By ALEX SIEGEL

Last Tuesday students and faculty met to discuss key academic issues at the biennial Student Faculty Conference. In addition to the concerns for specific academic divisions, four other committees make suggestions affecting everyone at Caltech. These four, the Honor Code, Quality of Life, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Core Curriculum Committees, presented their findings to anyone at Caltech who attended their sessions in Ramo Auditorium.

Almost all members of the Caltech community take the Honor Code very seriously. It allows students to take exams on their own schedule, collaborate on certain problem sets and take advantage of other privileges that could easily exist under such a system. The Honor Code committee discusses issues related to the maintenance of the Honor Code itself. This past year the committee has discussed plans to create an Honor Code System Representative, a faculty member in each option who would better inform the faculty about the Honor Code. He or she would make professors more aware of the Broad of Control and how it handles honor code violations. This could reduce the problems professors personally deal with students who violate the Honor Code.

The committee also proposed an elected Conduct Review Committee (CRC) representative from each house. Currently the CRC handles non-academic Honor Code violations, however its only elected official is the CRC Chair. Under the new system, each house would elect a CRC representative who would then choose from the Broad of Control (BoC) representatives from each house and the two reps at-large. The committee also assured students that the previous BoC Chair and Secretary will send details of Honor Code-related decisions and statistics about violations to the California Tech for publication.

The Honor Code Committee also outlines the House Stewardship Committee in order to improve communication between students and the housing office. It will help to define mutual areas as separate from graffiti, a decision that each house would make individually and for which some houses already have guidelines. It will also be available to mediate conflicts over damage to the house.

Caltech students are famous for studying hard, overloading with classes, and being hit by the Quality of Life Committee seeks to improve upon this lifestyle. For instance, the Quality of Life committee is still discussing whether to lower the maximum number of units upperclassmen may take by forcing an overload petition from 54 to 51 or even 48, any such changes will not happen until next year. The Academic Policies Committee (APC) also intends to make it easier for undergraduates to get credit for doing research. Furthermore, the Quality of Life Committee is discussing the need to set lower time limits on exams, especially during midterms and finals. Currently, professors often give exams of six hours or longer, making it difficult for students to fit all their exams into a reasonable time period. The committee also encouraged professors to inform students how long they should work on exams when the professors set time limits at 12 or even 24, not realizing that some students will actually spend the full time on the exam. The new policy will dissuade Professors from assigning infinite time limits for midterms simultaneous with problem sets.

In order to appoint an administration representative, the students recently handed the undergraduates’ issues, the Quality of Life committee added the creation of a Dean of Undergraduate Studies along with numerous minor changes to the administration. In order to increase student awareness of the Caltech community take the

By DEBORAH WILLIAMS-HEDGES

Cornell University professor of physics and noted science advisor Kurt Gottfried will speak on the third keynote address in the 2004-2005 season of the Socialism Speaker Series at the California Institute of Technology. Gottfried is the cofounder of the Union of Concerned Scientists, a nonprofit organization promoting scientific integrity in government policy. He will speak on the relationship between science and politics from both a historical and a current perspective. This event will take place on Tuesday, April 19, at 8 p.m., in the Beckman Institute Auditorium at Caltech. It is free and open to the public.

Gottfried has served on the Council on Foreign Relations and as a senior staff member of the European Center for Nuclear Research. He recently co-authored a report entitled Restoring Scientific Integrity in Policy Making, focused on documenting the alleged misuse of scientific research by the Bush Administration. Thousands of scientists signed statements in support of its call to action. Gottfried has written two physics textbooks and was the senior author of The Fallacy of Star Wars and Crisis Stability and Nuclear War.

In 1920, says the California Institute of Technology’s John Brewer, the art dealer Joseph Duveen dismissed an alleged Leonardo da Vinci painting, “La Bella Ferronniere,” as a copy or a fake. His opinion initiated a decade-long lawsuit and courtroom drama dubbed “the battle of the experts,” in which the art connoisseur’s eye and the tools of modern science were locked in conflict.

On Wednesday, April 13, at 8 p.m., Brewer, the Eli and Edye Broad Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences and professor of history and literature, will present his talk, “Art and Science: A Da Vinci Detective Story,” in which he will discuss the changing relationship between technology and the human eye in the task of identifying and attributing great works of art. His talk is part of the ongoing Ernest C. Watson Lecture Series.

Caltech has offered the Watson Lecture Series since 1922, when it was conceived by the late Caltech physicist Ernest Watson as a way to explain science to the local community. Seating for this free public event in Beckman Auditorium on the Caltech campus is on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Public Events at 1 (888) 2CALTECH, (626) 395-4652, or events@caltech.edu, or visit www.events.caltech.edu.

