishing to enter the department pass a examination, it would have moved away from free selection of majors at MIT. That solution would likely have increased academic pressure during the already overloaded freshman year.

If the faculty had decided to admit some applicants on the condition they not enroll in the department, the Institute may have created a segregated undergraduate population.

The faculty's decision not to invoke short-term solutions to crowding in the department, however, will strain the department's resources even further in coming years. Even immediate action would not have alleviated enrollment until fall of 1985, and longer-term actions will not be noticed until the end of the decade.

The faculty held yesterday's meeting so that any decision on departmental selection could be communicated to the applicants to the Class of 1988 with early notice. Any changes made after those letters are sent would only affect future classes.

The questionable fairness of changing policy near the end of the application process was an important consideration for the faculty. There will be no such question when it will next consider what actions to take in February for the Class of 1989.

The faculty is now faced with selecting a long-term solution to reduce crowding in the department and in the of Engineering as a whole. It will have to choose wisely among the long-range actions listed by the Committee on Educational Policy. The actions include departing from the Institute's image as a science and engineering school, and creating new subjects and degree programs to draw students away from the department.

Dangers of overcrowding

The Committee on Educational Policy claims enrollment problems, if not addressed, "seriously jeopardizes the intellectual balance at MIT and the diversity of interests within the group of students who choose to study here.

At the same time, undergraduate populations in the sciences and engineering may be affected by these proposals.

The 1983-84 issue of the MIT Bulletin states, "... every student should be prepared to examine with an open mind the various courses at the Institute." Either proposal would have restored the extent to which students could examine different majors.

Gray has called a restriction on enrollment during admission "a drastic departure from what we have done," but admitted, "It's the only way we can find a chance of putting a ceiling on enrollment in the department."

Many faculty members attending a previous meeting opposed suggestions that the Institute admit students to MIT while simultaneously requiring them not enrollment in the department. Increased interest in the department is apparently a result of the booming high-technology job market. Students are also choosing to major in the department.

(Please turn to page 3)
**Hamlet's choice remains**

The MIT faculty, after rejecting immediate solutions to reduce enrollment in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, must now vigorously pursue long-range methods to control overcrowding.

An imbalance in enrollment affects all undergraduates at the Institute. The Committee on Educational Policy has correctly identified this, and has recommended several long-term and short-term solutions to the problem. The committee also listed immediate solutions to avoid "a residual short-term problem."

The decision rejected by the faculty was, after emendation, better than the one recommended by the Committee on Educational Policy and was the best choice of a bad lot. The proposal called for prospective students to declare on their application whether they wish to be considered for admission to Course VI. If the department would not negatively bias a candidate's chances, after accepting the applicant, MIT would decide whether he could major in Course VI, and so inform him before he accepted.

The faculty has not acted on those immediate solutions, and the department faces an increasingly difficult future. The decision to postpone solution of the problem indicates the faculty's unwillingness to act without complete study. Every action the faculty could have taken yesterday had serious drawbacks. Its members were faced with Hamlet's choice: to bear the ills it has, or to fly to others it knew not of. The consequences of refusing to accept an immediate solution are distressing, but the faculty cannot be castigated for choosing a known evil rather than risking an unknown one.

That known evil is continued overcrowding in Course VI. It strains both the department's human and physical resources. It detracts from the department's ability to teach and will ultimately result in a program inferior to what the student deserves.

The Committee on Educational Policy and the faculty must act soon. Chairman of the Faculty Arthur C. Smith said the faculty would have to act before March if applicants for the Class of 1989 are to be informed from the outset.

The long-term solutions, although they would not take effect until the end of the decade, would not threaten the undergraduate experience nearly as much as the immediate solutions would have. MIT should not delay enacting these procedures, especially the solution recommending MIT broaden its image "to encourage students' interests in fields outside Course VI." MIT cannot afford to become solely an institute of technology, much less one of electrical engineering and computer science.
No action on EECs for Class of 1988

(Continued from page 1)

The Committee on Educational Policy's preferred proposal. William McC. Seibert '46, pro-

fessor of electrical engineering, opposed the proposal so that declaring a desire for Course VI consideration would not di-

minish inapplicants' chances for admission. The change would ease, among other things, Ric-

hardson's job, Seibert said.

Ritchie class this term, but noted that if passed, the proposal would not apply to the early option applicants, who review letters of acceptance this week.

The Committee on Educational Policy opposed such a change in its report because applicants, with nothing to lose, would ask for Course VI consideration. Many would then be denied that option, creating a "class structure that admissions will satisfactorily," the report stated.

The amendment passed narrowly, 97 to 91.

Wilson cites dangers

Gerald L. Wilson '61, dean of the School of Architecture, said he feared if the faculty did nothing, Course VI would have to limit enroll-

ment in some of its classes. The department has taken such mea-

sures on a small scale already, he said.

Course VI faculty members have no time to plan research or to write textbooks, Wilson assert-

ed. The department may have to eliminate the thesis requirement because the faculty cannot super-

visory, to many students.

The department would require 30 faculty and a $1.8 million budget increase to teach students adequately if the faculty chose not to act, Wilson said.

The faculty then rejected the motion, 131 to 67.

The fairness question made it easier for the faculty to reject the proposal, Smith said.

The committee will meet on Thursday, Smith said. "I would like it came back [before the fac-

ulty with a proposal] in February.

Moses declined q comment after the meeting on the faculty's action.

