Calendar Compromise Sought

IAP by two days, to 19 class days, as in the original proposal. It would also allow departments to move 12 units of the required departmental program into IAP.

The amendment states, "Departments will specifically be allowed to move 12 units of the required departmental program into IAP with the expectation that majors will participate in an intense, pedagogically appropriate departmental activity during one of their four IAP periods at MIT."

"The new proposal strengthens the academics of IAP. Certain kinds of subjects are appropriate for this concentrated format — like foreign languages," said Professor of Ocean Engineering J. Kim Vandiver, who chairs the FPC and participated in drafting the proposal. "I think [the amendment] is a very good compromise. It addresses most of the major issues," said Professor of Material Science and Engineering Lisa W. Hobbs, who was on the committee that drafted the amendment. "One of the concerns was that MIT had considerably fewer teaching days than our peer institutions, even if you added in IAP," Hobbs said.

The use of IAP reduces pace and pressure and provides flexibility to augment the number of teaching days, he added. "Right now, we can't put a required course in IAP unless we double up in the summer. The proposal to put some units during IAP could lessen one course over the term," Hobbs said.

"There are some courses that are tailor-made for this schedule, counsellors like 7.70. There are a number of departmental laboratories that could be taught in an intense format and benefit from that. I hope the depart- ments will modulize some of their courses so they could fit into IAP... We already are IAP for 8.01L," Hobbs said.

"One concern as a former IAP chair is that one doesn't want to crowd out the other activities during IAP. And I feel that this proposal doesn't do that," he said.

Seema Jayachandran '93, a student representative on the CUP, said, "I like most students, I thought that the original proposal would have hurt a lot of people in internships. I would rather take a fan design class ever IAP than have my summer shortened by two weeks each summer. Given a choice between IAP and the summer, I think that new proposal would be better."

She added, "Some people think that it should be spread out to two six-unit modules to have less material to digest, but they would have to stay over two IAP's. The departments will have to make the decision."

Students like amendment

The amendment was developed with student and faculty input. Hans C. Gaffney '93, UA President-Elect, and a representative on the FPC, said the amendment will not increase the workload for students.

"The days that it adds don't give the faculty an extra day or another problem set, but it just increases the information they can present," Gaffney said. "I was really pleased that the registrar and Jaffe came up with proposals, that they responded to student criticism and also faculty criticisms to come up with something I think students would like better," Jayachandran said.

The amendment will be presented for consideration to the FPC later this month.