Concerning grades and committee reports

The third proposal concerns the placing of grade distribution information on internal transcripts that could be looked at by graduate department admissions officers. The committee felt this information could be useful to a student in a department which, for one reason or another, doesn't give out many A's, if this student changes his or her goals and applies to a department which is accustomed to giving out a large number of A's. It's my feeling (and hope) that when it comes to admitting an MIT undergrad to graduate school here, the grade point average is not an important criterion. What should be more important are the grades the student received in those few courses he or she took in this subject area, the personal interaction with this student, and the person he or she is. We should be encouraging more interaction between student and faculty members, rather than having all this information, relaxed second-hand to a committee in a form which implies that students are somehow set in stone rather than thought of as individuals. Why is there a faculty committee on grading, but not a faculty committee whose purpose is, in any way of improving student-faculty interaction and relations in general? This problem is important enough that the formation of a standing committee should be considered.

The grading committee has the responsibility to the community, concerning the communication problems, of maintaining an open meeting policy. I hope in the sense that any student or faculty member who wishes to listen to our discussions be aware that our meetings will result in greater pressure for open meetings, and increased consideration of the advantages or disadvantages of a given proposal in the formative stages. Student and faculty concerns can be united in the sense of an equal number of students and faculty on the committee, and I hope that more student members will be appointed.

MIT SCUBA CLUB
MEETING
Oct 3
7:30 pm
Pool Session
For more information call
Bob White 494-0271 dl 6676

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