Fac changes humanities

(Continued from page 1)

Professor of Nuclear Engineering Elias G. Gyftopoulos, chairman of the faculty, introduced the CEP's motion to accept the proposed humanities requirement. Stating that "The momentum of the change is now, let's begin the faculty to get moving for next fall" and act on the proposal as soon as possible.

Speaking for the proposed requirement, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences H. Darsh Hahsan stated that he felt it was "a proposal which is flexible enough to allow us to move forward. The establishment of a committee to administer and monitor the requirement, he said, would allow us to look at the problems of the requirement from year to year, not just every twenty-five years."

The new requirement, Hahsan continued, would "allow us to end up with an interesting range of humanities subjects, not narrowly defined. "This, he said, would break away from "a tendency to rigidly that afflicts the humanities programs at many schools."

"We hope to try to develop courses peculiar to MIT's needs," Hahsan said. "If we get stuck in a narrow humanities mode, we will tend to look back at what was done in the past, and not forward at what we can do."

Educational priorities

Biggs contended that the proposed requirement was "missing a set of educational priorities that would tell students what we want to emphasize in their education."

"There is a need to ensure a place for humanistic styles," he said. His amendment, which would establish five criteria in that a subject would have to meet to be considered a distribution subject, would help to provide those priorities, Biggs said.

"All that is needed at this meeting is a show of support for a humanistic program," Biggs concluded. "I don't think that's too much to ask."

The faculty debated the Biggs amendment for over an hour, with much of the discussion centered on how restrictive the proposed criteria might be. Head of the Philosophy Department Professor Richard Cartwright stated that under the proposed "Biggs does. No course now taught in the Philosophy Department would be eligible. No ordinary Shakespeare course would meet the standards, and I am certain that introductory music would not meet these standards." He added, "Where are the courses that will meet this amendment?"

Biggs replied that he found 50 courses in many different fields that would meet the criteria he set forth. "The idea is that a subject would have to provide those priorities, Biggs said."

More specifically, the objects has been completed.

MT provides a substantial and varied program in the humanities, arts and social sciences which forms as essential part of the education of every MIT undergraduate. Through this program, students can deepen their knowledge in a variety of cultural and disciplinary areas; develop the potential, sensibilities and skills vital to an effective and satisfying life as an individual, a member of a profession and a member of society.

More specifically, the objectives has been completed.

1. Every candidate for a bachelor's degree must have completed a minimum of eight term subjects in the humanities, arts and social sciences, normally at the rate of one subject per term.

2. Distribution. At least three of the eight term subjects must be taken in three separate fields from the list given below, and may be taken at any stage appropriate to the rest of the student's program.

3. Concentration. Before the third year, each subject selected must be a Field of Concentration. The requirements for Concentration are set by each Field and consist of either three or four subjects closely related to that Field. An individual's program of Concentration is arranged in consultation with a designated advisor in the Field. A maximum of one subject may be distributed subject, and must include one sub-field or a special interdisciplinary program of Concentration may be arranged with the approval of an advisor designated by the Dean of Humanities and Social Science; this approval must be obtained ahead of time, before the desired combination of subjects has been completed.

The following fields of Concentration are currently offered: Anthropology and Archaeology, Creative Writing; Economics; Foreign Languages; History; History of Art and Architecture; Labor in Industrial Society; Linguistics; Literature; Music; Philosophy; Political Science; Psychology; Urban Studies; Visual Arts and Design.

JAMES R. KILLIAN, JR.
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INSTITUT PROFESSOR

VICTOR F. WEISSKOPF
KILLIAN AWARD LECTURER

1973-74

APRIL 3, 1974
THE SEARCH FOR THE ULTIMATE STRUCTURE OF MATTER

APRIL 10, 1974
THE FRONTIERS AND THE LIMITS OF SCIENCE

12-100 5:15 p.m.

Followed by Dutch Treat Supper -- Student Center

AND OPEN DISCUSSION AT:

5:15 p.m. Room 473 STUDENT CENTER

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