Facility approves chemistry changes

By Burt S. Kaliski

The faculty approved a motion to amend the Department of Chemistry curriculum and to change the Institute chemistry requirement at its regular meeting Tuesday.

The amendment abolishes General Chemistry (5.40), Introduction to Structure, Bonding and Mechanism (5.41), and Organic Chemistry (5.42). Each of the first two subjects presently satisfies the chemistry requirement.

The change will add the subjects Principles of Chemical Science (5.11), Organic Chemistry I (5.12), and Organic Chemistry II (5.13). Only 5.11 will be needed to satisfy the chemistry requirement; both 5.11 and 5.12 will become science distribution subjects.

Professor of Chemistry Mark S. Wrighton, who introduced the amendment, told the faculty, "We perceive that we need to have a new course that will better match the background of students." The new course also will provide a better preparation for students who major in the Departments of Biology and Chemical Engineering, he said.

Felix N. Villars, professor of physics, questioned the reduction in the number of ways to fulfill the chemistry requirement. "It seems a bit capricious to reduce the opportunity that that would provide," he said.

Weinberg said the chemistry department expanded the number of subjects fulfilling the chemistry requirement in the past by adding 5.40 and 5.41 later became very similar to 5.40.

Eric A. Deveraux '85, a member of the Student Committee on Educational Policy, said he feared the new subjects were "overwhelmingly in the balance of serving the majors," and would be too difficult for freshmen.

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EECS enrollment to climb

By Burt S. Kaliski

President Paul E. Gray '54 outlined plans of enrollment in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the faculty meeting Wednesday.

"One of the frightening things about it is that the figure continues to go up," he said. "We predicted 450 sophomores would enroll in that department next year."

"I don't believe the shift towards the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science is a long-term periodic phenomenon," he said. "It would surprise me if all those that go in that direction continued to the end of the century." Gray said students may need to hold a special meeting in early December to decide whether or not "to change admissions practice in a way that limits enrollment options," should the Committee on Educational Policy recommend that solution.

The General Assembly tabled the wording of the former recommendation in the spring.

Most faculty members opposed suggestions that the Institute add students to MIT while simultaneously requiring they not enroll in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

Professor of Management Jay W. Forrester, who received a master's degree from the department in 1945, said MIT should "shift the admissions process to be away from those who intend to enroll in the department.

Gray said "70 percent of those who express an interest in [the department] actually enroll in it," but only half of those in the very long term, doesn't help us very much.

Pornography survey debated

By Daniel J. Crean

The Undergraduate Association's Student Committee on Pornography and amended the Undergraduate Election Code at its meeting last night.

"The issue of pornography is one that affects everyone and everybody has an opinion on it," declared James A. MacStravic '84, a general assembly member.

The Undergraduate Association's Pornography Committee conducted two meetings on the topic but has received very little community input, MacStravic said. "We didn't get a lot of suggestions on what the wording of the referendum should be."

MacStravic stressed the referendum would be a vote for or against determining the General Assembly's position on pornography. "The General Assembly is supposed to serve as an arm of the people," MacStravic said. "Basically, we have to take a position."

The referendum is not an out-law pornography on campus, MacStravic said. "We believe whatever it is we want it to be." It is not a "modesty" issue that the referendum will determine whether students feel that pornography movies are appropriate for showings on campus; the referendum will not determine whether students want to see a pornographic movie.

A questionnaire, asking about personal opinions on pornography issues, will probably be distributed with the referendum ballot, Nir said. "I was proposing that we'd attach it to the [Undergraduate Assembly] elections," in the spring.

The questionnaire will probably include the question "Have you ever seen an LSC movie?"

"I interpreted it to allow preference balloting [in last spring's Undergraduate Elections]," Nir said. "If we want to close it, we'd put it in the General Assembly elections, but I don't think it's the best thing for the elections."

George E. Frenz '84 submitted a report to the General Assembly outlining the overcrowding problems in certain departments, particularly the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

"I resent the notion that we don't care about the problem," said Stipes E. Barber '84, chair of the Student Committee on Educational Policy, said support for the idea of a separate campus for MIT students. "We have talked about the problem for a long time."

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