Individuals with a disability can call (626) 395-4698 (voice) or (626) 395-3700 (TDD). All lectures will be available online at Caltech’s Streaming Theater, http://today.caltech.edu/theater.
Because Dilbert Will Not Tell You How to Make Mal Bearable

Last Tuesday, the biannual Student Faculty Conference, composed of committees of both students and faculty at Caltech, met to discuss a number of pressing issues. Among other things, there were four other committees that made suggestions affecting the entirety of Caltech. These, along with the Honor Code Committee, the Quality of Life Committee, the Humanities and Social Sciences Committee, and the Core Curriculum Committee, presented their findings to anyone related to Caltech who was willing and able to attend their sessions in Ramo Auditorium.

The Core Curriculum Committee, including the members of the Core Honor Code, met to discuss the current state of affairs and make suggestions for improving the Honor Code. This could reduce the problem of professors personally dealing with students when violations of the Honor Code occur. The committee also proposed an elected Conduct Review Committee (CRC), consisting of representatives from each house. Currently the CRC has an honor code committee that are not academic related, however, in many elected officials is the CRC Chair. Under the new system, the CRC will elect a CRC representative, much like the Board of Control (BOC), which has a member from each house as well as two reps at large. The committee also made suggestions for improving the detail of Honor Code violations and the process by which they are published by the previous BOC Chair and the Director of Student Affairs.

The Honor Code committee also outlined the House Stewardship Committee which has the job of screening communication between students and the housing office. They would look to the CRC Chair to solicit input from graffiti, a decision which would be made individually by each house though some houses already have such provisions. They would also be available to help communication flows when damage occurs to the houses.

Caltech students are known for studying hard, overloading with classes, and generally being bitter. Whether this is a result of the nature of the Honor Code committee seeks to improve the lifestyle of the upperclassmen. One change that the Quality of Life committee is still discussing is the issue of the maximum units students can take without needing an external petition. No official decisions have yet been made, in fact, a number of students expressed concern in regard to lowering the overload units from 54 for upperclassmen to a possible 51 or 48. At this time, it appears that a lower maximum will be implemented for next year.

The Academic Policies Committee (APC) also intends to make it easier for undergraduates to get courses for doing research.

The Quality of Life committee is also discussing the need to set lower time limits on exams, especially during midterms. Currently, professors often give six to nine-hour exams which make it difficult for students to fit all their work into a reasonable amount of time. The committee also suggested that the orientation program for freshmen to as long as they are, still cannot fit in the class. One suggestion is also worried that minors would encourage students to limit their class choices so that all of them would give credit towards their own university credits. The committee is looking to take minors just because it is good on the resume, but also to make them choose to enroll in a second time. Though students and faculty generally agree that minors could be a means of increasing the diversity of students, they are also concerned that the classes are not being over-enrolled. The team suggested that the classes need to be covered in the first five weeks. The suggestion was made that the classes should be filled with errors due to the recent changes in curriculum. This is supported by a number of students who have complained about lower class attendance, the Quality of Life committee has noticed with ideas that would encourage students to attend classes. One idea was to give students short quizzes at class that could improve performance by helping instructors to adjust their teaching.

The Quality of Life committee is also discussing the need to set lower time limits on exams, especially during midterms. Currently, professors often give six to nine-hour exams which make it difficult for students to fit all their work into a reasonable amount of time. The committee also suggested that the orientation program for freshmen should be improved to a minimum of five weeks. Because of this, the team suggested that the classes need to be covered in the first five weeks. The suggestion was made that the classes should be filled with errors due to the recent changes in curriculum. This is supported by a number of students who have complained about lower class attendance, the Quality of Life committee has noticed with ideas that would encourage students to attend classes. One idea was to give students short quizzes at class that could improve performance by helping instructors to adjust their teaching.

The Quality of Life committee is also discussing the need to set lower time limits on exams, especially during midterms. Currently, professors often give six to nine-hour exams which make it difficult for students to fit all their work into a reasonable amount of time. The committee also suggested that the orientation program for freshmen should be improved to a minimum of five weeks. Because of this, the team suggested that the classes need to be covered in the first five weeks. The suggestion was made that the classes should be filled with errors due to the recent changes in curriculum. This is supported by a number of students who have complained about lower class attendance, the Quality of Life committee has noticed with ideas that would encourage students to attend classes. One idea was to give students short quizzes at class that could improve performance by helping instructors to adjust their teaching.
McGriddles Happy Hour

The only way to end a proper night at Tech, the kind of night that keeps you up well into that second dusk the outside world considers daybreak, is to walk over to McDonald’s on the corner of Holliston and Colorado sometime after five for the hot grill of morning food: that innominate’s treat, that partier’s final notch, that midnight munchy to end all munchies, that sweet reward for the frosh on core finishing his sets right before morning college collection, the McGriddle.

