SGCO Meeting Minutes – Thursday, October 5, 2006

Attendance:

- *Present*: Emily Fox, Pranava Goundan, Stephen Hou, Sharon Karackattu, Cheston Tan, Mian Wang
- *Absent*: Jason Cohen

Questions/Concerns to address when speaking with professors

Careers:
1. How do you see a P/D/F option expanding career opportunities for students in your department?

Research:
2. How do you feel about your graduate students choosing to take graded classes, especially those outside their primary discipline? Do you think that it significantly impacts their time and commitment to research in your lab in a negative way?

3. Would you be more supportive of your graduate students exploring courses outside their field if they were not burdened with the time commitment required to earn a "good" grade?

Academics:
4. How many out of major graduate students currently enroll in your department's courses for a grade?

5. How do you anticipate a P/D/F option affecting courses in your department, including the ones that you teach with regards to resource allocation, curriculum changes etc.? Would you have to involve more TAs? Restructure group projects?

Overall impression:
Do you think a P/D/F option will negatively or positively impact graduate education at MIT? Do you believe a multidisciplinary education will be valuable to your students in today's market?

**Something to keep in mind:

Even though ME is a large department, they have a large minor/major graduate courseload requirement. All these classes must be taken for a grade and last into the 3rd or 4th year of grad school. The majority of students in these departments would probably not want to take additional classes pass/fail, so the impact of students in these large departments (regarding resource usage) may not be that significant.

9-20-06 Meeting Actions: Identifying Professors and Alums that may have insight on the proposed curriculum changes

Proposed Action Plan:

A) Identify key departments:

1) Departments with the largest (and smallest) graduate enrollment and incoming classes
2) Departments/programs that by nature are interdisciplinary (biological engineering, HST, STS etc.)
3) Departments with large numbers of faculty having joint appointments in other Departments (BE, Che, Chem, Bio, Mech E, EECs)
4) Departments/courses that might most be affected by having enrollment opened to non-majors i.e. cell/molecular biology, statistics, business/finance

B) Identify professor in each department that:

1) Are members of the graduate committee
2) Heads of their departments
3) Have joint appointments in other departments or interdisciplinary research
4) Are interested in education
5) Have a pleasant temperament and are inclined to help student initiatives

C) Identify alums that are in careers outside their fields through ICAN network. Get their feedback on usefulness of interdisciplinary education.

D) Devise a standard set of objectives/questions to present to each professor/alum.

Professors in Key Departments:

Course 2 Mechanical Engineering:
Rohan Aviratne: Professor, Department Head

Course 3 Materials Science:
Ned Thomas: Professor, Department Head (hard to get a hold of though)
Angela Belcher: Professor of Mat Sci. and Biological Engineering, biomaterials research
Lorna Gibson: Professor of Mat Sci and Civil E,
Darrell Irvine: Professor, interfaces with BE

Course 5 Chemistry:
Tim Swager: Professor, Department Head
Arup Chakraborty: Professer of ChE and Chemistry, focuses on biological research
Catherine Drennan: Professor, Biological, Inorganic and Environmental Research

Course 6 Electrical Engineering and Computer Science:
TBD

Course 7 Biology Department:
Steve Bell: Professor, Graduate committee chair
Harvey Lodish: Professor, interfaces with bioengineering
Chris Kaiser: Professor, Department Head
Other key people: Graduate committee members, Janice Chang, Other professors that have a joint appointment in bioengineering.

Course 10 Chemical Engineering:
William Deen: Professor, Graduate Officer
Robert Armstrong: Professor, Department Head
Paula Hammond: Professor, Grad. Admissions Officer

Course 18 Mathematics:
Mike Sipser: Department Head
Alar Toorme: Chair of Applied Mathematics

Course 20 Bioengineering:
Linda Griffith: Professor, Biological Engineering, Mechanical Engineering
Doug Lauffenburger: Professor,

Business/Sloan School:
TBD

Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences:
Susan Silbey: Head of Anthropology
Anne McCants: Head of History
David Mindell: Head of STS

16 Aeronautics and Astronautics
21A Anthropology
4 Architecture
20 **Biological Engineering**
7 **Biology**
9 Brain and Cognitive Sciences
15 Business see Sloan School of Management
10 **Chemical Engineering**
5 **Chemistry**
1 Civil and Environmental Engineering
CMS Comparative Media Studies
12 Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences
14 Economics
6 Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
ESD Engineering Systems Division
21F Foreign Languages and Literatures
HST Health Sciences and Technology
21H History
24 Linguistics and Philosophy
21L Literature
15 Management see Sloan School of Management
3 Materials Science and Engineering
18 Mathematics
2 Mechanical Engineering
MAS Media Arts and Sciences
21M Music and Theater Arts

22 Nuclear Science and Engineering
13 Ocean Engineering
24 Philosophy see Linguistics and Philosophy
8 Physics
17 Political Science
STS Science, Technology, and Society
15 Sloan School of Management
21M Theater Arts see Music and Theater Arts
11 Urban Studies and Planning
21W Writing and Humanistic Studies