

low expectation. During 32 years as a faculty member, he said, he had been asked to serve as an adviser exactly twice; several colleagues echoed that experience. He asked what deans and department chairs were doing to explain professors' duties in the curriculum under design.

Other faculty members talked about securing departmental resources to pay for the costs of advising. Two House masters suggested bringing advisers to the students: in the evening, over snacks. But even those lures, others worried, would not overcome the scarcity of qualified advisers in large concentrations such as economics. That explains interest in peer advisers, and in drawing on professional-school expertise.

Whatever the specific issues, the problem overall looms large in some faculty members' minds. A week before FAS's first meeting of the term on curriculum issues, scheduled for February 7, the Division of Engineering and Applied Sciences professors (many of whom object to more liberal concentration requirements and the general education proposals) suggested improving advising before *any* curricular changes are adopted.

But the issue of faculty engagement remains. Professor of biological oceanography James J. McCarthy, master of Pforzheimer House, pointed to empty chairs (the meeting was the least well-attended to date of those on curriculum reform) and said, "It speaks to the problem."

The spirit of a solution was expressed by Loeb professor of classical art and archaeology David Gordon Mitten, who described nourishing advising relationships and offered hints about being informal, hanging out in hallways to meet students, and sending them occasional e-mails to check in or offer encouragement. Advising is a wonderful opportunity, he said. And of the students: "They're our bosses!"

Kirby said Harvard spent more on advising than any other college, but performed less well than it might. Given the resources, if the work were done right, it could be effective within current means. In

that context, he was encouraged by what he termed the faculty's most extensive debate ever devoted to advising—and he took to heart the challenge to FAS leaders to make it an important faculty responsi-

bility. The same principle animates his hope for the curriculum overhaul as a whole: a vision of liberal education, his January letter said, as "the shared endeavor of faculty and students alike."

## Campaigning, College-Style

**The Undergraduate Council (UC)** unveiled 24-hour Lamont Library access and fatter grants for student groups early in the fall, but soon infuriated its constituents. It planned a concert featuring '90s rap artist Wyclef and sank \$30,000 into a venture it was soon forced to cancel due to underwhelming student interest—fewer than half the tickets were sold. In the wake of a rained-out Springfest the previous semester, the Wyclef concert and social-life planning became major issues in an unusually contentious race for UC president. Instead of the expected contest of John Voith '07 and Tara Gadgil '07 versus John Haddock '07 and council outsider Anne Riley '07, the election offered the prospect of significant support swinging to dark-horse candidates Magnus Grimeland '07 and Thomas Hadfield '07.

An overview of the campaign:

- 11/19 —The domain name [www.haddock-riley.com](http://www.haddock-riley.com) is purchased with a credit card later discovered to belong to John Voith.
- 11/28 —Campaigning starts at midnight.
- 11/28 —A joke campaign to elect the "Telepathic Chicken" appears in the *Harvard Crimson* comic strip "Low Table."
- 12/02 —An e-mail from a Voith-Gadgil staff member appears to bribe Grimeland-Hadfield, offering to "pay you back for all the money you spent in the campaign" and to "make sure magnus [*sic*] gets back in the UC." (Grimeland had been suspended for poor attendance; Voith and Gadgil sat on the committee considering his reinstatement.)
- 12/05 —The *Crimson* endorses the Voith-Gadgil campaign.
- 12/05 —On-line voting begins at noon.
- 12/05 —Entrepreneur Aleksei Boiko '06 sets up a website to buy and sell UC votes.
- 12/05 —The Harvard Republican Club and the Harvard-Radcliffe Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, and Supporters Alliance publish a joint condemnation of the Voith-Gadgil campaign for apparently contradictory statements regarding the return of ROTC to campus. The groups endorse Grimeland-Hadfield and Haddock-Riley, respectively.
- 12/06 —The UC announces that the 1,812 students who have already voted will not be able to change their votes.
- 12/07 —The *Crimson* retracts its endorsement of the Voith-Gadgil campaign.
- 12/07 —Boiko's site closes; more than 30 students offered to sell, but no one bought.
- 12/08 —The *Crimson* runs an article titled "As Polls Close, Race Still Too Close to Call."
- 12/09 —Haddock and Riley win 59 percent of the vote, ahead of Grimeland-Hadfield (23 percent) and Voith-Gadgil (17 percent). The "Telepathic Chicken" receives no votes at all, doomed by new electronic voting software that does not allow write-ins.

"I had a fantastic bunch of people working for me," says new UC president John Haddock, reflecting on the race. "And now that the campaign is over, it's time to move forward." Among his goals? Earn back the student body's respect for the UC.

~JOHN LA RUE

