UA grades hearing set

By Stephen Blixt

In an effort to elicit student opinion on the recent grade proposals made by the faculty, the Undergraduate Association (UA) will be holding a public hearing next Tuesday. The UA has invited members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Grading, Chairman of the Faculty for Undergraduate Education and members of the Electrical Engineering Department to speak with the students at the hearing.

Students who have speaking privileges at the meetings will be present at the hearing. These students include the UA president and vice-president, the Graduate Student Council president, and the student members of the Committee on Education at Policing of the Grades Committee. They will be reporting the views discussed at the hearing to the next faculty meeting.

"If students take the time to come," said UAFP James Moody '75, "Students are grades as a more important thing around here." He noted that the meeting, open to all students, will be heavily publicized.

The faculty has been considering the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Grading since November. These recommendations, including elimination of F grades from the external transcript, elimination of the grade point average, and extension of the senior pass/fail option to cover two courses taken anytime in the junior and senior years, have been partially accepted by the faculty. At the last faculty meeting, President of Electrical Engineering Stephen Sumrall, who has been tasked to the student hearing, proposed an amendment to add plusses and minuses to B and C grades, and minus to the A grade. The faculty accepted this amendment, although the vote was not binding, and does not at this point represent a change in the grade structure.

Other professors in the EE department have criticized the grade committee's report, especially its recommendations to continue full pass/fail. They have also been invited to the student meeting. Moody said, adding that "any faculty member is welcome." The hearing scheduled for Tuesday, March 4 from 4 to open in room 10-250.

Class of '79 to top 1130; equity level jumps $350

By Mike McNamee

MIT will admit 1130 to 1150 students this fall in the Class of '79, making that class the largest ever accepted at the Institute. The Academic Council announced Tuesday.

Completion of the new West Campus dorms will add 300 beds to the housing system this fall, it was cited along with academic and budgetary pressures as the reason for increasing the size of the class.

The new class will be 100 students larger than the previous MIT class. The Classes of 1976 and 1977, current juniors and freshmen—enrolled 1025 and 1033.

The equity level for financial aid—the amount of need a student must have to receive grant and scholarship aid—will also be increased for the class of '79.

"Cover up was word one from the Watergate break-in, upon first hearing about it," said James Moody '75. "Students see the lecture, projecting an air of history." Dean admitted that he was "quite surprised" about the Watergate break-in upon first hearing about it. "I told Haldeman that this kind of activity was unnecessary," Dean said, "but I had no impact."

"There was nothing in the Democratic Headquarters," Dean said, "I don't know why they went in there."

"As with any news of the Watergate, Dean recalled, "the law is there was no check on the type of activity that paved the way to Watergate."

Given the atmosphere that Watergate meant, the change was expected.

"I think the people here, especially in this recommendation to eliminate F grades, received the blessings of the academic committee Monday evening," said John Dean III told a reception.