HASS-D forum draws critics

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Faculty defend proposal

The proposal's backers stressed that they wanted to create an atmosphere in which all students valued the humanities, arts and social sciences. "We do not expect to see a diminution of the humanities' importance," said Richard L. Cartwright, head of the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy and chair of the committee which wrote the proposal now before the faculty.

Matti Wiener '87 was concerned that the proposal would shortchange foreign languages and literatures. It has not yet been decided whether level IV language courses would get HASS-D credit under the new system, Friedlaender said.

Josiah H. Gruber '87, the student representative on CUP, was the only student to take a clear stand in favor of the proposal. "I don't necessarily think that more choice means a better education," he said. "The system's gone out of control."

The more structured HASS-D requirement is "easier for faculty and students together to understand and take seriously," said Jack L. Keenan, associate dean of engineering and chairman of the Commission on Engineering Undergraduate Education.

"Let us take responsibility for our education"

Students felt the proposal did not give them enough credit for ability to choose courses that make good educational sense. "I don't know why it's assumed that I don't want to know about humanities, arts and social sciences," said Matt Wiener '87. "I don't want to know about a blank check," charged Seth Gordon '90, referring to the vague
tions of the five categories.

"There is no way of avoiding the blank check," answered Richard L. Cartwright, head of the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy and chair of the committee which wrote the proposal now before the faculty.

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