Engineering report: major purporsals

RESTRICTING THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Development of a new organizational structure to increase the quality of its educational programs and provide greater flexibility. A panel is preparing alternative structures for consideration.

ENCOURAGING FACULTY LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Such a policy would enable faculty to expand their interests, which would provide broader professional experience and improve the School's flexibility. The Dean of Engineering is preparing a proposal to the Faculty Council for such a policy.

ADOPTING A UNIFIED CO-OP PROGRAM

A School-wide co-op program would provide the student's academic program, expose students to work experience, and help solve some of the School's financial problems. The plan would benefit the School's financial resources and be more successful than the current system.

OPENING COURSE XXV TO ENGINEERING STUDENTS

Course XXV, now used as a general-senior course major, will be opened to engineers to meet a "limited" demand from students. The recommendation requires careful consideration.

ESTABLISHING A RESEARCH INSTITUTE

A wholly-owned non-tax-exempt Research Institute composed of all MIT and MIT faculty and students will be established. The Institute will be used for the study and development of new engineering technologies.

A School-wide co-op program would provide the student's academic program, expose students to work experience, and help solve some of the School's financial problems. The plan would benefit the School's financial resources and be more successful than the current system.

By Mike McNamara

A faculty and staff "self-assessment group," the School of Engineering, has recommended that MIT consider switching to an academic calendar based on quarters and four- or five-year plan.

The report of the Self-Assessment Project, released last week, states that since 1950 and other changes would help the Institute streamline its operations, increase its fiscal soundness, and meet new demands being placed upon it in education and research.

The result of a year-long study by task forces composed of engineering and other faculty and Institute staff, the report also recommends a re-structuring of the School of Engineering to lead to a consolidation in the number of different subjects taught and course curricula based upon a small number of core programs.

The Self-Assessment Project was initiated to help the Institute in its efforts to save money and cut costs, while making sure that we did nothing to jeopardize the leadership standing as the premier engineering schools in the country, according to Associate Director of Engineering James Bruce.

"We had to keep both of these considerations in mind," Bruce explained. "We wanted to cut costs, but we used the quality issue as a restraint. It will cost more that way, but it will broaden the school's base of appeal to the general public.

No one knows how well the campaign will succeed, but it is a major step in the right direction. We have never yet materialized the gains that seniors have already made, and no major gifts have been accepted after that date.

Brock is optimistic about the general outlook for the success of the campaign. Referring to potential donors, Brock said: "Our feeling is that when their economic circumstances are right, when their children no longer need the money, they'll be very generous."

The leadership of the new campaign, as the drive is known, is expected to last for five years. Funds will be raised for building and equipment, student scholarships, academic programs, and support services for education and research. The 19 task forces working on the report produced 47 specific recommendations for revising operations in these areas.

Most of the recommendations have been presented by the Engineering Council, Bruce said, and have been suggested for further action. "Some of the more routine changes dealing with administrative procedures, co-op programs, and the like are not out of the ordinary. Bruce explained. "Some of the others, however, will make a great deal of study and thought, however."

The recommendation concerning the academic calendar suggested breaking the academic year into three three-month quarters, in place of the two four-month semesters and the one-month Independent Activities Period now used. The fourth quarter -- the last three months -- could be utilized as a full academic period for year-long operations (see story, page 3) or could be left in the "summer semester" period reserved during the summer vacation.

Under such a plan, most students would take 36 units -- the equivalent of three full courses -- each quarter. This would result in a slightly higher load of 104 units per year, 1.5 units more than the current 90-unit average annual load.

The quarter-plan calendar was proposed mainly to make masters' degree programs -- programs which are still very important in engineering -- more attractive, according to the report. Using a quarter plan, with its slightly higher loads and greater flexibility, a student could complete a masters' degree in one year, instead of the one-and-a-half years normally required now.

