IAP '95 Could Include Required Classes

By Lawrence K. Chang

When the faculty approved the new calendar in May, it also approved a measure allowing department heads to offer one requirement exclusively during Independent Activities Period, starting in 1995. Efforts to develop such course requirements are progressing slowly.

An informal survey suggests that there will be less than half-a-dozen such courses ready for IAP '95,” said Stephen A. Benton '63, chair of the IAP Policy Committee. He was unable to disclose which course requirements would be offered exclusively during IAP beginning in 1995, but said that they would appear in the next course bulletin.

“The number will probably rise slowly after that, as people gain experience with the concept,” Benton added. The new calendar, which will take effect in the 1994-95 academic year, extends IAP by two days, making it a full four weeks minus one day for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Currently, IAP is 17 days long.

The academic content of IAP would be increased significantly because students could be required by their department to spend one of four IAP's on an academic requirement.

“The impact of this new opportunity may not be as large as we hoped, because it is very, very difficult, even with the longer IAP, to fit a full 12-unit course into IAP in a format that is appropriate — and we indirect costs have been charged. Budget cuts will reduce the staff size by 400 over the next four years, Vest said. The staff currently numbers about 8,000.

Along with the staff cuts, the faculty will be trimmed through attrition by about five percent over the next decade, and the number of graduate students will most likely be trimmed, Vest said.

Few of those in attendance were students, though Wrighton said he remained "receptive to interaction with student groups" and student leaders to gather student input to the deficit reduction process.

"In a legislative vice" Vest opened the gathering by meeting, Page 15