Update on Core Curriculum Review Committee Report. The Core Curriculum Review Committee (CCRC) worked steadily and met frequently from February 1999 until April 2000. The committee members reviewed various reports and surveyed general education requirements at a number of other universities. They met with faculty, administrators, and students. They also sent out an e-mail survey to 1994 graduates of Texas A&M, seeking an evaluation of their undergraduate education. The committee presented a preliminary report at the February 2000 Faculty Senate meeting. The preliminary report with initial recommendations was made widely available so faculty, administrators, and students could have an opportunity to respond to the report. After final deliberations that took into account comments and advice from others in the university community, the CCRC presented their Final Report at the April 2000 Faculty Senate meeting. The report was accepted with few amendments at the May 2000 Faculty Senate meeting, approved by President Bowen June 2000, and approved by the Board of Regents July 2000.

A TAMU Core Curriculum of 43 hours was recommended. Other recommendations included the completion of two writing-intensive (“W”) courses beyond the Core Curriculum requirement, completion of six hours of International and/or Cultural Diversity courses to be taken as part of existing Core requirements, the completion of three years of foreign language study in high school or one year at the university, and establishment of a Core Curriculum Council (CCC) to provide ongoing oversight, assessment, and promotion of the Core Curriculum.

Endowment. Sam Black, the Faculty Senate’s third Speaker in 1986-87, endowed the John J. McDermott Speakership of Texas A&M University Faculty Senate in honor of the Faculty Senate’s first speaker. This endowment will provide discretionary funds for each Speaker’s use. Black is a firm believer in the value of shared governance between faculty and administration at educational institutions. Also a believer in the value of a diverse, well-rounded education, Black maintains a great interest in the Senate’s work on a core curriculum. Black chaired the original committee that developed the University’s first core curriculum in 1985.

Minority Conditions. The Minority Conditions Subcommittee Annual Report was presented and accepted at the May 2000 Faculty Senate meeting and forwarded to the President. Recommendations included (1) that Texas A&M University develop aggressively proactive measures both to stem the effects of the Hopwood decision, and to recruit and retain members of under represented groups to the faculty and to the undergraduate and graduate student populations of Texas A&M University; and (2) that the questionnaire students answer in regard to ethnicity be reviewed to determine whether the inclusion of a statement concerning the importance of the information in TAMU’s reporting to the Coordinating Board and the Federal Government might alter the number of X’s, which is growing.