While pointing out that the quarter calendar will be useful for part-time students, co-op students, and middle-aged industry people taking advanced degrees, the report recognizes that the advantages of the current calendar could not be retained. "It seems reasonable, however, (Please turn to page 3)."
CAES kicks off 'Women' films

By Margaret Brandeau

The Center for Advanced Engineering Studies has recently completed what it hopes to be the first in a series of films dealing with women and work. The film, entitled Women's Work: Engineering looks at women who are engineers and women who are studying to be engineers.

The purpose of the film, according to producers Christine Dall and Niti Salloway, is to encourage high school girls to consider engineering as a career. Engineering has been traditionally viewed as a career for men. Perhaps more women will become engineers when 'they see what the job is.'

The major thrust of the film deals with the social aspects of fitting into a male-oriented world. "It's a lot easier preparing academically than preparing socially," one woman student says.

The film shows the woman engineer who designed the Mystic Bridge, standing on the bridge surrounded by construction crews at work. "I've had some of the foremen confess to me that they didn't exactly know what to think of a woman being in construction," she says. "And maybe some of the men thought well, this is going to be a really light job working for a woman... But after we got started working, things worked out pretty well."

The film also focuses on the question of how a woman engineer handles her home life. It shows an engineer and her husband at home with their children. "Since we began sharing work and responsibilities," she says, "things have really worked out." She and her husband describe how they manage to look after their children.

Salloway said that the film was shown to some high school students in Illinois "and there were the sorts of issues they are concerned with..."

Elsewhere in the film another engineer advises women on the prospects of getting a job. "The jobs are there," she says, "but you're just dealing with equations and formulas... It's not like a pure science..." A scene shows a woman welding in a machine shop, "You get to use your hands... It's not like a machine shop. "You get to use your hands... It's not like a machine shop."

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Restructuring most important

By Mike McNamara

The recommendations of the Self-Appraisal project of the School of Engineering range from minor tuning of accounting systems to sweeping changes in the Institute's calendar.

But people who worked on the project feel that the most important recommendation is the one which suggests restructuring the School along lines other than the departmental organizational structure currently used.

"I think we're at the stage in the School's evolution where we have to start thinking of transdisciplinary fields which bridge several disciplines -- and how to formalize these fields so we can actually have people learn within them," Associate Dean for Engineering James Bruce said. "And so that, we're probably going to have to break down the discipline-oriented departments and start looking at broader fields.

"Interdisciplinary programs have become an increasingly popular means of spanning several fields," Bruce said. "Things like the Centers for Transportation Studies, for International Studies, for Advanced Visual Studies, and so forth, are one means of getting at these areas," he said.

But the Engineering School, with its "departmental mold," would be the first to abandon the departmental form of organization, such reorganization might be done, Bruce said, by giving centers or "divisions" -- and several departments departmental prerogatives -- the right to grant degrees, to admit graduate students, to have faculty chairs.

"It's a façade to force students who want to major in transportation to fit into a departmental mold," Bruce said. "Why couldn't the Center for Transportation Studies, admit students, give them a curriculum to follow, and grant a degree in transportation when the student is through?"

Bruce admitted that emphasis on "job-oriented" education "would be useful mainly at the graduate level -- an undergraduate would probably still be better off in a well-defined department," he said -- and agreed that overlapping departments, centers, and divisions would lead to "some organization confusion.

But one area in undergraduate education would be simplified by such a plan, he said. "It would lead to 'some' organization confusion," but one area in undergraduate education would be simplified by such a plan, he said.

"It would lead to some confusion," Bruce said. "That would represent a considerable simplification of the current system.

The School of Engineering is expected to debate several proposed means of reorganization in the near future in Dean Alfred Keil's office and reports.

Report suggests change in calendar, tuition

(Continued from page 1)

that such a calendar would "exacerbate" the imbalance, "Benefits accruing to the students would justify, indeed require, such an approach to insure the Institute's financial stability," the report said.

Under variable tuition, students would be charged a base registration fee and a tuition charge that would vary with the number of units taken. Units would be calculated around the fifth day of the term, according to the report, which is significantly earlier than current deadliness for adding or dropping.

