Grading Committee report to be published Weds.

By Ron Newman

The long-awaited report of the Faculty Senate Receiving Committee on Grading Policy, in formulation for over a year, is scheduled to come out this week.

The report, due to be published in today's Tech, will, according to the Receiving Committee, recommend a redefinition of grades, the placement of grade distributions on the internal or external transcript, and the authorization for "letters of commendation." These recommendations could issue to no more than five percent of the students in a class.

Although the report will be presented at the March 15 faculty meeting, no formal action is expected until mid-April.

The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP), which received a final draft of the report last week, is "totally split" on the recommendations, according to student members, and may take to official action on them.

The Grading Committee reports directly to the faculty, so CEP endorsement is not required before the faculty considers the measures. However, the report may have considerable difficulties obtaining faculty approval if the CEP does not stand behind it, according to Elliot Moss-G., a CEP representative.

Moss-G. notes that the CEP is "likely" to endorse grade distributions on transcripts, and split on the question of letters of commendation.

Grades distributions on the transcript, Moss-G. pointed out, contradict the Grading Committee's stated aim of making grades an absolute measure of acquired knowledge rather than a measure comparing students' achievements to those of their classmates.

Steve Beem '80, another student representative to the CEP, noted a fear that letters of commendation "could possibly develop into a 'super-A' situation," and he declared his opposition to grade distributions on either internal or external transcripts.

The Student Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP), which includes all undergraduate CEP members, is preparing to issue a survey after the spring break asking for student opinions on grading policy and the advisory system. SCEP will be meeting Thursday night at 7:30 in W 304-43 to write survey questions.

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