

GRADUATION SET FOR APRIL 27; COMPTON CALLS OPEN MEETING

Student Body And Faculty To Convene

Institute War Policies To Be Stated Friday At Bldg. 7 Meeting

Institute policy during the war emergency will be the subject of a statement to be made by President Karl T. Compton at a general convocation of the entire student body and staff at 10:45 A.M., Friday, December 19, in the rotunda of the Rogers Building.

All classes are to be dismissed at the sounding of the bell at 10:40 A.M. The statement will be brief and to the point and will contain words of vital importance to everyone connected with the Institute. Classes scheduled for 11:05 will carry on as usual.

All Should Attend

Institute authorities emphasized the fact of the importance of this general convocation, urging that all attend and pointing out that only on occasions of grave concern to all the students and staff are such meetings called.

It is expected that Doctor Compton's message will include an explanation of how Technology is playing an effective part in the general national effort. One of the major points, it is believed, will be a statement on just how the Institute will couple its fundamental purpose of training engineers with that of doing its duty for Uncle Sam.

Axis Strategy Discussed By Maj. Harwood

Inaugurating the first of a series of Open Forums on war sponsored by the Debating Society Major Edward C. Harwood, of the department of Military Science, delivered a lecture at 5:00 P.M. tonight before 100 Technology students and faculty members. In a talk illustrated by wall maps Major Harwood discussed "The Axis Strategy and What the United States Can Do."

Introduced by Raymond F. Rankel, '43, Major Harwood began by giving a brief resume of the effect of topography upon military operations for theaters of war all over the world, stressing the importance of ocean barriers, mountain ranges, and other natural features. With this as a background, he proceeded to discuss the strategy of the axis and of the allies, both on the offensive and on a defensive.

Major Threat in East

In Major Harwood's eyes, one of the major axis threats is in the Far East where the British stronghold Singapore is under siege by Japanese forces. Furthermore, it is of vital necessity that the United States maintain communications with the Philippines.

With respect to other possible theaters of conflict, Major Harwood predicted that American troops might see action on one or more of several fronts; in China in defense of the Burma road and attacking Japan from the rear, in Russia to maintain that front and force the Germans back, or in North Africa to prevent the Germans from diverting the Russian Army or the Caucasus and Mediterranean theaters.

Editorial

Speed-up of the Senior curriculum in order to graduate the Class of '42 in April as announced tonight represents the first major change made by the Institute since the nation went to war a little over a week ago.

This move will place about six hundred men in a position to aid the all-out war effort of the country over a month ahead of schedule, either as members of the armed services or in essential posts in industry.

Made without any pressure from the government, this decision to eliminate all unnecessary phases of the senior's curriculum and move graduation ahead by more than a month was based upon the belief that it was the most expedient means of aiding our war effort.

Although this program has been adopted by several other schools in this district, none of them have the problem that arises from the unusually heavy load normally carried by the Institute student. However, much of this difficulty will be eliminated by the abandonment of unessential courses.

The Institute has made a move and it is now up to the whole student body to keep the confusion and problems that will inevitably arise to a minimum.

Senior Week To Be Better—Tyree; Varsity Athletics May Suffer

Senior Week, although undoubtedly missing some of the events which are a traditional part of the annual festivities, will be an even bigger and better party than was previously planned, stated S. Young Tyree, Jr., '42, chairman of the Senior Week committee, when informed of the change of date of commencement ceremonies.

With the exception of the Pops concert, every event originally on the program can and probably will be held. As possible substitutions for the affair, there may possibly be a new event added to the calendar, or the Ball may be made much more elaborate.

Referendum to Be Presented

The final decisions for additional events will be left up to the members of the Class of 1942 by holding a class referendum presenting a

number of optional proposals for substitutions.

Jerome T. Coe, '42, president of the Institute Committee, when questioned about any possible changes in the Committee or any of the undergraduate activities because of the intensified program facing the seniors during the second term, stated that as yet the only change that could be predicted with any degree of accuracy is the certainty that class elections and elections of officers in many of the activities would undoubtedly be advanced considerably.

That faculty decision will undoubtedly cause dire results in the program for spring athletic events was the opinion of Frank B. Herlihy, '42, president of the M.I.T.A.A. He felt that because of the increase in the amount of work taken by the Seniors, there would be relatively few of them able to continue as members of the varsity teams.

Last War Caused Parallel Changes In Schedules; Seniors Graduated Early, Theses Abolished

In the last war, as in this, Technology took a large part in the work of the government training.

