**CPE calls for frosch to get spring grades**

By Tony Zamparutti

The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) will release tomorrow its recommendations for changes in the freshman pass/fail system, including a requirement that freshmen be given hidden grades for the spring term.

"The transmission of unoffical grades to anyone for any purpose is contrary to the intention and purpose of the Pass/Fail system," the 1972 report claimed.

A major way of addressing concerns raised by the pass/fail credit system is to improve the ef-ficiency of the student-advisor relationship and to give students and advisors accurate, and timely information, according to the new CEP report.

Hidden grades spring semester would provide better informa-tion to students and advisors, since the report states.

The report recommends a number of procedural changes in the freshman evaluation system, including new freshman evalua-tion forms and new policies to encourage students and instruc-tors to complete the forms.

The freshman pass/fail system was intended to relieve the anxi-ety and pressure felt by freshmen, confer a more mature education motivation in students, and give freshmen more freedom in course choices, according to the 1972 report of the Committee on Educational Policy (CEFP), which re-viewed the initial four-year pass/fail system.

"While many aspects of the current Pass/No Credit system are valued by students and faculty, . . . we have fallen short of its earlier goals," the CEP report states.

**EECS to renovate building for VLSI research**

By Sam Cable

Construction of new facilities is building 39 for development of VLSI (Very Large Scale Integration) will begin in the spring, according to Richard B. Adler, associa-tive head of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS).

"We have enough funds pledged between industry and government so that MIT is pre-pared to go ahead on the building and we are doing so," Adler said. "If we had more money it would be easier, but MIT is satis-fied that we have enough . . . ."

VLSI research is centered with putting more computer cir-cuity in smaller integrated cir-cuits. Using VLSI, over 100,000 elements — transistors, resistors, and the like — can be placed on a quarter-inch square silicon chip.

Present facilities at MIT for in-tegrated circuit development and manufac-ture are limited, according to Adler. "We have not been able to address what it takes to make a whole chip from a fabrication point of view," he said.

Adler divided the cost of the new VLSI facilities into three ma-jor areas: renovating building 39 and relocating its occupants, purchasing new equipment for the laboratories, and making oper-a-tional expenses.

After estimated renovation costs at $15 million, equipment costs at $6 million, and opera-tional costs at $3 million each year.

MIT is relying heavily on gov-ernment funds for the VLSI pro-ject, Adler said. The Institute re-ceived permission from the Federal government to increase its overhead charges for research in the new facilities to help pay for the renovations.

There is not enough money presently available for buying equipment and assembling the laborato ries and is also expecting dona-tions of new equipment from manufacturers. The facilities, he said, will be ready no sooner than early 1984. So funds for equipment are not needed right away, he added.

Adler hopes to meet operation-al costs through a yearly subsidy of $1 million from industry and half a million dollars each year in gifts. The balance, he feels, can be raised from research overhead.

"We now have $300,000 a year pledged for the next two or three years," he said. "We don't need the whole million right away.

Research in the new VLSI fa-cilities will involve studying the entire process of designing and manufacturing integrated circuits, designing "unusual" circuits, and continuing current research on manufacturing processes and ma-nufacturing equipment.

Due to the complexity of inte-grated circuits, design can be a major problem. Adler likened the designing an integrated circuit to preparing "a map of the United States containing details of each alleyway. It's not clear that the way industry has broken up the job is the best way. It's hard for industry to work on that question," he said.

The YLSI facilities will involve students, but their major impact will not be on undergraduate work. Adler said. They will, how-ever, make EECS laboratory fa-cilities in building 13 available expressly for undergraduates. Building 13 facilities are presently serving undergraduate, graduate, and advanced research work.

"One chip can have a complex-ity level of a whole spacecraft," Adler said. "We feel it's our job to be sure that students are edu-cated to deal with that kind of situation."

**Student activities file reports for ODSA Visiting Committee**

By Jake Titone

The Corporation Visiting Committee on Student Affairs, one of 28 specialized committees meeting regularly to review MIT's academic and other de-partments, will convene Novem-ber 9.

The ODSA's report did not ad-dress the newspaper's relationship to the Dean's Office. "We report-ed only the status and goals of the organization," explained Ivan Fong '83, chairman of The Tech. "The department felt it was more appropriate to address is-sues facing the Visiting Com-mitee on the editorial pages of the newspaper."

The Visiting Committee's meet-ing will include an overview of student activities' organizational structures, their influence on the "MIT undergraduate educational experience," and the ODSA's role in student activities, according to the ODSA agenda. There will be an open forum with students, and the visit will conclude with an administrative session . . . to dis-cuss observations and recommen-dations.

Corporation visiting com-mitees meet every 12 to 18 months, but some meet as infrequently as . . . (Please turn to page 2)