The next topic: freshman pass/fail

Grading Comm. to release new proposal

By Ron Newman

After months of debate and delay, the MIT faculty's Ad Hoc Committee on Grading is expected to release final recommendations later this month for a vote at the October 18 faculty meeting. Interviews this week with several committee members indicate that the upcoming proposals will be substantially less stringent than those in the Committee's last report, issued on March 8.

After the October report, the Committee plans to open an inquiry into the freshman pass/fail grading system. Consideration of that topic, however, will have to wait until the approval of Committee members Thomas Graykist (Physics), William Siebert (EE), and Howard Bierman (EE), according to four members of the committee's chairman.

In an interview Wednesday, Graykist stated that three motions will be presented to the faculty meeting next month. The first motion, which will propose new definitions for the letter grades A through F, "will differ in wording, but not in content," from a similar recommendation made in the March report. Graykist noted that the Committee would place the grade distribution for each subject on the student grade report, telling what percentage of students receive each letter grade.

The third motion, according to Robert Morganthaler, will require the registrar to find a way of placing similar grade distribution information on the back of the permanent transcript. Unlike last year's proposal, the new motion does not authorize the release of such information to outside recipients.

Both the first and second motions will have the option of "opening up" the information at some future date. Missing entirely from the new motions is any mention of "letters of commendation," a controversial proposal in the Committee's March report which would have recognized "extraordinary ingenuity or creativity or truly outstanding performance" with special notations on the permanent transcript. Morganthaler gave no reason for deleting this recommendation, but last term it was widely criticized as "an A-plus" and an encouragement for students to carry favor with their professors.

Graykist and Zannetos hope to bring the three motions to a quick vote at October's faculty meeting. "We want lots of discussion in the MIT community," Graykist commented. He explained that the intervening period between the release of the proposals and the October meeting should be sufficient for the faculty to study the recommendations. "We want to get the thing over with as soon as possible," he said. The last major proposed change in academic rules, a motion to allow self-grading after the fifth week of the term, was tabled twice before it was finally defeated at last February's faculty meeting.

Meanwhile, critics of the Committee will be holding their own meeting this Tuesday at 4:16. The meeting will attempt to formulate an appropriate student response to the Committee's proposals and the upcoming pass/fail faculty vote, according to Alan Geller, "one of the meeting organizers. Geller invites all interested students to attend.

Class of '82 attempts to organize early

By Jay Glass

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The Tech regrets to announce the resignation of prominent reasons of William H. Climo as Contributing Editor and the Undergraduate News Editor. However, the staff is pleased to announce the appointments of Bill Clime to the position of Undergraduate News Editor.

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