CUP proposes minor in HASS fields

By Mary Cordello

A proposal to permit a minor in Humanities, Arts, and Social Science, put forth by the Committee on the Undergraduate Program, was presented at the faculty meeting on Wednesday. The measure would allow students from any department to minor in one of the fields in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, or in the School of Architecture.

A minor, which would be designated on a student's degree, would be composed of six subjects, of which only one could count as a distribution subject and only five could count toward a student's restricted electives.

Each department would decide which classes would constitute a minor in its field, subject to approval of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program.

The faculty will vote on the proposal at its May meeting.

Minor proposal receives breadth of support

"This is primarily for engineering and science students who desire more exposure to a HASS field," said Philip S. Khoury, assistant professor of history. The minor would only require students to take one extra HASS subject beyond the eight-subject HASS requirement. It provides a comprehensive between a concentration and a major, Khoury explained.

"The minor is particularly aimed at giving recognition to students who have gone beyond the HASS requirement," explained Margaret L. A. MacVicar '65, dean for undergraduate education and chair of the CUP.

"Though the Institute hopes to produce a more well-rounded education," she said. "I don't think the faculty and students did not use the extra time to study the issue."

MacVicar cautioned that the proposal would be worthless if faculty and students did not use the extra time to study the proposal and the minor in the field.

The proposal would require that all undergraduates, beginning with the Class of 1992, take distribution subjects in three of five areas: Agriculture and Economics; Social Sciences; History and Diplomacy. The audience numbered several hundred.

Jonathan Grebe '87, a member of the CUP, said strongly that minors in HASS should be "open to the whole student body." While it was originally intended to require an engineering subject, the proposal was amended to include a science subject.

S. Asian diplomats discuss regional cooperation

By Akbar Merchant

Representatives from the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation at a symposium held at MIT Wednesday night. The symposium, entitled "Connecting Together: SAARC," was sponsored by the Cambridge Group at MIT and the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation.

A group of three students from the South Asian countries -- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka -- signed the charter at a summit meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh, according to C. R. Gharekhan, India's ambassador to the UN.

Gharekhan gave credit for the proposal to the Cambridge Group at MIT and the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation in the United States. The students were also members of the South Asian Student Association, founded in 1990.

While Baker House has re-designed purchasing alcoholic beverages for parties, it "will be more strict in [its] party policy," Jesiinian said. Also, Baker House is organizing an alcohol awareness week which will take place during the second week of May.

How MIT might be legally affected by such incidents is unclear, according to Tewhey, dean for undergraduate education. "I don't think that would change anything," Tewhey said. "It's a result of that fight."