The working paper points to (Please turn to page 5)
The Report of the Self-Appraisal Project in the School of Engineering - covered elsewhere in this issue - comes across often as a dull, dry tome, primarily because of its unusual shape - like legal-sized paper laid sideways - and its profundity. (I'm not saying people are necessarily wrong to perceive the rhetorical lapses which creep to meet most MIT reports invade here; this is an engineer's report. Each of the 47 recommendations gets a paragraph, a couple of charts, and an terse directive.

But the detailed MIT report usually some person behind who it can make it come to life, and this one is no exception. Associate Dean for Engineering, James Bruce, who directed the Self-Appraisal Project from February to August a year ago, spent a fair amount time talking to put the report into context, to make the facts and figures take on some kind of palpable approach.

When Bruce talks about restructuring the School of Engineering, for example, he's not talking about bureaucracy or how many secretaries are going to be assigned here, there, or yonder. The issue becomes tasks, jobs, purposes, existence - what would a center or department look like to serve society, to promote education, and what difference would it make for graduate students? Would the type of structure more functional, more socially useful, or would decentralizing it more make it a better educational structure? The minor problems fall away, the question becomes: What is the point of this School and how do we achieve that?

Bruce's second favorite topic in the report, expanding MIT's commitment to continuing education, exposes deep-seated feelings, long hours of thought, disdain for the air over something. It can be physics or mathematics or even, God knows, humanistic. But MIT's weakness is the inability of so many to be "issues" - it can be politics or philosophy, political Science. Do we find here, perhaps, the elusive quintessence of a humanistic education?

The book has been described by its most splendid editor, Professor Peter Laslett of Cambridge University, as "a giant of historical importance... at once a response to a particular political situation and a statement of universal principle for the modern (\"Western democratic\") world." His work has passed through perhaps a hundred editions since its first (eponymous) edition in 1690, and been translated into languages as diverse as Norwegian and Basque and Navajo. His independence, proclaims the doctrines of Locke, is the clear right to be left alone. There is no separation of powers, rests final sovereignty in the people's right to overturn a government that has abused its trust, and finds its way verbatim into Jefferson's Declaration of Independence.

It is for all that a rather dull book; though largely because we have become dulled to its issues. We take its principles and their abuse so much for granted. For that reason alone it deserves to be kept alive.

I refer to John Locke's Essay Concerning Human Understanding, in particular to a feature of the book that may be said to stamp it as humanistic and entail it to any sense of humanistic or humanism. It makes Locke's justification of majoritarian democracy: that principle which, in Western political parlance, "is implicit in the logic of community life."

In our society, majorities have to be continually vindicated, especially since MIT's defense of individualism in his essay On Liberty and its own century's unhappy record of discrimination against minorities. No self-respecting individual cares to be thought of as one of the "hedon," of that "slant majority" whose will is always subject to the consent to tyrannical acts in its name.

On another side of the world, however, people think different. For more than a generation, the drum-call throughout the burgeoning countries of Africa has been for majority-right: "one man (sic), one vote," and probably rightly (though independence is no guarantee of equity); for, as it may be, the protection of goodness and justice and wisdom are in no way derived from power or riches or even formal literacy, those characteristic signs of colonial oligarchies. The campaign for freedom through-out Africa has been essentially and in principle a campaign to end disfranchisement not against but by majorities.

The African situation... is paralleled as it may seem to in fact warns us of the sinister one community - has the tag immortalized by John his "Silent Majoritys" whose Brother knows-best" is an indul- pation is not always enough. It is for independent judgment that to regulate major areas of our lives, concerned with coming to measured judgments, will be as little, most productive when governments acknowledge that they are no more than immediate means of that "silent majority" whose knowledge to be respected individual cares to be thought of as one of the "hedon," of that "slant majority" whose will is always subject to the consent to tyrannical acts in its name.
NOTES

Oct. 10 is the last day for juniors and seniors to specify an elective for passfail grading.

