CEP issues new educational guidelines

By Storm Kauffman

In the concluding weeks of the spring term and during the summer, the faculty and the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) reached some decisions of importance to students. These are summarized below.

Summer credit

As mandated by the CEP, "It is the present policy of the Institute that a person not be assigned additional units of MIT academic credit for work done in a period when that person is not registered as a student at the Institute. The only exceptions to this policy are awards of transfer credit."

"Persons who hope to receive units of credit for work which they plan to do this summer should register as students and pay tuition."

Special freshmen programs

Concourse and the Experimental Study Group requested "authorization to continue as alternative modes of education for first year students." Concourse is in its second year, ESG in its fourth. The third program, Freshman-MIT Project, Year Four, has no plans for continuing during the coming academic year.

The CEP approved "both ESG and Concourse, as presently constituted, represent viable alternatives through which students may fulfill the General Institute Requirements. The statement continues to say that the experiment is valuable in providing a variety of teaching and learning experiences. However, "because there are still certain experimental aspects to these programs, however, we are not ready to bring them to the faculty for a vote on their continuation as permanent features of the undergraduate curriculum. Rather, we have decided to continue both programs for a maximum of three years, with the CEP retaining the option of re-evaluating either or both of the programs at any point during the period."

MIT-Wellesley Exchange

The CEP has made three recommendations on the Exchange, subsequent to its approval by the faculty at the April meeting: 1) A joint Welllesley-MIT advisory committee, appointed by the Presidents, from students and faculty and administrators would advise in policy matters. 2) At MIT, administrative responsibility for the Exchange will reside in the Office of the Provost. Information about opportunities for study at other schools may be disseminated. 3) The next review of the Exchange will be jointly planned by the CEP and the advisory committee, beginning in two years.

Domestic Year Away

The Domestic Year Away Program, established as a three-year CEP-sponsored experiment in the 1970 fall term, enables freshmen to spend one or two terms studying at another US institution which are not generally available at MIT or any institution with which MIT has substantial cross-registration privileges. Participation is customarily during the junior year. Only a few students have taken advantage of the program, "but the CEP believes that the program has offered a valuable experience to those participating is it... Rather than make a recommendation regarding permanent status for the program at this time, the CEP will continue the Domestic Year Away as an experiment pending conclusion of a more general examination of credit, residence and exchange issues."

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