CAP kicks out 120 students each year

After its end-of-term grade review meetings, the CAP sends letters to students whose cases they have deferred, with copies to their advisors. Those letters inform students that their cases will be handled at a "deferred action meeting." The students are encouraged to get in touch with their faculty advisor as soon as possible to discuss their situation. If they wish, students can ask certain MIT community members, such as faculty residents or housemasters, to attend the deferred action meeting.

The deferred action meeting runs all day, and advisors appear before the CAP to discuss their advisors, and to recommend action on behalf of their department. The committee then renders a decision.

If a student has been given a "soft" deferral, the Committee on Academic Policy is generally trying to find out why the student had problems, and will, at worst, give the student a warning. A "hard" deferral implies the student is in serious academic trouble, and that the CAP is considering asking the student to withdraw. The CAP listens to advice from the student's advisor and from representatives from student services and any persons the student may have asked to be allowed to support him or her, and then will make a decision, which can range from no action to a required withdrawal, with readmission specified as being by permission of the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs or by petition to the CAP.

A summary of CAP actions for the past two academic years is shown in the adjacent table, listing the CAP warnings and required withdrawals by class for each semester along with the total undergraduate enrollment.

Roughly 60 students are asked to withdraw and 200 are put on warning each semester. First semester freshmen are generally not asked to withdraw, even if they fail every subject. The committee usually bases a required withdrawal on at least two semesters of poor performance.

Often the primary source of information about a student in these meetings is the faculty advisor. Unfortunately, there is often little or no communication between the advisor and the adviser except for form-signing, yet the advisor is asked to represent the student at this meeting. There are even advisors who look on their responsibilities as burdens at best.

The CAP recognizes this weakness but views it as unavoidable. It would be impossible to have the students themselves appear, due to the time constraints of the review process and the confidential nature of the information discussed.

The current format of proceedings for the CAP are perhaps the most open that could be expected given the confidential nature of its role. Many universities do not even publicize the name of the members of equivalent committees.

CAP actions 1982–1984

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Freshmen</th>
<th>Sophomores</th>
<th>Juniors</th>
<th>Seniors</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 1982</td>
<td>27/1</td>
<td>82/8</td>
<td>55/8</td>
<td>57/13</td>
<td>249/39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 1983</td>
<td>31/6</td>
<td>45/31</td>
<td>55/7</td>
<td>41/11</td>
<td>192/47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 1983</td>
<td>46/0</td>
<td>84/20</td>
<td>41/16</td>
<td>56/29</td>
<td>225/65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 1984</td>
<td>52/0</td>
<td>54/26</td>
<td>39/12</td>
<td>22/8</td>
<td>107/61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Undergraduate Enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Freshmen</th>
<th>Sophomores</th>
<th>Juniors</th>
<th>Seniors</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 1982</td>
<td>27/1</td>
<td>82/8</td>
<td>55/8</td>
<td>57/13</td>
<td>249/39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 1983</td>
<td>31/6</td>
<td>45/31</td>
<td>55/7</td>
<td>41/11</td>
<td>192/47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 1983</td>
<td>46/0</td>
<td>84/20</td>
<td>41/16</td>
<td>56/29</td>
<td>225/65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 1984</td>
<td>52/0</td>
<td>54/26</td>
<td>39/12</td>
<td>22/8</td>
<td>107/61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You didn't pull all those all-nighters just to wind up making doohickeys.

You burned a lot of midnight oil earning your degree. But you're now in a position to make it all worthwhile. At Lockheed Missiles & Space Company, your education and training can lead you to the forefront of advanced technology. We're currently helping to develop many of the nation's most sophisticated aerospace and defense systems.

We'll be on campus Oct. 30 & 31. See your Career Placement Office for details.