Public hearings planned on grades issue

Public hearings on the subject of grades and grading will be held early in April, according to Professor of Metallurgy Roy Kaplow, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Grades. The hearings will be used, according to Kaplow, "to float ideas that the committee has considered before a larger audience, and to get some idea of how students feel about these issues."

The committee, which has been meeting weekly since late October to consider grading and its role at MIT, felt that "it would not be wise to go to public meetings until we had a good idea of what we were talking about," Kaplow said. "We don't expect to be surprised by any new ideas at the hearings," he continued. "We will have covered the ground pretty thoroughly by then. But because that is the way the committee plans to operate, we have instructed our deans to keep the student body informed of the progress of the committee and of its recommendations."

Credit not involved

Kaplow stated that the broader question of the credit and unit system at MIT had not been discussed in detail by the committee. "Some people have suggested that the credit and grades systems be tied together as a means of evaluating student work," he said. "I'm not sure how far this idea will go, however."

Public hearings on the subject of grades and grading will be held early in April, according to Professor of Metallurgy Roy Kaplow, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Grades. The committee also heard speakers from Dartmouth and Brown Universities, both of which have recently changed their grading systems.

"The information is coming in," Kaplow said. "We have heard a lot of good ideas from many people around the Institute, and have learned from the experiences at other schools."

The committee's recommendations "is not at all clear," Kaplow said. The changes could range from a complete overhaul of the current system to a more gradual reform. "We will make every effort to communicate to students the changes that we make," Kaplow added. "That's one reason the hearings are so important."

The amount of change that might be caused by the committee's recommendations "is not at all clear," Kaplow said. The changes could range from a complete overhaul of the current system to a more gradual reform. "We will make every effort to communicate to students the changes that we make," Kaplow added. "That's one reason the hearings are so important."

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