

“Amending Advising,” March-April 2002, page 68). A skeptic about the reality of grade inflation—a subject of faculty debate and legislation last year—he made data-based arguments that sailed against the prevailing winds (see page 56).

Former FAS dean Jeremy R. Knowles, who appointed Lewis, hailed him in the March 17 announcement for his “principled concern and an unmatched commitment to our students” and said, “His openness and persuasiveness have transformed so many aspects of undergraduate life.... He has been indefatigable, a champion for logical discourse, and he has articulated—wisely, warmly, and supportively—the shape of the undergraduate experience at Harvard.”

Kirby for his part recognized Lewis as “a great dean of Harvard College. He has tackled, fearlessly, the most difficult issues facing undergraduate life and Harvard College. He is a superb administrator, who has earned the deep respect of students and faculty colleagues, not to mention the excellent staff he has assembled. He has brought to his work a passion and devotion to Harvard that is unsurpassed.”

THEN WHY THE CHANGE? In part, Kirby said in an interview, unifying the academic and student-life aspects of College administration has long been under consideration. Lewis’s 1994 report outlined a “single-faculty-dean” structure among its alternatives. With his own FAS deanship settling in and taking shape, Kirby said, “One reason we feel we can move ahead toward this integration is because so many of the large challenges the dean of Harvard College was facing eight years ago have been dealt with so masterfully by Dean Lewis,” and can be sustained by the staff and structure he assembled.

Kirby also sketched a broader reshaping of the FAS organization as part of his overall vision of what the undergraduate curriculum review entails—a more sweeping vision, perhaps, than has been conveyed so far. Alongside the new decanal post for the College and undergraduate education, he will appoint new faculty deans for the life sciences (a search is now under way) and for the social sciences and the humanities; these complement the existing dean of engi-

neering and applied sciences. Those discipline-based deans, alongside their undergraduate and graduate-school counterparts, will put FAS in a better

position to make faculty appointments in new fields, to create professorships that cut across departments and areas of study, and to respond more flexibly to

Undergraduate Education Overseers

THE COMMITTEES charged with leading the Faculty of Arts and Sciences review of the undergraduate curriculum (see “College Studies,” January-February, page 61) have been defined and, at least in part, populated. In early March, Dean William C. Kirby appointed the faculty co-chairs of four working groups. Each committee will ultimately comprise eight faculty members, two undergraduates, one graduate student, and one administrator. The groups, their chairs, and their responsibilities are, respectively:

The overall academic experience. Jay M. Harris, Wolfson professor of Jewish studies in the department of Near Eastern languages and civilizations, and Lisa L. Martin, Dillon professor of international affairs in the department of government, will lead the review of the freshman year, the timing of concentration choice, advising, study abroad, the connection between academic and extracurricular activities, and other broad questions concerning the curriculum.

Pedagogy. Lizabeth Cohen, Jones professor of American studies, and Richard M. Losick, Cabot professor of biology and Harvard College

Professor, and colleagues will examine the effectiveness of lectures and sections, freshman and other seminars, the role of tutorials, the issue of curricular “progression” (perhaps toward a cap-

stone experience, such as a thesis), instruction in writing and study of foreign languages, reading period, use of the Internet, and other aspects of teaching.

General education. Peter K. Bol Carswell professor of East Asian languages and civilizations Peter K. Bol and Eric N. Jacobsen, Emery professor of chemistry—both also Harvard College Professors—are charged with directing the study of students’ educational breadth in the twenty-first century, the proportion of the curriculum devoted to general education and its form, and the generation of suitable courses.

Concentration. Lawrence Katz, professor of economics, and Diana Sorensen, professor of Romance languages and literatures, and their working-group members will examine the purpose of concentration, the array of concentration options, how they relate to departments and interdisciplinary committees, and the structure of concentrations, minors, and certificates.

Undergraduate education dean Benedict H. Gross invited College students to apply for seats on the committees; he will use the Undergraduate Council to vet applications. Candidates were told that the committees will meet several times this term, and weekly throughout the next academic year. Kirby charged the groups with reporting their findings next spring.



Peter K. Bol



Eric N. Jacobsen



Lisa L. Martin



Lizabeth Cohen



Richard M. Losick



Diana Sorensen