Members will meet again on Dec. 21 at a regularly scheduled faculty meeting.

Troubled future follows troubled past for EECs

(Continued from page 1)

much earlier than in the past for Engineering and Computer Science have esti-

mated, however, that the department can handle only 250 new majors

subject 6.001 last term, and per-

freshmen from the required core course were not fully utilized in some of its classes. The department may have to limit enroll-

ment in its capacity: It eliminated 141 faculty members in the past 10 years, the department wrote in the- fall faculty meeting.

The fairness question may have unduly influenced some mem-

bers, Smith said. "There are a lot of [faculty members] who don't know how admissions works. . .

The fairness question made it easi-

er" for the faculty to reject the proposal, Smith said.

The committee will meet on Thursday, Smith said. "I would like it came back [before the fac-

ulty with a proposal] in February.

Moses declined q comment after the meeting on the faculty's action.

Members will meet again on Dec. 21 at a regularly scheduled faculty meeting.

National

Long island recruiting station bombed-No injuries were reported as two bombs exploded at an East Meadow, N.Y., recruiting station Sunday. The bombs are the latest in a series of attacks on the Selective Service System's recruiting stations in New York City.

Violent protests against war

Motorcycle enthusiasts who stopped an anti-war march in New York City last month were charged with assault.

Supreme Court will not hear "Baby Jane Doe" case-The Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal in the "Baby Jane Doe" case. The high court's decision means that "Baby Jane Doe" will remain in foster care until she is 18 years old.

Arms protesters arrested

Boston police arrested 70 demonstrators Monday when attempting to block entry to a missile-defense conference held at Boston's Park 57 Plaza hotel. Several of the approximately 400 protesters organized to gain entry to the hotel, where they put up antinuclear posters and chained themselves to an elevator. Dow Chemical was one of the major sponsors of the conference. The protesters claimed they were not trespassing, but the hotel claimed they were.

Nationale drinking age proposed-A special presidential commission on drunken driving has proposed the enactmen-

t of a nationwide legal drinking age of 21. States which fail to raise their drinking age would lose federal highway funds under this proposal. Currently, 28 states allow people 20 years old and younger to drink legally. Steve's Ice Cream goes nationwide-Integrated plans to open 500 stores across the country. Steve's was founded by Steve Herrell, who sold his business and his name to Joey, founder of Joey's Ice Cream, used to work on a tour of John Denver Tractor Works this month. His favorite toy is a model John Denver tractor. The boy, who suffers from leukemia and brain tumor, was given a ride in the biggest tractor made by Deere and was allowed to sit at a wheel of a smaller

Local

Arms protesters arrested

Boston police arrested 70 demonstrators Monday when attempting to block entry to a missile-defense conference held at Boston's Park 57 Plaza hotel. Several of the approximately 400 protesters organized to gain entry to the hotel, where they put up antinuclear posters and chained themselves to an elevator. Dow Chemical was one of the major sponsors of the conference. The protesters claimed they were not trespassing, but the hotel claimed they were.

Steve's Ice Cream goes nationwide-Integrated plans to open 500 stores across the country. Steve's was founded by Steve Herrell, who sold his business and his name to Joey, founder of Joey's Ice Cream, used to work on a tour of John Denver Tractor Works this month. His favorite toy is a model John Denver tractor. The boy, who suffers from leukemia and brain tumor, was given a ride in the biggest tractor made by Deere and was allowed to sit at a wheel of a smaller

Sports

Patrons still in playoff hunt-The New England Patriots are still in the running for the remaining National Football League American Conference wild-card slot, but must beat the Seattle Seahawks Sunday to earn a spot in the playoffs. The Seahawks, Cleveland Browns, and Buffalo Bills also have at least six wins for the AFC wild-card berth, the Miami Dolphins, Pittsburgh Steelers, Los Angeles Raiders and Denver Broncos have already clinched playoff spots. In the National Conference, the Washington Redskins and the Cowboys are assured of post-season action; the Detroit Lions, Green Bay Packers, San Francisco 49ers, Los Angeles Rams and New Or-

leans Saints will battle it out for the remaining three positions.

Pistons, Nuggets run and gun-The Detroit Pistons defeated the Denver Nuggets 116-114 in triple overtime action last night to set new scoring records for the National Basketball Association. The Detroit Pistons held the previous high mark of 179 points.

Weather

Damp and dreary-Cloudy and wet conditions will continue through this evening with a chance of off-and-on drizzle and fog; highs in the upper 40s to lower 50s. Rain will become heavier tonight and continue through tomorrow morning, lows tonight will be in the mid-to-upper 40s and highs tomorrow will be in the mid-to-upper 50s. Flooding of poor drainage areas is expected to continue.

President Paul E. Gray '54 presides at the special faculty meeting yesterday.

Tech photo by Henry Wu
As a volunteer, you'll get to help America stand a little taller. And you'll stand a little taller yourself. America needs your help or we wouldn't be asking. Your community needs your help. People eighteen or eighty: we don't care as long as you do.


You may not write home. But we will.

...writing home from the Institute for over a century.

Please write home.

Prepayment Required

Subscription Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>2 years</th>
<th>1 year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US Mail - 1st Class:</td>
<td>$48</td>
<td>$26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Class:</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign - Air Mail:</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface Mail:</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name
Address
City
State
ZIP Code

THE TECH
P.O. Box 29
MIT Branch
Cambridge, Mass 02139