I live over MITV last Tuesday. The committee on Grading discussed their input on the issues, students were invited to ask any questions during the show, either in person or by phone. Committee members present were Professor of Management Zonni Zannetos, the Chairwoman of the committee; Professor of Electrical Engineering William Sieth; and the committee's student representative, Drew Finney '79. Mark James '78 and Ron Newman '79 were also on the panel, representing The Tech and thursday, respectively. Zannetos began by giving three main reasons for the committee's efforts over the last few years.

Grades overall "do not tell meaningful information from the records of MIT graduates, Sieth said, and would not simply be the equivalent of an A+ grade. Probably the most controversial aspect of the proposal, however, is the addition of grade distributions to transcripts. When a student came to the podium and commented that addition of grade distributions could only hurt the records of MIT graduates, Sieth replied that it is "not our intent to help students at the top or bottom, or to hurt them, but to provide a service to the whole educational community." He was also referring to the grade redefinitions.

Sieth said he believes that the "problem with the grading system is one of degree and trend more than one of disaster." He said he feels that the educational system as a whole has been "sliding downhill," and that "students have not improved the general situation." He concluded by stating that "the committee's proposals is to strengthen the new grade definitions," and that "a high percentage of grade distributions could only hurt the situation is "just as important" as helping to improve the general educational community." He was also referring to the grade redefinitions.

Zannetos concluded by expressing his concern that the committee is "not out to deflate the high percentage of A's and B's. As a part-time record, Letters of Commendation would "add a dimension of measurement," Sieth said. Zannetos-and Siebert both expect that the program will be of the same educational caliber. Sieth told reporters before the meeting that "the University students can't be used to the idea they're going to a great institution."