**WPI charts bold reforms**

By Duff McRoberts

The decision by the MIT Commission of their report is imminent, and the recommenda-
tions made will prompt many in the Institute community to reconsider the nature and future of MIT as a technological university.

Fifty miles away, the Wor-
center Polytechnic Institute has thoroughly overhauled its educational program. An outline of the “WPI plan” may provide a view of the other technical university that has approached issues similar to those at MIT.

Glenn Gregor, editor of WPI's student newspaper, The Tech News, said that "there were students who came in here as freshman, very eager . . . by the time they were juniors they didn’t care anymore." Under the old way of operating, he said, the engineering and science curricula were too rigid. Two years ago, when only 350 students entered a freshman class that had room for 450, a planning commission was appointed by the president and instructed to recommend changes.

**Momentum for reform**

This was the reaction that is sought to try to liberalize the place," according to White, although the course changes have not been extensively partially reformed. Students were interviewed extensively in probes of possible directions that could be taken.

Next year will see the insti-
tution of the plan as finally form-
ulated, but it will be phased in gradually in coming freshmen. Upperclass-
men will have the opportunity to take advantage of some of the features.

Specific course require-
ments have been abolished in the outline of the plan. Students will work out their programs individ-
ually with a faculty advisor; instead of the 20 positions of leadership, whatever the organizational setting.

The solution to this problem, it was decided, may be provided by what is perhaps the central feature of the entire plan: the “study project” idea. Students will be required to pass a comprehensive examination in their major field after three years of study. White related that many at WPI believed the standard engi-
neering education to be too narrow and too exclusive of the humanities. The point has been raised that eliminating human-
ities requirements from the rules may not be a way of correcting the deficiency.

**All specific course require-
ments have been abolished.**

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