FACULTY SENATE ACTIONS

System Policy on Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure. The Texas A&M University System (TAMUS) sent to the Faculty Senate proposed revisions to the TAMUS policy on Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure (SAFRT). The Faculty Senate distributed copies to all Texas A&M University (TAMU) faculty, TAMUS Faculty Senates, the Texas Faculty Association (TFA), and the president of the local American Association of University Professors (AAUP). An ad hoc committee was formed to review the proposed revisions and comments from faculty, TFA and AAUP. The ad hoc committee's recommendations will be discussed with the Speakers of the TAMU Faculty Senate.

Faculty Senate Aggie Spirit Award. The Faculty Senate approved the creation of a Faculty Senate Aggie Spirit Award to be given to students who attend Texas A&M University in spite of significant physical or other handicaps, who exhibit exemplary courage and determination in the face of such adversity. Funds for the awards will be provided by voluntary contributions from senators each year. A selection committee composed of faculty and students will seek nominations and select awardees each year.

TAMU Environmental Studies Program. Deans of the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences and College of Geosciences presented information to the Faculty Senate on a new TAMU Environmental Studies Program. This unprecedented presentation described the resolution of a conflict. The Environmental Program will transcend individual departments and colleges and will be led by a council of participating deans. It takes existing initiatives and organizes them into a program with a potential for international significance. At present the College of Geosciences is the only unit prepared to take advantage of this structure; however, other units are expected to devise their own programs in the future.