The action of the faculty today comes in close parallelism to the course followed by the Institute during the last war. Unlike the situation at present, however, the entrance of the United States into the war had not been prepared for with any degree of efficiency prior to the fateful weeks of April, 1917. The result was that the nation was starting from scratch.

Technically trained men were most urgently needed by the services and the many newly expanded war industries. But short-sighted rulings on the part of the War department made it for a time almost impossible for men to stay in college. It was not until late in the fall of 1917 that any provision was made for the exemption of Technology students from the draft.

Deferment Obtained

A corps of cadets had been in operation at the Institute, and an informal Engineers Corps, but neither had any official status, nor did the establishment of an R.O.T.C. unit change affairs, for these men were not considered to be members of the armed services and were thus not exempt. However, upon re-

peated protests the War department finally made it possible for men in engineering colleges to enlist in the U. S. Army Engineer Corps and immediately be placed on a furlough status until completion of their studies.

But the problem of draft exemption was not the only one which hit Technology. The totally unprepared nation needed technical men, and needed them badly. Besides the much publicized intensive training courses given at the Institute for various units of the armed forces, Technology undergraduate life underwent a thorough transition. In spite of repeated admonitions on the part of President MacLaurin to the students to stay in school a great many men enlisted in the army even before the draft went into effect. But speed-up was to come even for those staying. Twenty-four years ago, almost to the day, the faculty met to discuss the acceleration of the work of the undergraduates.

Non-Professional Subjects Dropped

It was decided that all non-professional subjects would be dropped, that the work of the junior and sophomore classes be shortened by at least one term, and that work be given during the summer of

Accelerated Schedule Affects Seniors Only, Classes Start Feb. 2

Other Colleges Push Plans For Work Speed-Up

While Technology's Faculty voted on the acceleration of courses at the Institute, other colleges throughout the East were pushing plans for telescoping the college year at their institutions, it was reported in the Boston press yesterday. Besides minor changes such as the elimination of spring vacation and reading periods to advance graduation dates to early May, as are going into effect in Dartmouth, Holy Cross, Boston University, Tufts, and Boston College, drastic revisions of schedules are taking place at Harvard, Yale and Princeton.

Since last June, students at Harvard have been able, by taking extra work, to get their degrees in three years instead of the usual four. Word has come recently from Harvard that faculty committees are considering the possibility of lengthening the summer session to provide an uninterrupted academic year. It has also been announced that about 75 members of the class of 1943 at Harvard will graduate this June under the older plan.

At Yale, President Seymour has stated that the university will definitely go on a twelve-month schedule beginning immediately. The program is voluntary, for the time being, but may soon be made compulsory. Dodds of Princeton has announced also that that college will henceforth make three-year college degrees available to their undergraduates.

Dates Are Moved For All Events Of Class Of '42 In Speed-Up

The Faculty of the Institute at its meeting on Wednesday afternoon voted to shorten the last term for the Class of 1942 by approximately four weeks to permit Seniors to be graduated at the end of April.

No action was taken at this meeting to change the instruction schedule in the first three years or in the Graduate School. Christmas vacation will remain as scheduled, December 24, through January 3.

Acceleration of instruction for the Senior class is to be accomplished by omitting some subjects and giving more class exercises per week in others, including those subjects listed and retained as fourth-year electives.

Some Theses Omitted

Changes in the second term calendar for Seniors only include the probability that subjects closely related to war activities may be substituted and that thesis subjects may be omitted by some departments to reduce the work of the term to 35 units. Exact details will be presented with registration material in January. Each department will make its own decision which will have to be approved by the Faculty Committee.

Under the new calendar, registration day for the second term for Seniors will be Saturday, January 31, and classes will begin on February 2. The last exercises for Seniors will come on Saturday, April 18, and final examinations for Seniors are to be held from April 20 to 22. Saturday, April 25, has been held open for Class Day exercises, the baccalaureate service will be held on the following day, and the Faculty has recommended to the Corporation that the Class of 1942 be graduated on Monday, April 27.

No Disturbance for Other Classes

The Institute's regular calendar now in force is 15 weeks and three days long, while the new calendar for Seniors is reduced to 11 weeks. In general, revision of the fourth year class schedule has been accomplished by adding an extra class to each subject on Saturday morning and, if necessary, in the afternoon on one other day. This arrangement permits the change to be made rapidly without disturbing schedules for other years.

Some classes may be held between 8 and 9 A.M. or from 5 to 6 P.M., and the need for some Saturday afternoon classes may arise.

Seniors repeating subjects of earlier years will take final examinations in such subjects at the end of the new Senior term (April 18) on the subject matter covered up to that time.