Oct. 10 is the deadline for adding English and music courses.

The MIT exam registration deadline is Oct. 14. Absentee or no petition examinations will be given Oct. 20-21.

MIT Students who wish to apply for a Danforth Foundation Fellowship must submit an application for consideration. A separate application form is available in the Registrars Office. To be considered, the application must be submitted by Oct. 10.

For further college or university teaching, contact Dean Richard Office (Room-3-136).

Thursday, Oct. 9, on the American Politics of Ocean Hard Mineral Development. A panel discussion will follow. The MIT Wytham Club is sponsoring this event to discuss the political, economic, and social implications of the development of ocean mineral resources.

A seminar on the practicality of teaching high school students will be held at 7:30pm Wednesday, Oct. 10, in the Parapsychology Research Group. The seminar will focus on the motivation and effectiveness of high school teaching.

* MIT Campus Patrol confis- cated nitrous oxide tanks from students three times last year, and have received one report of a laughing gas incident this year, Chief Jim Oliveri said. "Three of four years ago, we had a real rash of those incidents," Oliveri said. "We were practically caring tanks out of one or two dormitories."

* There have been no serious injuries caused by laughing gas use on campus, but "that doesn't mean the danger isn't there. That stuff is deadly, especially in a closed place with no ventilation," the chief said. Security for nitrous oxide tanks on campus was stepped up two years ago in response to earlier incidents, Oliveri said, and so far, no further rash were being planned in the wake of the Tufts death. "We do make every effort to ensure that this gas isn't available to students, and we're going to continue its use by anyone in the community," he said.

* MIT officials were not available to comment on whether year-round operations would be under active consideration in the wake of implementation of the Self-Appraisal report. But Bruce, one of the four panelists, pointed out the "attraction" of increasing the role of summer in MIT's educational plans, and the idea may well be in the back of many minds when the quarterly-plan calendar, variable extentions, expanded continuing education options, and recommendations in the Self-Appraisal report are under discussion.

* MIT students have been warned against using nitrous oxide for "fun" or "entertainment" purposes. Nitrous oxide, according to Middlesex medical autopsy reports indicated that the gas, often used as an anesthetic by surgeons and dentists, can cause death. "We do make every effort to ensure that this gas isn't available to students," said Chief Jim Oliveri. "That gas can be very dangerous if used improperly," he added.

* Oct. 10, 1975, is the last day for students to apply for a summer research position. The Self-Appraisal Project strongly supported this effort, and students are encouraged to participate.

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MIT art conference to draw hundreds

The largest art conference ever held at MIT will begin Oct. 15 with hundreds of participants expected to attend. Otto Pane, director of MIT's Center for Advanced Visual Studies and co-chairman of the conference, called "Art Transition," said that the five-day series of conferences, seminars, presentations and lectures has attracted "remarkable response from all over the United States and abroad." Not only have invited guests and speakers put themselves to some trouble to attend, but hundreds of participants are expected to pay $55 ($50 for students) to register for the series.

"Art Transition" is being funded by MIT, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and private donations, according to Virginia Gunter, project director for the event and director of programs and exhibitions at Massachusetts College of Art. Pane said that "we're trying to do it for next to nothing," with most of the money coming from NEH and registration fees. He said that MIT was providing "underwriting money that permits us to do the event but we are expected to bring back the money.

President Jerome B. Wiesner as chairman and Pane as co-chairman represent MIT, while NEH is represented by co-chairman Peter Feinstein, director of the University Film Study Center.

Feinstein said that "Art Transition" is the first of a series of conferences funded by NEH. The University Films Study Center has participated in the other four, held at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts (on Animation and Special Events), the International Museum of Photography at Rochester (Sound in Films), Yale (Film and Modern Art), Brandeis (American Document-}


tary) and Wesleyan (Surrealism and French Documentary). The theme of "Art Transition" is broader than any of the previous conferences, Gunter said, and the purpose of the event is to "share ideas and bring people together from various parts of the country who have interests in the concerns of art and society, and to examine the changes and developments in art."

