Flaws plague HASS reform

Students' HASS concerns ignored

I attended the forum on the HASS changes last Thursday in 14-250.

As student after student stood up to deliver insightful critiques and scathing accusations, the faculty smiled and nodded, occasionally nodding their heads in tacit acknowledgement of their students' concerns. Only a few members of the audience voiced disagreement.

"They're on to us, Paul," I imagined Margaret L. A. MacVicar '65, dean for undergraduate education, saying after the forum. "Just hold on and let the faculty's head roll." It was President Paul E. Gray's reply, "and the interest will eventually die out."

Yet another forum is scheduled today, with three more tomorrow. Students who are wondering whether their attendance will be meaningful should be able to ask some fundamental questions about the "reform." How will the administration respond to student suggestions? Is the HASS program good for education? Is it good for the student body? Is the administration's answer to this question acceptable?

"The administration agreed to the principal student demand," MBTA spokesperson David B. Deegan '59 said in an interview. "We have heard their concerns and will do our best to address them." According to MBTA spokesperson David B. Deegan '59, the administration has received a letter of agreement that "this approach will be revised to ensure that the MBTA will continue to serve the students' needs." The administration has also announced that it will hold a series of meetings with student representatives to discuss the issues raised during the forum.

In a final ironic twist, just the week before the forum, the administration announced a new policy that "will facilitate the delivery of letters to student editorialists." The new policy, which was implemented in response to student complaints about the quality of the MBTA newspaper, will allow students to submit letters to the editorial board, which will then be printed in the newspaper. The administration has also announced that it will hold a series of meetings with student representatives to discuss the issues raised during the forum.

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