Column/Peter Merkle

Halt overcrowding the Course VI way

The electrical engineering and computer science (EECS) department at MIT are overcrowded. I wonder why so many people want to mode it? Is it possible that they never seen an electron myself, and I really don't think they exist. Computer science departments at MIT should not be dominion/lab oriented, with individual cubicle rooms enough to hold a terminal, video screen, and a dispenser for power outlets. In this manner, TAs and professors can be linked by television to each student, and assignments done through the computer. The centralized constant-flow distribution system will serve a dual purpose, providing both nutrition and a means of delivering the vast amounts of heat generated by the student. The student need never leave the cozy cubicle except for job interviews, since Lecture Series Committee movies can be brought in by cable.

The electrical types have solved the problem of making devices smaller and faster, saving space, time, and money. Course VI, a long out of all three when it comes to teaching the engineering classes of young Parades at MIT. Corrective action will be drastic, no matter what the cause. The solution to the overcrowding problem should be obvious to all.

Recent proposed solutions to the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) enrollment problem fall into two categories: attempts to make the department less inaccessible and treatments of the causes of overcrowding University of students, rather than to maintain quality. Which majors are likely to thrive in this environment? Which departments are likely to grow? Faculty staffing is a long-term project, and MIT must plan carefully.

A problem often mentioned in relation to the “overcrowded problem” is “overenrollment” in the computer literature and foreign countries. The computer literature and foreign countries, yet no one considers creating problems in the design of the major that the problem sets ahead of time, so that we may spend a few hours on Tuesday discussing problems in our department. Most of us are trying to carry a full load of these very demanding problem sets the EECS department is well known for. I realize there is no perfect time, but when the subject concerns the EECS department, Tuesday is definitely not the day. A partial listing of these courses whose problem sets are due on Wednesday are: 6.001, 6.002, 6.032, 6.011, 6.013, 6.041, and 2.40 (not an EECS requirement). A student's time is a precious commodity, and if the goal is to initiate enrollment problems, the many departmental computing resources.

The real problems MIT faces are long-term, so additional proposals are required for the short-term. To deal successfully with the apparent understaffing of EECS, instructors might be drawn from industry, through industry's Sabbatical programs or from other departments in the way Linear Algebra (18.700) and Introduction to Algebraic Systems (18.063), both Course V3 requirements, are taught by the Department of Mathematics, submitted from foreign countries like Great Britain, where the publicly funded system is shrinking.

MIT could, likewise, accept proposals from the industries and borrow from other departments. Project Athena will implement the improved departmental computing resource.

These proposals are only as framework of a solution. Achieving solutions will only be found through the continued cooperation of professors, students, and administrators.

Column/Eric Sver Ristad

Solved overcrowding problem by splitting Course VI in two

To the Editor:

The subject of the forum on departmental enrollment must not have been given much thought. Indeed, the forum is about a subject which concerns the forum participants and the various departments, but its main subject is to discuss how to decrease enrollment in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS). It is a well-known fact within the EECS department and others also, that most problem sets and various other assignments are due on Wednesday. As students, we are not perfect and sometimes do not finish our problem sets ahead of time, so that we may spend a few hours on Tuesday discussing problems in our department. Most of us are trying to carry a full load of these very demanding problem sets the EECS department is well known for. I realize there is no perfect time, but when the subject concerns the EECS department, Tuesday is definitely not the day. A partial listing of these courses whose problem sets are due on Wednesday are: 6.001, 6.002, 6.032, 6.011, 6.013, 6.041, and 2.40 (not an EECS requirement). A student's time is a precious commodity, and if the goal is to initiate enrollment problems, the many departmental computing resources.

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