TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
ROUNDUP REPORT

Texas Council of Faculty Senates Spring Meeting
February 25-26, 2000

• Update on Core Curriculum Review.  The Core Curriculum Review Committee (CCRC) worked steadily and met frequently since its appointment in February 1999.  In the spring the committee members reviewed various reports and surveyed general education requirements at a number of other universities.  The summer months were devoted primarily to meetings with and testimony from faculty and administrators.  Early in the Fall 1999 semester, they held meetings with students and student councils, including an Open Forum to which all students were invited.  They also sent out an e-mail survey to 1994 graduates of Texas A&M, seeking an evaluation of their undergraduate education.  Beginning late in the fall semester, members have been meeting to form preliminary recommendations regarding expectations and specific components of the Core Curriculum.  The committee presented a preliminary report at the February 14, 2000 Faculty Senate meeting.  The preliminary report with initial recommendations on a number of topics is being made widely available so that faculty, administrators, and students have an opportunity to respond to the report and preliminary recommendations over a period of several weeks.  After final deliberations that take into account the comments and advice from others in the university community, the CCRC plans to complete the Final Report for consideration at the April Faculty Senate meeting.

• Faculty Reward System.  The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate in 1997 appointed a special ad hoc committee to study ways that the administration of Texas A&M University can reconcile the faculty reward system with the multiple missions of the University.  The committee’s report, which suggested changes in the criteria that are used for promotion and tenure, was presented at the November meeting of the Faculty Senate and passed with some revisions at the December 1999 meeting.  The appendices to the report that modified the University’s Statement on Academic Freedom, Responsibility, and Tenure were passed at the January meeting.  This document contains the guidelines used by departments in annual reviews of faculty and for promotion and tenure of faculty.

• Career Management/Professional Development Courses.  The Academic Affairs Committee submitted Guidelines for Undergraduate Career Management/Professional Development Courses which were approved at the December 1999 Faculty Senate meeting.

• Doctoral Program Review Guidelines.  The Graduate Council presented guidelines for the periodic review of doctoral programs.  These guidelines with revisions to ensure appropriate faculty participation and notification were passed at the January 2000 Faculty Senate meeting.