Plain text reading:

New Pro Rules Really Helpful

By BILL McGRATH

Due to the recent changes in the rules concerning academic probation, the situation has arisen among the students both with regard to the new rules and in concern with the reasons for these changes.

Not A Diabolical Plot

In spite of what some students would more likely to the administration to get rid of even more students than usual.

The first change was that the requirements of grades of 4 or higher has been increased from 75% to at least 75%. This may seem to be of little importance, but it is quite significant. Under the old rules, a student could be on probation for one semester and have his/her 1 hour lab course go on probation while under the new rules this would not happen. Under very unusual circumstances no one can go on probation for failing one course.

Year Grades Not Considered

The second change provided that the grades would no longer be considered in determining probation, but rather only the grades themselves. Under the old rules, a student could go on probation for one year and then have his/her second semester grades. Under this system a student could go on probation his first semester and have his/her second semester. The requirement in his second semester would then go on probation a second semester.

Grades of 3 and Above

The third and most widely discussed change is the increasing requirements of grades of 3 and above. From 40% to 50% of the degrees represented a stiffening of academic standards, but even of these the requirements for a degree have always included at least grades of 3 or above in 50% of all courses taken, and the new rule will at least prevent a situation from arising of only doing the minimum work to meet this degree requirement even though he has never been in this circumstance.

In all of the changes represent more an attempt to clear up the academic standards and to change the rules, rather than an effort to raise academic standards, and certainly not an effort to show any increased number of probation due to these changes.

The first semester of last year there has been a marked decline in probation rules, from 75% to 145. The breakdown by classes in comparison with the previous year was as follows:

1st semester 1974 1st semester 1975

- first-year women 40
- first-year men 105
- sophomores 58
- juniors 16
- seniors 25
- total 176

Back to Normal

It should be noted however, that this is not the only case of normalcy that has been experienced. The figures for this year represent the normalcy that has been experienced. The figures for this year are not spectacularly low, there is some room for improvement, but the situation of last year has largely corrected itself.

At the risk of belabouring the point should be noted that there is a contrast between the girls who can congratulate themselves, for an exclusive freshmen and the boys who have the opportunity to join in with 65 men. Perhaps we can get the College Board to change the rules for the boys.