GA opposes hidden grade plan

Urges faculty vote to alter CEP proposal

By Tony Zamparutti

The Undergraduate Association General Assembly (GA) voted last night to oppose the recommendation of the faculty Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) to alter freshmen pass/fail grading.

The GA vote followed a general voice vote by the Student Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP) not to endorse the CEP plan last week.

Following SCEP's lead, the GA recommended the present spring freshman term evaluation form be replaced with a faculty-initiated "check-box" system.

The GA recommended changes to freshman grading not take effect until fall 1983. The CEP proposal, if implemented, would take effect immediately.

Groups need office space

By Leo Haurwitz

(Sunday, October 2, 1982)

This is the first of a two-part series examining office space for student activities. Part two will appear next Friday.

There is not enough office space for student organizations at MIT, according to officers of several activities, leaving many groups without needed facilities. "There are facilities for a list of about thirty activities that need space," said Stuart Allen '83, member of the Association of Student Activities (ASA) executive committee, "but there are a lot of faculty members who are not in favor of pass/fail.

The CEP last month recommended replacing freshman spring end-of-term evaluation forms with a formalized system of hidden grades, using new midterm evaluation forms, and the immediate implementation of a check-box system.

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"We've been looking for an office," said Peter Diamandis '83, president of Students for the Exploration and Development of Space (SEDS). "We filed [as an application with ASA] for an office last year. We've been told that the waiting time for an office is on the order of many years." SEDS will have 800 members by the end of this year, Diaman
dis predicted. "Right now," he lamented, "I'm operating out of my room.

"We'd like to have an office," said Patrick Tan '83, president of the International Student Association (ISA). "We're basically operating using other MIT facilities, like McCormick living rooms." The ISA secretary filed an application with ASA last year, Tan said, but the group has received no response. "We have a problem finding a place to hold meetings and discussions.

The MIT Student Section of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), formed four years ago, has never been assigned an office by ASA. "Our 1981-82 president submitted [an application] to ASA," said Jeanne Swecker '83, SWE president.

"Last year," Swecker continued, "we were told, 'You're first on our list to get office space.' SWE is now being housed at a desk, provided by its faculty advisor, in a graduate student office.

Proposed cuts in federal financial aid programs would pose problems for MIT next year, Gallagher said.

The increasing strain financial aid places on MIT's resources is the principal reason President Paul E. Gray '34 appointed a task force to study the Institute's policy of providing aid to all students demonstrating financial need.

Gallagher hopes that policy will not change, but suggested an admistyady policy, under which students are admitted but may be denied sufficient financial aid, is a possibility. MIT followed an admistyady policy until 1965.

Gallagher has not yet made administrative changes to cut SFAO's expenses. His office must reduce its budgets for mailings and travel. "We do not expect to reduce our availability to students," he said.

SFAO, with an administrative budget close to $700,000, employs nineteen staff members.

Crucial year for GA, says Immerman

By Tony Zamparutti

The Undergraduate Association General Assembly (GA) members spent long hours last Tuesday preparing for the student body and the MIT administration. Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Stephen D. Immerman told the GA last night.

"I think there's a big question of what the GA's supposed to be," Immerman said.

"Does [the GA] work?" he asked. "Is it in the right form? Does it truly represent the undergraduate body?"

A report Immerman and Undergraduate Association (UA) leaders are preparing for the Corporation Visiting Committee on Student Affairs meeting in November, examines the roles of the UA President and GA, "racing the question if there is really a need for this kind of organization," Immerman said.

There is ample opportunity for student self-governance, Immerman said, but more work to achieve it.

"I know there are people in the room who want very badly to refine the whole process," Immerman added.

"I would urge that the GA members spend long hours to review what they're about, to decide their role, to provide a place that in the decision-making process on this campus," Immerman said. "This fall the GA is coming into a very important time. GA floor leader James Taylor '84 declared, "There has been the perception that there is no real need for the GA."

MIT names OME director

By Andrea Marra

"The charge of MIT is basically to educate the next generation of scientists and engineers, and to make certain that within that group there is a sufficient number of minorities," said Dr. William MacLaurin, MIT's new director of the Office of Minority Education (OME).

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