Letter misconstrues Scofield column

(Continued from page 5) students "really didn't see to care at all" about the proposal. That is true, but I got the feeling from what he wrote that SCEP was in favor of or neutral towards the CEP proposal. In fact, the majority opinion was against the plan. In addition, the letter by Mr. Barber et al. mentions Jerri-Lynn Scofield's column of September 24. The letter claims that "there were several inaccuracies...

"The need for better instructor/student/..." in the editorial. Permit me to address the specific points of this charge. First of all, Barber et al. says, "The need for better instructor/student/advisor communication has been well-established." I do not argue with that premise. However, neither does Scofield, in my view. She merely states that some have shown any need for grades — in fact, she later goes on to demonstrate that grades would be counterproductive for this purpose.

On the point that the narrative forms are being (or not being) replaced: the letter is technically correct. However, is anyone really ignorant to believe that the majority of professors will continue to use the narrative when they can give a grade instead? The narrative will be a red herring in this case, anyhow: for all practical purposes, the narrative is being replaced.

"The statement that internal grades would be used in the spring only is irrelevant, as is the point that the slot for the grade would be eliminated (now where would the professor put the grade? I'm confused!). What is important is that the grades would be complete. This violates the spirit, if not the principle, of pass-fail. I will not take the space to discuss why; I instead refer the interested reader to Scofield's column and that of October 5.

Perhaps it may interest some people that SCEP endorsed a different proposal, to use check boxes and narrative, with no provision for any grades (my emphasis). While I do not consider it ideal (I prefer Scofield's proposal), it is a compromise that should be acceptable to all parties. If a department should choose to keep internal grades (which it shouldn't need to, if the evaluations are kept up-to-date), the grades should not be available to anyone, including the student. This would eliminate any pressure from graduate schools to release grades (hopefully).

The problem, CEP has endorsed the grade proposal. The faculty has not voted on it yet; it is critical for us to make our opinions known. The next CEP meeting, on Thursday, October 14, will be attended by the faculty. CEP. I urge anyone with any opinion on any of the proposals to attend. If the CEP receives strong feedback from the student body, it may changes its mind accordingly. The meeting will be at 7:30 pm in the Student Center Room 400.

Robert Krawitz '86

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