Fac continues P/F; plus/minus dropped

By Stephen Blatt

The faculty overwhelmingly rejected attempts to change the freshman Pass/No Credit system and voted against plus/minus grades in a series of advisory votes at its regular meeting Wednesday.

With over two hundred faculty and sixty students present, proposals by Professors James Melville and Leonard Gould of Electrical Engineering to alter the pass/no credit system were defeated by large margins. A "sense of the faculty" resolution to reject plus/minus grades was passed 77-33.

The faculty, which has been discussing the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Grading since November, tabled a recommendation of the committee which would allow a student to repeat a course for credit to have only the second grade appear on the transcript. By a 111-2 vote, the committee's recommendation extending the minor pass/fail option to the junior and senior years and maintaining the other Pass/Fail and Pass/NC options was passed. In other business, the faculty recommended a P/FD program in Art, Architecture and Environmental Studies and decided 53-43 to hold a special faculty meeting within three weeks to discuss the nuclear engineering program for Iranian students.

The committee, which has now considered six of the eight recommendations of the Grading Committee, will according to present plans, present its at its next regular meeting April 16 with additions and amendments to the faculty rules and regulations to implement the recommendations of the Committee as amended by the faculty at its February and March meetings.

The following votes to retain freshman Pass/No Credit, Professor Jerome Wiesner, chairing the meeting, cut off debate on the grading committee's proposals in order to allow consideration of other issues. After brief discussion of the Art, Architecture and Environmental Studies P/FD program and the

SCEP polls students on grades

By Gerald Rakawi

Undergraduates favor the continuation of the present system of grading, but with the "P" grade changed to "no record," according to a recent survey on student attitudes towards grades.

The survey revealed that students are "generally happy with the present system," said Louis Toulon '77, chairman of the Student Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP) which conducted the 21 question survey. According to the survey, students are more than 51 against the addition of pluses and minuses to the current grading system. Toulon called this "the most significant finding in the survey."

Although the survey forms were prepared last year, they were not distributed to dormitory freshmen and freshmen until two weeks ago. SCEP Grading Project Coordinator Ron Neffeld '78, explained that "we were spur to get them out by the recent grades controversy."

The controversy was created by faculty over whether to adopt the proposals of the Ad Hoc Committee of Grades, and amendments to the grading system proposed by certain faculty members. The survey did not query students on their views about extension on senior Pass/Fail to the junior year, Neffeld said, because that was not an issue when the survey was composed.

The results of some of the questions are the following:

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<tr>
<th>TD</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>A</th>
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A student and his advisor should be able to remove courses and grades from the student's transcript.

SD — Strongly disagree
D — Disagree
NO — No strong feelings
A — Agree
SA — Strongly agree

Commons decision to be made today

By Mike McNamee

A provisional decision on re-establishing compulsory Commons in West Campus dormitories will be revealed at a meeting of the Dormitory Rate Review Committee, according to the Dean for Student Affairs Kenneth C. Browning '66 told The Tech.

The Committee, which reviews dormitory rents and Commons charges each year, will be told "whether we will have compulsory Commons, or, if not that, when we will know whether compulsory Commons will be set up," Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Kenneth C. Browning '66 told The Tech.

The Committee is reviewing dining options for Commons in the next year. Browning said, and will need information on whether compulsory Commons will be established to conduct its studies.

The Dean's Office statement that some decisions will be made this week has been interpreted by dormitory officers who have discussed the issue with the Deans as meaning that compulsory Commons will probably be rejected. Earlier, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Nancy Wheeler was quoted as saying that the compulsory Commons decision will not be made until the end of April.

"They're either going to reject it now, or they're going to reject it out and make the decision in all dorms," one Baker House told The Tech, "if they make a final decision now, it will almost certainly be no compulsory Commons."

Browning, who told The "Tech Wednesday night he had "some idea" of what the decision would be, refused to comment. (Please turn to page 7)