EECS must expand computer facilities

To the Editor: Freshmen, just when you thought you could take 6.01 on pass/fail, beware! Course VI has struck again. This term over 400 students preregistered for 6.01 and Professor Susman has said that some students must get the axe. Freshmen will be forced out first. (After all, you’re only freshmen.) Close to 100 freshmen are going to be forced to drop the course, possible signalling the end of 6.01 as a course freshmen can take. Naturally, this will only alleviate the problem for the short term.

The Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science was forced to limit the number of students in the class because of a lack of facilities to handle such a large number of students. They exacerbated the problems in 6.01 by not offering 2.10 this year. However, what they fail to realize is that many students enrolled in 6.01 take it not because they intend to major in 2.10 or 6.001, a course in FORTRAN (offered by the Department of Mechanical Engineering) for people who would like to learn a first computer language, and 6.001. The enrollment in 2.10 this term is approximately 250 and is expected to reach about 300 before the class size stabilizes next week.

The opening of the new EC&G Building later this year will help alleviate some of the problems, but as more students demand a well-rounded education including computer literacy, EECS must increase their facilities to meet those needs. If MIT cannot supply its students with the necessary computer education, a basic need in today’s fast-paced technological world, how then, can we call ourselves the most technologically advanced university in the world?

Michael Candan ’85

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