"hidden grades" revealed

By Sandra Cohen

"Hidden grades" for medical applicants are threatening to undermine the four-year-old fresh-
man Pass/Fail system at MIT.

The extent of such grades came to light only recently, as the Committee on Evaluation of Freshman Performance (CEFP), which has been monitoring Pass/ Fail during its trial, was preparing to distribute its report for con-
sideration at next Wednesday's faculty meeting. Grades for freshmen in biology, chemistry, and physics are kept on file with

For a related story on one study of freshmen Pass/Fail which con-
tinued to the CEFP report, see page two.

If the instructor or in departmental committees, or be recon-
ducted from quiz and exam scores, were made public, according to the professor in charge of the Pre-Medical Advisory Board, they might not be given full consideration in the absence of other grades.

Speaking at the "Black Experience in Science and Engineering" sym-

The major, although certainly the first full day in the new office.

Davenport can feel a great deal of empathy for these men, who make up a third at 35, and in charge of 400 people by age 37; thus he was moved away from an engineering career at a tender age. He felt the loss of some of his manipulational skills from lack of use, but he caught up with teaching, and did a good job at it. He is now director of the Center for Advanced Engineering Studies, and continues his work with students.

Davenport was interviewed by The Tech recently, during his visit to MIT to present his book, "I'll try to see what I'm having to fight..." He is well known; a good part of his time during the next few months might well be absorbed in the familiarization. He is not a stranger to CAES, as he has been connected with it in some capacities almost since its creation in 1963.

The major, although certainly not only, function of CAES is to provide continuing education. People have been made aware of mid-career executives in engineering fields, who take one year sabbat-

Davenport views teaching

By Paul Schindler

In his old post as associate head of the Electrical Engi-

neering department, Wilbur B. Davenport, Jr. was concerned with teaching, and did a good job at it. He is now director of the Center for Advanced Engineering Studies, and continues his work with students.

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Davenport noted that "It's not a

demand for a cooperative study of the cost and financing of undergraduate education. It is not known at this point exactly how the lack of letter grades affects the students' chances of admission. Several surveys received by the CEFP indicate that most medical schools far prefer to have grades rather than qualitative information to simplify the task of selecting a class.

With such pressure being felt by medical school applicants, the integrity of Pass/Fail is in serious threat-

The CEFP feels that the benefits which have been derived from Pass/Fail are still there, although seven terms may be lost if students know that the freshman year is not truly ungraded, at least in some subjects. The CEFP feels that the faculty is not yet completely, as it will have to deal with the recently exposed problem of hidden grades. The report is to be mailed to the faculty on Friday, after which they will consider it at their next Wednesday's faculty meeting.

$310K to examine rising education costs

By Lee Giger

A consortium of nine eastern universities and colleges, including MIT, has agreed to a $310,000 grant for a cooperative study of the cost and financing of undergraduate education.

One of the goals of the study, according to Chancellor Paul Gray, is to move the board of governors of the university to agree on a single point of financing a college education. Gray emphasized that the introduction of a new sys-
tem of financing is likely to be more favorably received "if it is done by more than one institution.

Participating along with MIT in the study will be Amherst College, Brown University, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, Mount Holyoke College, Princeton University, Wellesley College, and Wesleyan University.

In announcing the grant for the Alfred F. Sloan Foundation, Dartmouth President John Kemeny anticipated that the study would have national sig-
ificant by serving as a model for other institutions and per-
bly "ultimately make possible a multi-institutional program to meet the problem of financing un-
dergraduate college education."

Based on developing creative new modes of financing, Gray explained that the study would attempt to determine just what the cost of education is and how it relates to cost and tuition in." He also stated that the group would examine the relationship between "cost and ability to pay, by looking at the local situation at each of the schools, and by a comparison of the cost with other indices of family income.

Explaining the motivation for the grant, Kemeny noted, "The crisis in higher education brought about by rising costs, expanding program demands, and decreasing sources of finan-
cial support has challenged colleg-
eous and universities to re-
examine their plans for financing the education they provide."

At most of the participating institutions, according to Kemeny's announcement, it is esti-
mated that tuition actually pays for only a few of the total cost of each undergraduate's edu-
cation, although it is difficult to determine which areas should properly be included in the total cost figures, particularly in those instances of multiinstitutional programs.

Further discussing the crisis, the announcement points out that many private institutions, including MIT, have made substantial increased financial aid in recent years to meet the rising costs of education. But even in these instances, students who have received financial aid in the past are finding that their support will not be sufficient to cover their total costs.