HUM-D requires humanities credits. 

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By Mary Conolly

Two faculty committees formed to study the current status of the humanities requirements and liberal arts at MIT met last week at Harvard. The two were established in response to the widespread concern about humanities in the sciences. A May committee formed to study the current status of humanities did not provide a coherent basis for a requirement. The Committee for Humanities under- stands and acknowledges the importance of humanities credits "too unstructured and unfocused." The HASS committee will produce a draft for a restructure recommendation. Members of the committee agree that the requirement needs re-forming but have no definite conclusions as to how to change it. Maiter added. The faculty is concerned that the approximately 150 humanities classes taken by all students do not provide a coherent basis for the liberal arts, and that the requirement does not ensure enough breadth. It is possible for a student to satisfy the HUM-D requirement using three classes with similar content, Maiter explained. Faculty members of the School of Engineering complained about the lack of "common culture" among undergraduates, Maiter added. There exists no core of humanities classes taken by all students, she added. It will be a difficult task to restructure the requirements.

The two committees will prepare draft reports for discussion and distribution by the end of January. Professor of History Pauline Maier chairs a committee which is examining MIT's humanities, art, and social sciences (HASS) requirement. The Committee for an Integrative Curriculum, chaired by Leo Marx, professor of Science, Technology and Society, will re-examine ways of integrating liberal arts and technical education.

There is a widespread sense of the central role of humanities and social science classes certified to distribute the broad-based liberal arts degree in Humanities at MIT.

Assessment of antipornography activism

At least four organizational meetings for an antipornography activism have been held at the MIT campus, according to Charles Feldman, vice president of Women's Studies.

The two committees will present the report to the Committee on the Undergraduate Program (CUP), which has student members. The issue of student input will be taken up at a future meeting, according to Maiter.

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