Faculty debate P/F, NSF policy

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cause the information available to the public to be misleading. A random sample of harassment complaints was collected over a 42-day period, and the number was extrapolated out over one year. Of those complaints, about half were related to sex, gender harassment or harassment based on sexual orientation, Keyser said.

But in a survey Keyser conducted of 285 adjudicated or quasi-adjudicated cases of harassment—cases with relatively lower levels of confidentiality—and only one-fourth of those were sexual harassment.

"The committee came to believe that the bulk of sexual harassment is not the kind that leads to formal action," Keyser said.

Keyser also discussed the concern that has been raised about due process for faculty members and the implications for freedom of speech.

Judith J. Thomson, professor of linguistics and philosophy, said she had been a witness in a case involving the speech and due process "proven warranted.

One definition of sexual harassment in the recommended policy for approved MIT living groups includes "sexual remarks." Under the section describing the implications for freedom of speech, the report's treatment of free speech and due process "posed worrisome. This omission in 1989 was on the freshman level," Professor of Ocean Engineering J. Kim Vandiver '77 said of the junior-senior pass/fail option not thoroughly evaluated. Because "most of the discussion in 1989 was on the freshmen level," Professor of Ocean Engineering J. Kim Vandiver '77 said of the junior-senior pass/fail option not thoroughly evaluated.

"The amendment, which passed unanimously, changed the "P" grade for the junior-senior pass/fail option to a C or better, which is the same system freshmen are graded on now. The difference is that a D is still a credit-earning grade for juniors and seniors, and will, like an F, appear on their official transcripts. New students do not earn credit for a D grade.

"These changes are in step with the new definition of a passing grade. Professor of Literature Thomas H. Merriam, associate dean for student affairs, explained, "Wherever P is said, [it is used in context of a "D/F"] grading scale. After the fourth year, the D and F grades will appear on transcript as well as internal records."

He also said that after the fourth year, a D grade will be a credit-earning grade; it is not for first-year students.

In addition, the language of the faculty regulations regarding the definition of a P grade was changed.

"The committee proposed that a P grade will be used for first-year students." Professor of Ocean Engineering J. Kim Vandiver '77 said of the junior-senior pass/fail option not thoroughly evaluated. Because "most of the discussion in 1989 was on the freshmen level," Professor of Ocean Engineering J. Kim Vandiver '77 said of the junior-senior pass/fail option not thoroughly evaluated.

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