New opportunity for the whole man

The proposals voted by the Faculty December 16, together with the appointment of Dr. George Valley as Undergraduate Planning Professor, constitute a major advance towards MIT's educational goal. These measures indicate the faculty's approval of the Institute's role as a university and of the concept of the whole man.

The new curriculum changes call for the greater flexibility necessary for a broader and more individually suitable education. The proposed degree without specification would further the opportunity to generalize before graduate school specialization.

But these specific changes are only the beginning of a serious attempt, with the enthusiastic support of many of the Faculty, to improve each individual's opportunity to receive the best education individually possible. Much of the future work will be co-ordinated by the Undergraduate Planning Professor.

Creation of this position emphasizes once again the concern of the Institute and the undergraduate body of MIT is not "flunk-out" school; in fact, every effort is made to insure each student's success. Some of Professor Valley's current work indicates the possibilities of the new post-studies of freshman work load, study time, and pressure; new methods of presenting matter like 5.01N; size of lectures and attendance of classes; tutorials and special seminars; organizing project labs.

The prime focus of the changes, and of Professor Valley's work, is the individual student's adjustment to the high-pressure, intellectual, and completely unique world of MIT. The wide variety of high school backgrounds and personal adaptability are the major causes of student failure at the Institute; the new plans will improve both the recognition of problems and the possibilities for individual action.

Freshmen will be the principal beneficiaries of the current changes; hopefully, much of the pressure of the first year can be eliminated. The interest of the faculty advisors and instructors and the personal maturity of the student will be vital factors in the success of this program.

Students may still specialize, of course. But the Faculty has made an important move to integrate "university polarized around science" and away from the technical school. These decisions may prove to be among the most important in the history of the Institute's second century of educational leadership.

Study aids?

Towards the end of the term, things have a habit of piling up, and many students start a final drive to "bore up" exams. There never seems to be enough time in these last few weeks to do everything, and so some are tempted to cut sleeping time for a few more hours of constructive work. Some take stimulants to improve their waking efficiency. But consultation with the medical department has convinced us that these people are defeating the very end they are seeking. It is impossible to gain anything by cutting sleep, and it is even possible to get any mental benefit from the use of stimulants. Staying awake beyond normal hours leads to mental confusion and inefficiency; drugs at best prevent sleep, and actually add to mental disorganization, rather than alleviating it.

In terms of useful accomplishment, maximum output in studying is achieved by studying for brief periods and by getting normal sleep. A student who has studied thus, in a calm and collected manner, will have a clear head when exam time comes, instead of that "clutched feeling" so common to exam review time.

Any student who starts now on an organized review of the semester's material can be in good shape by exam time. There will even be time to review for a test that is coming the very next day.

Student government changes up for Insomnic debate Jan. 9

The student dining staff rates, long awaited, should greatly diminish the manpower problems of the staff by the beginning of next term. The Ann Arbor dietetic program should employ useful to both employees and students.

9. VooDoo's editorial column about the trials and tribulations of the staff on make-up night isn't much to shout about. But really, that's what it is all about. A lot of effort at pagination, they have blundered.

10. The student dining staff rates, long awaited, should greatly diminish the manpower problems of the staff by the beginning of next term. The Ann Arbor dietetic program should employ useful to both employees and students.

11. The Faculty did not have time to consider in December a proposal that would establish an Institute Committee, allowing one to graduate without a major. A measure to that effect, proposed by the Harvard, called there General Education, has had rough going with the faculty.

12. Architect M. Pal has been contacted about problems that have arisen since the completion of the Green Center. A midsized concrete wall was set up last week to ease the flow of the often violent windblasts through the passageway. It measures treating window vibration and cracks in the concrete structure may be forthcoming.

Inside Insomnic

Student government changes up for Insomnic debate Jan. 9

By Bill Samuels, UAP

Student government reorganization will enter its third and final Insomnic meetings January 9 and 16. First, a summer committee headed by Mark Nassau wrote a preliminary draft. Then, from September until now, Executive Committee of Institute Committee held many individual meetings with various student government groups. A second draft has now been completed.

This third stage will involve Insomnic Committee, final rewriting, and voting. The formal session will be noon this Friday at 4 p.m. in Litchfield. The first time for the Insomnic.

They will affect Institute Committee, Faculty Council, Institute, Institution Committee, Class Government, Class Government, International Students Association, President, Student Committee, and a few other groups. Anyone interested is welcome to come to the meeting.

You will find that the proposed changes are relatively major, but they are by no means drastic, but drastically important. Organic changes in the present system that will lead to increased coordination and effectiveness.

A different area is the motion to join the National Student Ad Council, which has been proposed by MIT and which has been approved by the Institute Committee. The purpose of this council is to promote a sense of identity among students of all institutions of higher learning, to promote a unified front as we face the problems of the world, to promote a sense of common identity among students of all institutions of higher learning, to promote a unified front as we face the problems of the world.