Faculty approves fresh hidden grade plan

By Tony Zamparini
The faculty adopted Wednesday — by a unanimous voice vote — the Student Affairs (ODSA) overtime plan to phase freshman year grading, which will give freshmen formal grades this spring term. About 20 faculty members attended the debate on the CEP agenda section.

The CEP proposal took effect immediately upon passage. The committee's plan will replace the existing system of grading after the first semester a student enters MIT. Grades of "good," "credit," and "no credit" will be given to students in their first year, and after two years it is time we come to a conclusion.

The system of freshman evaluation forms "works very poorly..." according to Robert K. Weatherall, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs (ODSA) over hiring and evaluation policies for Undergraduate Association employees. ODSA accountant Margaret Gibbons was recently appointed to the new position of assistant director of financial operations.

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Brown disputes ODSA hiring policies

By Thomas Huang
"1983 will probably be the worst year in engineering employment since the early '70s," according to Robert K. Weatherall, Assistant Director of the Office of Career Planning and Placement.

"A report by the College Placement Council indicates that companies will be making less job offers," Weatherall said. Companies plan to hire 12 percent fewer engineering students than last year.

Many companies will freeze their salaries, according to Weatherall.

"The companies recruiting now are hoping that there will be more job openings by June," Weatherall said. "They hope the country will have come out of the recession by then." The prospect of economic recovery remains "at best uncertain," he added.

About 400 corporations will be interviewing during the fall, Weatherall said. Companies plan to hire 12 percent fewer engineering students than last year.

The fields of electrical engineering and computer science will be the least hurt, Weatherall said, because many people have started their own small computer companies and need recent graduates in these fields. "Almost, it seems everything is becoming automated, computerized, increasing the need for these graduates," Weatherall said.

The 1982-83 academic year saw the start of the job market decline. "Last year was a real shock for chemical engineers," Weatherall explained. "The oil industry was very eager to hire students and instructors before the Christmas of 1983. Then came the surplus and fall in price of oil. The companies considered the internal handling of information to be important.

The use of hidden grades will mean "losing an inducement for the faculty to know the students in more depth," said Michael Lipsy, Professor of Political Science. "I wondered if your committee could change the dates of the policy." The faculty adopted the revised policy with a vote of 15-1.

"I'd like to disagree strongly with you, Felix," said Associate Professor of Physics Margaret L. A. MacVicar '65. She noted the students often do not understand the meaning of "MIT." Villars replied. "One cannot legislate instructors know about the ultimate authority in hiring.

There is "no intent by the CEP to reorganize the shuttle bus to resume operation." Staff and students will have to look more broadly at various opinions and companies, said Weatherall.

"Students would do well to look at students here in this office," Weatherall said. Last year, 1556 students and graduates had 10,006 job interviews.

Graduates face poor job prospects

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