HASS Ds are oversubscribed

By Sabrina Kwon

Despite the increased number of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Distribution (HASS-D) subjects offered this semester, many continue to be oversubscribed, according to many students.

All HASS-D classes limit enrollments to 25 persons per section. When a section is oversubscribed, a lottery is used to determine which 25 students will be able to stay in each section.

Gail Denenberg '95, who failed to get into Introduction to Psychology (9.00), complained that "this is an inconvenience now that I have to find a HASS-D that is both interesting and fits into my schedule."

As a freshman, Denenberg had lowest priority in the lottery, which is why she was not admitted to any section. However, upperclassmen also seem angered by the oversubscribed lottery, which they feel is unfair.

By Eric Richard

After two years of successful operation, the freshman science option of Chemistry, Materials Science and Biology (SP01 and SP02) has been cancelled, and will soon be replaced by two sections of the same course.

For the last two years, freshmen could satisfy their chemistry requirement with either Principles in Chemistry (6.11), Introduction to Solid State Chemistry (3.091) or the SP01/SP02 combination, which combined two chemistry courses with Introduction to Biology (previously known as 7.01, 7.012 and 7.013).

The SP01/SP02 program was cancelled when scheduling conflicts between two of the program's three professors occurred. Vernon M. Ingram, professor of biology, went on sabatical at the end of last year. Silbey took over as head of the chemistry department last October when Mark S. Wrighton, the previous department chair, became president.

Because the biology department was busy developing new courses for its requirement, and the professors in the chemistry and material science and engineering departments were all responsible for other courses, no faculty members were available to replace the course's original teaching staff. Silbey also attributed this to a "lack of enthusiasm" in each of the departments.

Efforts underway to replace class

Despite this, efforts are already underway to create similar classes that will be offered in the future.

Silbey said, "There is no question that chem and material science will put something together. They have already agreed to that, and simply need to work out a syllabus. I also wouldn't doubt [Please turn to page 2].

Reading room use growing

By Sarah Brightly

After six months, the fifth-floor Julius A. Stratton '23 Student Center Reading Room continues to be a popular studying area for students.

According to Edward E. Johnson, program coordinator for the Campus Activities Complex, the reading room is "a needed study area in the student center." Open 24 hours a day, the room is set up both for private study and for group studying. Moreover, current domestic and international newspapers and international magazines are available in the lounge area.

Since it is monitored, there is not much of a problem with students "living" there, Johnson said. The Stratton Center Reading Room is open for 24 hours, a day, and the room is set up both for private study and for group studying. Moreover, current domestic and international newspapers and international magazines are available in the lounge area.

Silbey said, "There is no question that chem and material science will put something together. They have already agreed to that, and simply need to work out a syllabus. I also wouldn't doubt [Please turn to page 2].

By Lakshmana Rao

The tuition paid by doctoral students while they are working on their dissertations is not likely to be reduced in the near future, Faculty Chair J. Kim Vandiver told the Graduate Student Council at last Thursday's meeting.

Vandiver, who is a professor of ocean engineering, said that the Institute would consider lowering the tuition for doctoral students with All But Dissertation (ABD) status if it could afford to.

Currently, all graduate students are paying full tuition even while they are writing their doctorate dissertations and not taking any courses or using any Institute facilities. The GSC has been talking about reducing the tuition for those students, he said.

However, MIT is one of four universities in the country which funds graduate students' tuition out of the Employee Benefit (EB) pool, which is normally used to pay faculty staff members. To do this, the Institute charges federally-sponsored research projects an additional $4.50 cents for every dollar spent on salaries. In addition, all research funding sources must pay indirect costs of 57.5 cents on every dollar to cover the Institute's operational budget.

Vandiver said that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recently suggested that graduate student tuition be funded from a source other than the EB pool. If that happens, the current tax deduction for the student's income tax return will be reduced by $30,000 to $50,000 per annum. The faculty members will then be under pressure to reduce the number of graduate students hired by one third, he said. Vandiver was relieved that "currently, the burden is off the tuition part of the total employee benefits charged on salaries," but he was concerned about the possible reduction in the number of graduate students hired. (Please turn to page 15)