Committee Offers New Calendar Plan

By Iyyun Soo Kim

Due to student and faculty objections to a shorter summer, the Institute Committee is considering an amendment to its current calendar proposal which would shorten the summer session by at most one week. The new proposal would lengthen both semesters to 65 class days instead of the 67 class days suggested in the previous proposal. It would also allow departments to move 12 required weeks into a three-day Independent Activities Period.

The amendment was drafted by the members of the Faculty Policy Committee and the Committee on the Undergraduate Program. "The fall term begins after Labor Day, with classes beginning on the first Tuesday of September. Registration would be extended from three to four days in all years. The summer would be shortened by a couple of days, depending on where Labor Day and the holidays in the term occur and the way the reading period can be shifted. In the years where Labor Day is at the beginning of September, the Independent Activities Period would be pushed forward, shortening the summer by two to three days. In other years, when Labor Day is later in the summer, the summer session would be about as long as it is now."

The new proposal adds one day to the spring term, and finals would end on a Friday instead of a Saturday. One day from the current four-day reading period would be dropped. According to Jaffe, reading periods have not been finalized yet, and some dates are still in flux until approved by Registrar David S. Wiley.

The amendment would extend the summer session by at most one week, thus shifting the summer reading period by at most one day. According to Jaffe, reading periods have not been finalized yet, and some dates are still in flux until approved by Registrar David S. Wiley.

Students Object to Committee's Original Plan

By Eric Richard

A 96 percent of respondents voiced their disagreement with the Institute Committee's current proposal to lengthen the school year in a survey released at last week's Undergraduate Association council meeting. "99 percent of undergraduate respondents expressed their opposition to the current proposal, with many noting the proposal's possible effects on their income. If the proposed calendar changes are approved, each semester would be lengthened to 67 days — up from the current average of 64 days per semester — and IAP would be augmented by two days. Summer break would be reduced by two weeks. Opponents of the proposal fear that decreasing the length of the summer would reduce the amount of income that can be earned during break."

Overall, 96 percent of respondents were opposed to the present calendar proposal. The survey concludes that 90 percent of undergraduate respondents felt that the new calendar proposal would cause them to lose some summer internships or jobs, and 8 percent felt that this loss of income may force them to leave MIT.

While undergraduates living in campus housing and those living in independent living groups tended to respond similarly, almost 62 percent of undergraduates living in ILGs felt they would lose internships or jobs if the proposal were approved, compared to 70 percent of those not living in ILGs.

For complaints about the length of terms, students were ambivalent about either proposed calendar changes. The survey was prepared by John S. Hollywood '96, an IFC representative to the Undergraduate Association council and a member of the UA-Graduate Student Council Calendar Committee."

Results are 'overwhelming'

Hollywood said the results of the survey "show great concern on the part of the MIT community towards the new calendar," adding that "the response by MIT in this case to the management's proposal has been overwhelming." UA President Shuttle Bassil '93 said that although the survey is an informal one, "I think that the results overwhelmingly indicate that students are opposed to the 67-day term. There are a lot of good things on the calendar proposal, as compared to the old one, but I think the students are clearly saying that they do not want the change."

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Students have another chance to voice their opinions at a UA forum planned for this Thursday. The forum is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. at the lecture hall on the MIT campus.

IRC Demands Student Aid Data

By Vipul Bhushan

After many delays, the Internal Revenue Service is now on the verge of obtaining the scholarship and fellowship information about MIT students it has sought since August. An IRS summons served to MIT on April 12 requires that MIT divulge the names, social security numbers, and fellowship and scholarship amounts of all students who received such awards in 1990, according to Frederick J. Crowley, assistant to the comptroller.

The IRS first demanded student financial information on August 24, 1992, said Crowley. MIT responded on Nov. 13 by insisting on a U.S. District Court subpoena before releasing the information, he said. A subpoena was not delivered in early March, when it was expected that the case would be decided. Instead, MIT received an IRS summons on April 12 which required much of the same information as the original request, Crowley said.

Unlike the original summons, this request does not ask for the tuition amounts charged to students, nor does it retain the $2,000-observation threshold of the original request, Crowley said. While in the expected subpoenas "students would have been the object" of the investigation, this summons is intended to be part of an ongoing IRS employment tax audit of MIT, said Crowley.

MIT was targeted by the Boston office of the IRS five years ago, he said. The IRS has made "a substantial (financial) assessment" against MIT, although Crowley would not reveal the dollar value of the fines. The Institute is contesting these fines. Coaching the summons within this audit, he said, makes it an "enforceable summons," which MIT's attorneys at Palmer & Dolan say will hold up in court. Frank E. Perkins '55, dean of the graduate school, said MIT will comply with the summons and release financial data about students, but will make an attempt to inform all affected former and current students first.

Perkins said he doesn't "understand the IRS's reluctance" to get a court subpoena instead of resorting to an IRS summons. Crowley speculated, though, that the IRS changed course "to avoid a court appearance. The prior implication was that the IRS was interested in students' tax returns. Since the IRS's income tax obligations, Perkins said, but the current summons is extensively focused on MIT's withholding policies. "One has to wonder what the IRS's objective is," concluded Perkins.

Perkins presumed that the IRS's actions were intended to either "get some sense of the fellowship and scholarship pool" or to "form a basis for estimating tax liability, or to "examine individual students."

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Cambridge Moves Ahead With Restrictions on Parking

By Michael A. Saglaw

In a proposal which is sure to cost students hundreds of dollars and hours of inconvenience, the Cambridge Traffic and Parking Office has recommended that the city modify 519 currently unrestricted parking spaces around MIT. Under the recommended plan, which could take effect this summer, 74 of the 519 spaces will be eliminated entirely for safety reasons, because they are too close to railroads or intersections. Other spaces will be restricted to two-hour parking only, and several will get parking meters. In other places, mostly along Amherst Street near the west campus dormitories, parking will be restricted to cars which are registered with the city of Cambridge and have Massachusetts license plates.

Parking on Memorial Drive will not be affected.

Reduce auto emissions

The purpose of these parking restrictions is to reduce auto emissions and improve air quality to meet federal standards. One effective way to reduce pollution is to offer incentives for people to cut down on short car trips, according to Cambridge officials.

"Studies show there is a lot of short term traffic going on in the MIT area. We estimate that type of traffic by encouraging the use of mass transit," said Brian Kerry at the Traffic and Parking Office. According to Kerry, the plan is for students who

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The Weather

Today: Partly cloudy, 61°F (18°C)

Tonight: Clouds, some fog, 50°F (10°C)

Tomorrow: Clear, nice, 75°F (24°C)

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Participants in Sunday's 20-mile Walk for Hunger stream across the Harvard Bridge. Over 48,000 walkers raised a record $3.2 million for Project Bread.