SCEP Recommends Cum System Change, Suggests Adoption Of Five Point Program

At last Wednesday’s Institute Committee meeting the Student Committee on Educational Policy presented its report on the cumulative rating system, SCEP, in existence since last term, previously had studied freshman instructors and some concerned seniors at the Institute. In its report this group stated that some system of academic rating is needed to rank individuals according to their class standing and that this would serve largely from selective service requirements. Other ways for which a consistent and clear grading system would be unfair measures of performance are recognized as the following—

1. The absolute determination of a student’s ‘grading out’.
2. The determination of a student’s professional aptitude.
3. The absolute determination of a student’s work in his major.
4. The absolute qualification for the Dean’s list.

Of the above four the only one that represents current practice is using the term rating as the absolute qualification for the Dean’s list. Concerning the other items the following may be said: Dean Pitts’ office makes it a routine operation to consider a man’s entire record of performance and financial need; very few companies who interview and hire MIT men put prospective employees solely on the basis of their g.p.a.; the advisory system now in operation provides counsel and guidance to anyone nearing the danger zone of scholastic standing, and individual cases of disenrollment may be appealed to the faculty for final judgment.

The SCEP stated, “Our feeling is that grades can be a valid incentive to the student. However, as a general rule, grades are a stronger incentive that grades can be a valid incentive to the students and parents. In other cases that more attention be given to performance in specific subjects.

The Institute publication explaining the cum system be discontinued.

3. The absolute determination of a student’s performance and financial need; very concerning the other items the following

4. The term rating be continued (again, for use of a better one) as the absolute qualification for the Dean’s List.

5. An educational program be launched aiding students to overcome misconceptions about the uses of the term rating and encouraging intellectual curiosity which is satisfied by knowledge rather than grades.

If the suggestions in these recommendations are put into practice SCEP feels the long-range threat will be a gradual demoralization on the overall cumulative rating system and free places that the students will become more concerned with his own academic standing rather than a comparison with the other students.

Military Ball Friday
At Hotel Bradford

MIT’s Company G-5 of the Scudder and Blade Society will present its annual ball at Hotel Bradford this Friday night.

Dancing will be from nine to one to the music of Jack Edwards’ Orchestra, one which needs little introduction to MIT men, having played at the IPC formal in the past. Although a Military Ball, girls are not excluded, and every man should be accorded the ROTC program or wear a uniform. Tickets are $1.50 and for Sale at the B.O.C.

As has been custom in the past, a contest will be held to determine the queen of the Military Ball.

The Tech
TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 1960

What's doing at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft

R. P. I. Dedicates
Graduate Study Center Near Main Plant

PRATT & WHITNEY AIRCRAFT
DIVISION OF UNITED AIRCRAFT CORPORATION
EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Engineers participating in graduate study program complement their classroom training with laboratory experience gained through their daily employment.

The dedication last month of a full-sledged graduate center near the Pratt & Whitney Aircraft plant in East Hartford, Connecticut, set a precedent in relationships between industrial educational institutions. A cost of $600,000, P & W’s parent company purchased and equipped the building that was previously a World War II training center for its Hartford Graduate Center. Moreover, an additional grant by the industry leader to P & W was used to establish a liberal fellowship fund. Since last fall, when classes began, this foundation-scholarship plan has functioned to attract advanced education for the Pratt and Whitney Aircraft’s applied scientists and engineers.

The new graduate study center, 115 miles away from its home campus in upper New York State, is staffed by a resident, full-time faculty. Engineers at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft and other companies in the vicinity are able to continue their education without interrupting their normal employment.

Designed to raise the level of knowledge and to broaden the horizons of men from which research can be approached, this unique new concept of education will aid and enable engineers to achieve performance in their careers through pursuit of advanced degrees in specialized fields from the nation’s oldest engineering college.

The vast facilities required for practical application of advanced technical knowledge to the performance of defense equipment of the highest order - the world’s most complex, privately owned research laboratory.

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Q Club Study

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