MIT admissions should not restrict freshman

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in response to the article in The Tech("Moses: Course VI needs limit," Mar. 6). As a concerned member of the MIT community, I would like to tell you my concerns on the vote pending in the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid (CUAFA).

There is an obvious need to do something about the overcrowding in Course VI. As the article points out, the proposed change is to restrict a certain percentage of the Class of 1991 from majoring in electrical engineering and computer science. This is not new; the first suggestion of limiting people from majoring in EECS came in 1984. There are obvious questions as to how the restrictions would be made, whether through a random or selective process, how this would affect admissions, and so on.

It is obvious that restricting one's major would adversely affect admissions. When I was considering applying to MIT, whether through a random or selective process, how this would affect admissions, and so on.

I was planning to major in EECS before I would not have accepted MIT's offer of admission whether I was planning to major in Course VI. We feel that the candidates' high school records would be used as the basis of this decision. Can the admissions office or the EECS department honestly use the high school records of students, who have yet been tested for College level work, or the level of work here at MIT, to determine who is fit or not to major in Course VI?

How do you explain to the student why he or she is being prevented from majoring in EECS? Whatever is said to the student, it will come out as "Well, you're not good enough in your opinion. Sorry." By making the decision selective, the Institute would be in essence ranking people before they arrive at MIT. I also feel by others.

What is of more concern to me is the fact that before arriving at MIT the Institute would be telling a number of students "you cannot major in electrical engineering and computer science." If a selective process is used to decide who can or cannot major in Course VI, how would this work? Obviously the candidates' high school records would be used as the basis of this decision.

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