

How fast time flies when you are having fun! It really doesn't seem possible that nine months have gone by since September 11th and our first Senate meeting of this school year. In nine months time one can deliver a baby. On May 16, after 9 months and 1 week, we will see if our baby is delivered alive and healthy or whether it is still-born. In my list of goals for this year, continuing to work for reconsideration of the tenure policy was a top priority. I wish I could take credit for the fact that this may come about but I can't. The major credit must go to Vice President Haragan with Eric Bolen's committee and the Task Force chaired by Jim Eissinger playing important roles. In fairness we must credit the Regents and Administration for agreeing to reconsider. In the next 9 days we will know the results.

Another goal was to get recognition by the Administration that the Faculty Senate does represent the faculty. I believe we have been partially successful but we must continue to pursue this goal. I became interested in looking at the make up of this year's Senate in relation to the faculty as a whole and I came up with some interesting facts. Of the 52 Senators, 38 or 71% are on the Graduate faculty and of the 14 who are not, 2 are from Law School. The 71% is approximately the same as that of the faculty as a whole. In considering professorial ranks, we have 3 of the 18 Horn professors plus 26 full professors for 56%; approximately 36% of the entire faculty hold those ranks. With 21 Senators or 40% as Associate Professors, we top the approximately 35% of the total faculty. The one area where the Senate is definitely not representative of the faculty is at the Assistant Professor rank. We have only 2 or 4% of the Senate at that rank as versus 29% of the faculty. There are 7 department chairs on the Senate. In considering gender there are 44 men and 8 women for 85% and 15% respectively, figures highly corresponding to the Tech faculty. If, in fact, statistical treatment were applied I believe that it would be found that the Senate is representative of and I believe it represents the faculty of this University very well. Most of the actions we have taken this year have been well received by the faculty, judged by unsolicited comments. I believe our biggest challenge next year is to get increased recognition from the Administration. We have a foot in the door. Prior to receiving a formal request, President Cavazos asked the Senate President to serve on the VPAAR Search Committee. President Cavazos has also written that he will meet with the Senate in the fall. This will be a "first" and indicates a beginning willingness to recognize the work of the Senate. In fact, in this morning's UD the President noted the part played by the Faculty Senate in Tenure negotiations. Now, the fact that the Committee on Committees had such a difficult time getting faculty to serve on University committees, added to the problems faced by the Elections Committee in obtaining affirmative answers from nominees for the Faculty Senate, lends itself to several interpretations. You may disagree with my ideas but I am of the opinion that it is not a lack of interest in faculty governance that keeps faculty from volunteering for committee and senate work but a realistic view of the large amount of time which must be expended balanced against the small amount of credit given toward tenure and promotion. Even though a department chair and the faculty of a department may recognize such university service as important, the higher echelons of the administration put a low value on such service. I submit to you that when the time comes that we can no longer get faculty to perform these services, the administration will realize just how much work is done by faculty. I therefore challenge the administration to correct the situation, before it reaches more epidemic proportions, by decreeing that University service is important and is to be given due consideration in tenure and promotion decisions.

Finally, another goal was to attack the problems of registration. As you have heard today some problems have been identified and solutions have been proposed. We have President Cavazos' assurance that he will take action on the committee recommendations.

So, as is usual in meeting goals, we have been partially successful. We leave it to the 1986-87 Senate to continue the pursuit of these and other goals. If we are constant in our recognition of University needs and policies we will impact on excellence at Texas Tech University.