In the long histories of bacon, eggs, cheese, sausage and pancakes, each of which stretches back to the dawn of recorded history, never has a combination of these appealed to the late nighter and the early riser quite like the McGriddle. 82% daily cholesterol value and 134% savory goodness can be yours in this nine-bite miracle of culinary science. When you realize that the syrup comes from flavor pockets within the McPancake wrap, you will find yourself one step closer to enlightenment.

McPrefix

The secret to getting a McGriddle and fries at the same time, I discovered last week, is timing. It is no secret that McDonald’s makes food in advance. Arrive just after breakfast has ended, long enough after that they’ve started serving fries, but before the McGriddles in the supply chain are all claimed, and you might just walk away with breakfast and lunch in the same bag.

Timing is everything. Just like at Moe’s Tavern, McDonald’s McGriddle Happy Hour lasts for about a half hour.

Now that all five of you who read this whole article will be competing for those few remaining McGriddles, things will be dicey, but if you call ahead, 449-9597, McDonald’s can save a McGriddle or two for you. Come in a large group with any regularity and the management might take notice and reward your demand with an official overlap, so tell your friends. You can start with that guy you freaked out by yelling at your paper.

 Does Prefrosh Weekend Work? 

By JONATHAN MALMAUD

The prefect for whom Caltech competes annually are some of the smartest students in the country and the world. After being in the USA Today rankings several years ago, Caltech has a drop in number of applicants at the very top tier in the world, many now question the value of the undergrad school. I do not have hard statistics but it seems more people outside of Caltech now assume that MIT is the more prestigious place to go. Perhaps this is because virtually no one besides some affirmative action students are accepted to MIT out of the current class of Tech.

Perhaps because of MIT rejected 60% of the current CIT students who applied. Granted, Caltech does protect itself, but this situation of low respect, expected from prospective students, must stop.

We all know that Caltech is at least as hard and probably a lot harder than any other school in the country. It has the highest concentration of world-class scientists to undergrads. It should attract the best and brightest.

Perhaps one reason is prefrosh weekend. I interviewed a pair of prefrosh who both told me they saw virtually nothing of any house except the one in which they stayed. Thus entire view of Caltech social life hinged on a random assignment. Imagine if the current by-choice CIT applicants at the same time as Heritage. Perhaps because of MIT rejected 60% of the current CIT students who applied. Granted, Caltech does protect itself, but this situation of low respect, expected from prospective students, must stop.

Perhaps one reason is prefrosh weekend. I interviewed a pair of prefrosh who both told me they saw virtually nothing of any house except the one in which they stayed. Thus entire view of Caltech social life hinged on a random assignment. Imagine if the current by-choice CIT applicants at the same time as Heritage. Perhaps because of MIT rejected 60% of the current CIT students who applied. Granted, Caltech does protect itself, but this situation of low respect, expected from prospective students, must stop.

Perhaps one reason is prefrosh weekend. I interviewed a pair of prefrosh who both told me they saw virtually nothing of any house except the one in which they stayed. Thus entire view of Caltech social life hinged on a random assignment. Imagine if the current by-choice CIT applicants at the same time as Heritage. Perhaps because of MIT rejected 60% of the current CIT students who applied. Granted, Caltech does protect itself, but this situation of low respect, expected from prospective students, must stop.

Perhaps one reason is prefrosh weekend. I interviewed a pair of prefrosh who both told me they saw virtually nothing of any house except the one in which they stayed. Thus entire view of Caltech social life hinged on a random assignment. Imagine if the current by-choice CIT applicants at the same time as Heritage. Perhaps because of MIT rejected 60% of the current CIT students who applied. Granted, Caltech does protect itself, but this situation of low respect, expected from prospective students, must stop.

Perhaps one reason is prefrosh weekend. I interviewed a pair of prefrosh who both told me they saw virtually nothing of any house except the one in which they stayed. Thus entire view of Caltech social life hinged on a random assignment. Imagine if the current by-choice CIT applicants at the same time as Heritage. Perhaps because of MIT rejected 60% of the current CIT students who applied. Granted, Caltech does protect itself, but this situation of low respect, expected from prospective students, must stop.

Perhaps one reason is prefrosh weekend. I interviewed a pair of prefrosh who both told me they saw virtually nothing of any house except the one in which they stayed. Thus entire view of Caltech social life hinged on a random assignment. Imagine if the current by-choice CIT applicants at the same time as Heritage. Perhaps because of MIT rejected 60% of the current CIT students who applied. Granted, Caltech does protect itself, but this situation of low respect, expected from prospective students, must stop.
Students Faculty Confer
Continued from Page 1, Column 1

the “web of support” at Caltech, including the Counseling Center and career services, as well as plans to publish statistics on how often students use these organizations. A handbook of valuable contact information for incoming freshmen will be distributed to unenrolled freshmen through email.

