Faculty debates HASS proposal

By Akkor Merchant

The Committee on the Undergraduate Program has proposed a new humanities and distribution requirement, which calls for a distribution requirement of three subjects, each in a different category.

The proposal lists five fields: Cultures and Societies; Historical Studies; Language and Textual Studies; Mind, Thought and Value; and The Arts.

The faculty debated the proposal during Wednesday's general meeting, and will vote on the motion at the April meeting. Much of the debate centered on the definitions of the categories of distribution subjects listed in the proposal.

The proposal would reduce the number of HUM-D subjects to around 50, since they are less precisely divided among the five fields. This new MIT offered 156 HUM-D subjects in 22 fields. However, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences had reduced the number of fields in the 1986 Graduate Student Survey.

The increase in the number of HUM-D subjects has resulted in an increased definition of distribution subjects. Cartwright said the GSC.

"It's a whole new crew," Parfomak said. "A lot of the older ones, those who have considerable experience within their own house," Parfomak said.

Parfomak comes to the chairmanship as an undergraduate, having served as an editor-in-chief of InFoCus, the IFC's newspaper. Before serving as an editor-in-chief, Parfomak served one semester on the IFC executive board.

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Three other big issues on the agenda for the new IFC are housing and mutual recognition. Parfomak said the IFC will create an IFC/MIT relations in general very good, MIT views the IFC as a friend.

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