When asked if an art conference was unusual for a science-engineering school, MIT, Gunter replied that "MIT has become more involved in both the arts and humanities, and as MIT is changing and expanding its interests, art itself is becoming more openly involved with technology and science." Pane agreed with Gunter, saying that such events are "less unusual all the time."

Otto Pane, Director of the Center for Advanced Visual Studies
**Sports**

**Harriers sweep quadrangular**

By Dave Dobos

The MIT cross country team, showing its talent in a tremendous way, swept quadrangular meet against New Hampshire, Coast Guard, and Wesleyan at Franklin Park. For the second straight year, the Engineers swept the squads from UNH and Coast Guard.

Senior Franke Richardan easily ran away from the field with a slicking 24:41 over the 5.0 mile course to lead MIT to the low score of 45 points. UNH was second with 59 followed, and Wesleyan trailed in 7-4.

The MIT squad, whose pride was hurt at the hands of WPI during the season, came from behind in the championship to lead 8-5. The Engineers then routed URI and Bowdoin Saturday afternoon's 4x100m round-robin matches over MIT and Williams.

Harvard in 1972 and 1973, and then routed URI and Bowdoin Saturday afternoon's 4x100m round-robin matches over MIT and Williams.

Phi Delta Epsilon Players didn't fare so well, losing a poorly-played game to the University of Shcole Island, 7-4, on Friday night, and qualifying for the losers bracket round-robin.

In Saturday morning's first game, the Engineers used an outstanding performance from the entire team to lead MIT to the first time in MIT history that four freshmen accomplished the feat in one race. Further evidence of the outstanding team effort was the fact that only 54 seconds separated John Krzwyk '77, the Engineers' sixth man, from McCracken.

However, Richardson's contest-winning goal at the end of the contest and, paced by the excellent goaltending of Tom Tang 'A', the team finishes second in the championship.

While Harvard won their seventh championship, the team was looking for its first.

**Massachusetts takes water polo invitational**

By Glenn Brownstein

The University of Massachusetts and four straight games to win the fifth annual MIT Invitational water polo tournament. The Grinnell College Grizzlies from Iowa were eliminated in the championship match and then routed URI and Bowdoin during Saturday afternoon's 4x100m round-robin matches over MIT and Williams.

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**IM volleyball results:**

**A League — Living Groups**

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**A League — Independent**

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**B League — Independent**

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**Goalie Sommer saves soccer tie**

By Gregg Fenton

Gregg Fenton '77 is MIT's outstanding goalie player.

The Engineer soccer team played Trinity College to a 1-1 standstill Saturday on Briggs Field. The rough game was not quite as even as Trinity controlled the play almost throughout.

From the opening whistle until about the 35-minute mark it was an even game, but MIT came alive and made some good goals for a tie. The well-organized Trinity defense was able to hold on, as the first half ended with a 1-1 tie.

With the wind and the sun at their backs, the Trinity eleven came out again in control. Constantly shooting, pressuring the ball, and creating opportunities, the Engineers looked to take the lead late in the first half. They came very near to the back post where two men were close enough to screen for each other. Winger Jennings bracketed the ball to put Trinity ahead.

Although Trinity kept up the pace, MIT evened the score when a cross from Nye reached Bob Carrier '77 for a half-volley shot from five yards out. The rest of the half and both overtimes were similar in the sense that Trinity consistently made goals for scores but MIT came up with some good attempts as well.

Goalie Sommer picked off all tough shots, easy shots, and loose balls that came his way as he had to stop 36 of the 40 shots on net. Dave Pett '77 playing defensive sweeper, looked very good as did forwards Rick Osek '77 and Conner. Elsewhere, however, the team looked very flat and unstatsisfied.

Still looking for their first win, the team travels to Holy Cross this Thursday.