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SCEP taking survey

"Editor's note: The Tech received this open letter to the MIT Community.

To the Editor:

Recently, there has been much debate and controversy over two important academic issues, drop date and grading. The Student Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP) will be circulating a survey on these important issues during the following weeks...

The results of this survey will be shown to the faculty, the CEP, and administrators. It seems to most rational academic existence. It appears to students at some time during their academic existence. It seems to most rational administrators, faced with this problem, would wish to alleviate it rather than aggravate it. The results suggest, for grade deflation, a shortened drop date, and only one term of freshman failing grades will only serve to increase pressures at the Institute.

Academic pressures may cause suicides

To the Editor:

The tragic death of Marc-Emile Duguay underscores a basic problem at the Institute, the extremely high pressures, and poor quality of life felt by many MIT students at some time during their academic existence. It seems to me, that most rational administrators, faced with this problem, would wish to alleviate it rather than aggravate it. The results suggest, for grade deflation, a shortened drop date, and only one term of freshman failing grades will only serve to increase pressures at the Institute.

by limiting extra-curricular activities, increasing grade consciousness, and dramatically decreasing the overall quality of student life in general.

Although I did not know Mr. Duguay, or the incidents surrounding his death, I feel certain that academic pressures have a high correlation with the suicide rate at MIT. The University should be a place for social and intellectual growth, not of desperation.

Peter S. DeVries '79
SCEP Secretary

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