CEP ok’s EECS plan to look at hidden grades; others disagree

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Associate Provost, foreswears similar policies in other departments. Herbert H. Richardson, ’63, head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, said, “There is quite a bit of concern among the Mechanical Engineering faculty that some students continue on to more advanced subjects without understanding the background material.” He said it was too early to know whether this concern would develop into a policy similar to that of Course VI.

“I don’t think Course VI has the legal authority to do the things that Course III is trying to do,” said Materials Science and Engineering Associate Professor David K. Reyssanche, Chairman of the Course III Undergraduate Committee. Reyssanche said he feels there is a procedural problem in defining the meaning of a D. “Some professors may use a D to indicate very poor performance and that one is not prepared for advanced courses,” he said. “But for Course VI to say that a D is ‘not passing’ is at odds with the Institute’s policy of grades,” he said.

While the Course III Undergraduate Committee has not discussed the problem of students who receive Ds in prerequisite courses, Reyssanche said the Course III will try to confront the problem, through the advising system. “I do favor Course VI’s concern for academic standards,” noted Reyssanche.

Frank Mor plagiarized the plan during the Spring term of 1982. “I am very careful in taking care of [these] grades... I think most of us think that would be a D to indicate very poor performance,” he said.

The Malthematical Department has released hidden grades. “[the Mathematics Department] to release hidden grades,” he said.

Aeronautics and Astronautics Professor Emmed A. Wurster indicated he was interested in pursuing a similar policy, and in releasing hidden grades. Some of us think that would be a D to indicate very poor performance,” he said.

“The action is somewhat a contradiction of the student’s interest in the advising system. A student is not forced to discuss his course with his advisor,” he said. “I do favor Course VI’s concern for academic standards.”

Note: All grades in EECS 15 were released. This gives students the opportunity to discuss their course with their advisor. The grades were released to students for the first time. This is a new policy for the EECS program. The EECS program has a policy that students must discuss their course with their advisor before they receive a grade.

The Technology and Culture Seminar at MIT and the Finite Earth Seminar will sponsor a public forum.

The Bioosphere: Renewable, but Finite and Subversive

Dr. George M. Woodwell
Director of the Ecosystems Center
Marine Biological Laboratory

Tuesday, February 2
Room 9-150
Supper and Discussion to follow