Pass-fail motion defeated

By Carlson Agnew
The Tech has learned that the Faculty Committee on Educational Policy has decided against implementing pass-fail grading by the freshman year. They have decided, instead, that the freshman year programs deserve a more basic reconsideration, and that an effort to improve these programs does not require the quality of instruction than elimination of grades.

Details scarce
However, when The Tech attempts to find more details on the nature of the decision itself, and further action by the CEP, mention of the Committee is absent. Several freshmen who were asked to speak about the new grading system were unprepared to speak. Chairman Walter Rosenblith was unwilling to make any statements at this time, and several other members showed similar reluctance.

Several plans had been presented to the Committee by the Student Committee on Educational Policy. These included A) issuing no grades, but simply giving an oral evaluation of the freshman’s work; B) retaining the present quiz structure, but merely recording a pass or a fail at the end of the year, and C) maintaining the present system of grades (A, B, C, D, F, etc.) but not entering those on a permanent record. This last represents essentially the plan now used by Caltech. Yale University has also recently announced a plan to issue pass-fail grades for their freshmen.

Personal opinion expressed
One member of the Committee was willing to express a personal opinion on the pass-fail decision. Prof. Frank McClintock said that grades were a symptom of the problem of the freshman year, but not the problem itself. He feels that the material being presented was not being learned, and that, if the students could learn it the first time, pass-fail or no pass-fail, grades would be “no sweat at all.” He felt that this problem of the present system of the material might be solved by upgrading the first year program, rather than abolition of grades.

Re-examination set
The Faculty CEP has apparently decided to re-examine the problem of the freshman year on a broader level. The nature of this re-examination, however, is as yet unknown. Professor George Valley, Undergraduate Dean, or Professor Raub, speculated that this would initially take the form of further sessions conducted by the CEP. He was uncertain, however, as to exactly who would undertake these studies or what would in fact be studied.

Cheeky, when the CEP does reach a decision on what to do, they will announce it. Until then, they are not willing to say anything about their plans for the freshman year or their possible action.

No details given

Rare edition of Galileo volume donated to the MIT Libraries
By Dean Roller
The MIT Libraries have acquired a rare original volume of Galileo’s works. The book, “Dialogo Dei Maschili Systemi” (Dialog on the Two World Systems) was donated by Arthur Vershbow ’43.

The book has tremendous historical significance. In dialing form, it compares the Ptolemaic and Copernican systems of the universe. Two interlocutors argue for and against the Copernican scheme. The book was placed on display through Sunday. Pictured is the “Weather Cube” which displays changing patterns of data in the atmosphere.

Housing lacks guiding philosophy

By Jack Kato
Building with no foundation is descriptive in a figurative (and almost literal) sense of the Institute’s housing situation. One can quote Lawrence Blashoff, Director of Housing and Dining Facilities: “The history of Institute housing is in response to the tremendous housing demand which arose after World War II, when MIT made a rapid transition from a dormitory to residential university.”

This rapid transition has created a great deal of disparity between housing goals and actual conditions. Projected goals are abundant, but funds are scarce.

Exposition ofanda
Harvard Vanguard Cambridge is set a fine example of desirable suite arrangements, but MIT has yet to alleviate the “cramped, depressing conditions in Bartos-Conover.”

(please turn to Page 3)

Haacke Exhibit continues to draw visitors to Hayden

Photo by George Flynn

Haacke Exhibit continues to draw visitors to Hayden Gallery through Sunday. Pictured is the “Weather Cube” which displays changing patterns of conditions on the acrylic plastic lids.

The exhibit by Hans Haacke is continuing in the Hayden Gallery through Sunday. Pictured is the “Weather Cube” which displays changing patterns of conditions on the acrylic plastic lids.

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Future of Field Day debated by Inscomm
By Mark Bololin
Should Field Day be continued in its present form? What role, if any, should student government take in national issues? In particular, should Institute Committees conduct a poll of student opinion on the Vietnam war?

How can Inscomm reduce the time spent meeting its own members without sacrificing the right of any member to voice his opinion?

Issues before Inscomm
This week Inscomm provided most of the discussion Thursday night, when Inscomm conducted its first non-election meeting of the year. Evidently rolling ahead on the momentum of this rediscovered freedom to deal with students’ problems, Inscomm strode strongly onto the scene, hopefully toward real solutions.

Field Day, the value of which has been questioned in the past, has arisen as a problem once more—this time, primarily through the efforts of Jack Bates, President of the Class of ’68.

Discussion of the problem was

Model Cities plan brings new crisis for Inner Belt

By Steve Carhart
One more hurdle was placed in the way of the battered Inner Belt plan this week. Massachusetts Senator Francis X. McCann and Representative John J. Toomey took of Cambridge, discovered that the proposed Brookline-Elm route for the Belt can straight through the area designated for development under the federal government’s Model Cities program.

Wrong order
It would have been possible, Senator McCann told The Tech Sunday, to build the Belt first and then develop the area around it. However, the Model Cities grant is available and must be used immediately, while the start of construction on the Belt is to be deferred to the near future. Said McCann, “Here we have two federal agencies, the Federal Highway Act and the Department of Housing and Urban Development) one already allocating millions to renew an area, and the other standing in the way of building a roadway. The fact is that the inner belt will not be able to be built before 1972.”

Explanations ofanda
One possibility which has come to light as a result of the two conflicting projects is the chance that the delay in the construction of the Belt caused by the model cities mixup could result in the loss of construction funds for the Belt when the Interstate Highway Act expires in 1972. Senator McCann, an opponent of the Belt, said that it would be a “bonus for the people of Cambridge” for the city to get the Model Cities project and in so doing block the Belt.

Another route?
Naturally, the Belt could be built on another route which did not go through the Model Cities project. However, it has been discovered that the Portland-Albany route, which was the last possibility to be considered, was chosen, presents previously unforeseen difficulties.

At certain times during the year, the route in the center of the Neck area, where the Belt would go, becomes sub-marginal for support of a roadway. Were the road built along this route, it would require expensive additional supports. Another possible route is Memorial Drive, but very little thought has been given to this possibility compared with the planning which has been done on Portland-Albany and Brookline-Elm. Such a road would present the added technical difficulty that entrance and exit ramps could be located on only one side.

Details of grant
In contrast to the Belt itself, which has been under consideration for about twenty years, the HUD grant to Cambridge was announced last March. The three communities which were to receive a grant under the recently established program. The city must submit a detailed plan within nine months of the procedures it will use in rebuilding the ghetto area covered under the Model Cities grant. The sum allocated to Cambridge by the federal government totals $3 million and will finance the renewal of an area 366 acres in size.