GSC surveys academic issues

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The department of electrical engineering and computer sciences, in which students gave the highest rating teaching highly, averaged 3.8 out of 5.

Students in EECS were "reasonably satisfied," said the department's head of the department.

Professor Arthur C. Smith, graduate officer of the department. "The survey will enable the graduate students to see whether they are providing the kind of education and training worthy of MIT," said Jong-on Hong, G. chairman of the GSC's Academic Projects and Policies Committee.

The survey covered numerous other categories: research facilities; office space; course load; research guidance; and RA/TA workloads. All met with moderate satisfaction among respondents.

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Graduate students' views of academic quality of MIT

Quality of research facilities

Grade: Satisfactory Level

In the spring of 1986, the Graduate Student Council surveyed 500 graduate students in a variety of academic fields and social sciences for their views on academic quality of MIT. The above graph separates average responses by department.

- Adequate guidelines: Seven- five percent of the students surveyed believed that the department adequately informed them of degree requirements. Thus, a quarter of the graduate students do not have satisfactory course guidelines, the GSC extrapolated in its report.

The department of civil engineering is expanding its booklets containing course requirements and information on RA/TA performance evaluations. 

\[ \text{Average Satisfaction Level} \]

Graduate students' views on academic quality of MIT (by department)

The above graph separates average responses by department.

- Grading and evaluation: Forty-five percent of the students said that their departments did not provide them with "grading and evaluation procedures," while only 6 percent said "never." A majority of students, 70 percent, did not have satisfactory course guidelines, the GSC extrapolated in its report.

- Work unrelated to thesis: Two-thirds of the graduate students were asked to do work unrelated to their theses, two-thirds of the graduate students said they were surprised that students in their department felt uninformed about recourses for grievances.

- Professional recognition for research: On the subject of credit for research, such as articles in journals, 25 percent said they received credit "often" and 16 percent replied "sometimes," while only 8 percent answered "never."