Addressing a number of faculty members, the president expressed his concern about lower class attendance, the Quality of Life Committee has thus created a website for social events for both students and engineering school, many students said they almost certainly had encouraged students to attend classes. One idea was to give short problems to students at the start of class. Another was to take attend­ ance. Some even insisted that lecture notes be removed from the internet. Although undergraduates in the auditorium roundly denounced this suggestion, recommending a short course to teach professors how to teach more effectively, a better idea, which some students have since suggested, is to let the students decide themselves whether they need to go to a certain class or not, relying on comments when drawing students to lecture.

They decided that yet another way to improve the ombuds system for all courses. A student-oriented ombuds system could improve communication between professors and the students in the same way. The committee considered improve relations with faculty by inviting professors to dinners in the near future, but how many students the committee also considered plans for social events for both students and faculty in specific options as well as a Student Center, which could open as soon as five years from now.

Although Caltech is a science and engineering school, many professors feel that the social sciences must include humanities and social sciences. The Humanities and Social Sciences Committee exists to ensure that a Caltech education exposes students to plenty of art, literature, and social studies. In a recent ASCIT webinar survey of 161 students, 46 students said they almost certainly would have pursued an HSS minor if they had the chance. While 71 others said they were likely to have pursued a minor. The HSS committee, however, feels that HSS minors would take students away from the HSS majors, which are available only as second majors and, as such, are already purposefully limited to more than most of the other academic disciplines. Many students argued that HSS majors, as light as they are, cannot still fit their required courses. The committee also worries that those who would encourage students to limit their borders to humanities courses that would give them a better view of those that will minor their minors instead of ex­ ploiting the breadth of humanities disciplines. Finally, they worry about “trophy hunting” students who would take minor courses that do not even know if good but who would have no interest in the subject. The committee made it clear that minors will probably not be available this year.

Caltech students face nearly new years in Core, in sometimes grueling Math and Science classes. Luckily, since all students must take them, the Core Curriculum Committee promptly assesses any problems and pro­ poses changes to make the core classes bearable.

Freshmen get their first taste of Caltech as Math 1a, a fairly difficult course. Though many students have com­ plained about the class through online surveys, the Core Cur­ riculum committee feels that the class is actually one of the most challenging Caltech courses can be. Some suggestions include changing it to an equally difficult logic class and giving students a guide detailing how to write a proof.

Students entering Caltech typi­ cally have a strong background in Physics. Those who do not have such a strong background enter Physics 1a, Section 1. Jerry Pine’s section of the special section has its own work separate from that of Physics 1a itself. In response to complaints about Section 1, the CCC has proposed a separate course in the spirit of Math 8 that could allow students to cater to the level of physics they need for Pha.

While the committee lauded Professor Nathan Lewis’ organi­ zation of the curriculum of Chem­ istry, it lauded the lectures of “organic” chemistry, the course covered five weeks each. Because of the lectures crammed too much information into the first five weeks, and recent changes to the class resulted in many errors in homework sets and exams. The committee suggested that Chemis­ try 1b needs a better website and an overhaul of the curriculum. An­ other general concern was that half of Chemistry 1b lacks a text­ book. The committee plans to get permission to use some chapters of organic chemistry textbooks specifically for the Chemistry 1b course.

Math 2a is now Differential Equations while Math 2b is now Probability and Statistics. These two classes have switched posi­ tions so that students can learn Differential Equations before taking Physics 2b, Quantum Mechanics. The committee will also review Physics 2a, currently covering both Thermodynamics and Waves. Hopefully, either the course will have a new textbook that better fits the curriculum or else students will get to choose between Thermodynamics and Waves which they might choose between Practical and Analytical Physics. Many problems would arise from such a choice, and the committee is still examining this point.

The Student Faculty Confer­ ence has made some good sug­ gestions that are improving in the near future, but how many of these changes happen, how quickly, and how effective they become are all open questions. The Student Faculty Conference will meet again in 2007 so follow­ up on the suggestions that they made this year and to propose solutions for the room. Proceeding further through the lounge, guests were amazed to find that there were no other room, but this room was larger and better. The tree was lying on its side. The table was suspended in the air, the couch was sideways, the light switch was on the ceiling, and the addresses were on the floor. The sideways room provided much amusement and definitely amazed the non-serious students. The exit from the lounge was across a tunnel, metallic and lighted on the inside.

Overall the party was magnifi­ cent and was an enjoyable night for most who attended.

ASCIT Minutes
Continued from Page 1, Column I

1. Call to Order, 6:00 PM
2. Warner announces his rec­ ommendations for the ASCIT ExComm - himself, Corinna Zy­ ong, Erika Wiseman, and the ASCIT Meeting adjourned 5:55 PM.
3. Warner reveals that the ASC­ IT/HSoku meeting in the near future is going to be very different than many classes are typically handled.
4. Warner asks everyone to meet with the AS­ IT/HSoku...