Texas A&M University is one of the larger universities in the country with an enrollment as of last fall of 46,540, including 37,357 undergraduate students, 5,364 masters students, 3,314 PhD students, and 505 professional students. We are dedicated to serving the state and the nation with our strong research programs, and to serving the people of Texas with demanding instructional services and useful extension work. We have recently opened a 500,000 square foot engineering building at our branch campus in Qatar. On the College Station campus, we have several buildings under construction at a total cost of close to $500,000,000. These buildings are all to be used in our teaching and research functions.

Excepting temporary openings due to resignations or leaves, our Faculty Senate consists of 100 Senators, made up of at least two Senators from each College, including 2 from each of our branch campuses in Qatar and Galveston (4 total). Reapportionment periodically is done to keep the Senate fully representational of the faculty.

Membership is by election of the faculty and is open to all faculty, including lecturers. The Senate is supported by a full-time Assistant to the Faculty Senate, a full-time Administrative Assistant, a substantial budget, and dedicated office space including a meeting room sufficient for a meeting of 15 or so people, which suffices for most of our committee meetings. We are expecting a move to better and larger quarters in the next two or three years. In our May, 2007, meeting, Senator Angie Hill Price became Speaker, and Senator Clint Magill was elected Speaker-elect. In June we added video conferencing capabilities in the Senate meeting room so that our Senators from Qatar and Galveston can participate fully in the Senate meetings.

Last October we were in the midst of a search for a new President of Texas A&M University. Our Search Advisory Committee had given a list of 3 outstanding candidates, all of them sitting presidents of their universities, to the Board of Regents. The Board had dallied for reasons unknown, and one of the candidates withdrew. The Board complained that of the remaining two, one was clearly better, and so the Board had really not been given a choice. The Board then reopened the search and reviewed the list gathered by the search committee before refining, considering approximately 10 candidates. The Board added others and in November announced that the sole finalist was Dr. Elsa Murano, then System Vice Chancellor.
for Agriculture and Dean of our College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Board Chairman Jones said that we did a national search and found a president right in our own back yard. These events have led many faculty members to doubt the Board's commitment to shared governance.

After visiting with numerous groups of stakeholders in the university, including the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, President Murano announced at a meeting of the Faculty Senate that she was replacing several of the vice presidents and was creating a new Executive Vice President and CFO, to whom the non-academic vice presidents (such as the Vice President for Facilities) would report.

President Murano has announced that she will be working to advance the university toward its Vision 2020 goals, particularly in the area of diversity. We are looking forward to seeing signs of progress on the 12 Imperatives of the Vision 2020 plan.

There is currently ongoing discussion of a proposed University rule on racial and ethnic harassment. Because of the many different groups of people who could be involved in a case, the proposed rule is very complicated. Moreover, because of many such rules falling to Supreme Court decisions, the proposed rule is written using approved Supreme Court language. It has been withdrawn for revision in the light of comments by faculty groups, but it will be back to the Senate soon.

The System Chancellor established a Research Administrative Working Group to look at possibly replacing our Research Foundation by an organization within the System administration. We view such a move with trepidation, since the Research Foundation works very well for us.

Responding to the 120 credit law and to the January deadline for new items in the next university catalog, our complete agendas (with all attachments) have been in the neighborhood of 200 pages all fall, but the January, 2008 agenda with attachments topped them all by being more than 1000 pages long. Several university committees, including the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, have been hard pressed to process all of these changes.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

We are struggling with accountability. As do many faculty everywhere, some of our faculty believe we are assessing student outcomes by our grade award process, and so it is difficult to obtain their buy-in to any other schemes. Nevertheless, we see the SACS review coming, and we are working on developing acceptable student outcome evaluations. We feel it is important that our faculty are engaged in defining the process, and the administration is working closely with us on this.

FACULTY EVALUATION OF ADMINISTRATORS:

Our department heads and deans are given periodic reviews, during which faculty evaluations are solicited. This situation is supported by University rules spelling out the procedures, including faculty input.