Faculty rejects CEP proposals

By Robert E. Malchman

The faculty at a special meeting yesterday rejected by a two-thirds majority a proposal that would have restricted some entering freshmen from majoring in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

The faculty earlier in the meeting voted to consider that motion instead of one more strongly recommended by the Committee on Educational Policy. The committee's preferred proposal would have required members of the Class of 1989 desiring to major in Course VI to submit an application and pass an examination. The Committee on Educational Policy does not like either proposal, said its chairman, Professor of Electrical Engineering Arthur C. Smith.

"When I became chairman of the faculty," Smith said, "I had a dream of presenting a program of great educational merit to the faculty... myself presenting a motion... that leaves a lot to be desired." He said the first option is the least damaging, according to the committee's report. An application and examination testing "basic preparation, not degree of sophistication," would give students more time to consider career choices.

The plan would not pressure freshmen through an evaluation of their first-year performance, the report stated. Anthony P. French, professor of mathematics, said he opposes any such program. Course VI could create a "two-class" system at MIT.

Frank L. Perkins '55, dean of the graduate school, said there is no way to eliminate freshman preselection, even if a new examination procedure. Students could "find a mechanism" to include their performances in the essay, he said.

"Option one is thoroughly unacceptable," French declared. "I can't imagine a test that satisfies the report's conditions. He supported a modified version of the second option, but urged the faculty to take more time to consider the problem.

He suggested a biased admissions process favoring a more balanced class as a better solution.

Admissions bias discussed

Felix M. H. Villars, professor of physics, said emphasizing verbal skills through that section of the Scholastic Aptitude Test would be better than biasing admissions away from students interested in Course VI.

Director of Admissions Peter H. Richardson '48 said he is "dismayed by the icons" on Scholastic Aptitude Test scores. His office considers the entire scholastic record, and would find difficulty implementing Villars' suggestion, he said.

George V. Letwin '47, professor of bioengineering and communications physiology, said the first option contradicted the spirit of the freshman year. "The first year should be kept inviolate," he said. The faculty should hold the examination after the first term of the sophomore year, he continued.

Smith said that prolonging students' uncertainty would be too high a cost for Letwin's suggestion.

"Fantastical" solutions

Professor Joel Moses PhD '67, head of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, said the first option would entail denying between 100 and 200 students entrance to the department. If too many students would have difficulty transferring to another school because of the nationwide popularity of electrical engineering and computer science, he said.

Moses moved that the faculty consider the second option, to limit Course VI majors at the admissions level. The proposal has the overwhelming support of Course VI faculty, he said.

Joseph J. Romm G. a student member of the Committee on Educational Policy, said the second proposal would institute a "four-year class system."

William S. Winhall '59, associate professor of economics and Astronautics, said that proposal is superior because a high school senior would have the choice of applying to another school.

Stephen D. Senturia '66, professor of electrical engineering, said, "Trying to apply a filtering function without pressing the stereotype... is fantastical." High school students do not know enough about the subjects of electrical engineering and computer science to make an informed decision on whether they wish to be excluded from the department, Senturia continued. "They see the subjects in narrow terms." Fairness question raised

Richardson said his office has seen telling applicants they would have freedom to choose their majors. It would be unfair to change the policy so late, he said.

"Option one, even with the uncertainty, is fair to those students we've been talking to for a long time," he said.

The faculty then voted 180 to 34 against Moses' motion, replacing the committee's ED 1207 with ED 1208 (Please turn to page 3)

Analysis

By Bert S. Kaliski

The MIT faculty faced with two uncomfortable immediate solutions for enrollment pressures has decided to avoid both and to implement Villars' suggestion, that is, "trying to apply a filtering function without pressing the stereotype... is fantastical." High school students do not know enough about the subjects of electrical engineering and computer science to make an informed decision on whether they wish to be excluded from the department.

Fairness question raised

Richardson said his office has seen telling applicants they would have freedom to choose their majors. It would be unfair to change the policy so late, he said.

"Option one, even with the uncertainty, is fair to those students we've been talking to for a long time," he said.

The faculty then voted 180 to 34 against Moses' motion, replacing the committee's ED 1207 with ED 1208 (Please turn to page 3)

EECS faces troubled future

By Bert S. Kaliski

The MIT faculty faced with two uncomfortable immediate solutions for enrollment pressures has decided to avoid both and to implement Villars' suggestion, that is, "trying to apply a filtering function without pressing the stereotype... is fantastical. High school students do not know enough about the subjects of electrical engineering and computer science to make an informed decision on whether they wish to be excluded from the department.

Fairness question raised

Richardson said his office has seen telling applicants they would have freedom to choose their majors. It would be unfair to change the policy so late, he said.

"Option one, even with the uncertainty, is fair to those students we've been talking to for a long time," he said.

The faculty then voted 180 to 34 against Moses' motion, replacing the committee's ED 1207 with ED 1208 (Please turn to page 3)