

February 15, 2005

## OPINION

### *Letter To The Editor*

#### Task Force Article Clarifications

As one of the four student members of the Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons, I am writing to address some misconceptions that may have arisen from the Feb. 11 article entitled "Committee Considers HASS Changes."

When the article, for example, states that the Student Advisory Committee to the Task Force is "considering a revision of the science requirements," it connotes that the SAC is in a position to directly change institute requirements on its own. This is not the case. While the suggestions of the SAC will be considered in the Task

Force's deliberations, we acknowledge that the SAC is its own independent entity ó it represents neither the opinions of task force members nor those of the student body as a whole.

Another misconception that could be drawn from the article relates to the notion of a "Diversity GIR." Although members of Advocates for Awareness did propose a Diversity GIR concept to the Task Force, the Task Force has not articulated a framework for such a GIR. In addition, there was never a point at which the task force "began pursuing" the Diversity GIR. A Diversity GIR has certainly not been ruled out, but it is only one of many proposals on a wide variety of issues still under consideration.

If students are interested in hearing about possible changes being considered by the Task Force, I encourage them to attend the discussion entitled "What Should We Achieve in a Four-Year MIT Education," to be held as part of Mac Vicar Day on Mar. 4, 2005 (correction from the article) at 3 p.m. in room 6-120. This event will help to clarify the Task Force's thoughts on a wide array of matters, many of which are unrelated to the article. The scope of the issues being considered by the Task Force is far broader than the article made it seem, and I think it is important for the student body to understand that.

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