



DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, W. H. CARSON

. . . He joined the faculty 30 years ago, and stayed to head the University's second largest college.

# Questions For The Dean

To produce a picture of the promises and problems of the College of Engineering, Dean W. H. Carson, now completing his 30th year at O.U., was asked a series of questions. His answers are important reading for those interested in Engineering.

*Dean W. H. Carson is completing his 30th year as a member of the faculty of the O.U. College of Engineering. To commemorate the anniversary, students in the college presented the Dean with a surprise token of appreciation during Engineers' Week, 1955. He has served as dean of the College since 1937. During his tenure he has witnessed the post-war enrollment boom, the subsequent drop, and today's steady increase. He foresees another boom in the immediate future. The Dean is understandably proud of his College and the part he has played in developing it. For a look at the College of Engineering, 1955, through the Dean's eyes, the magazine offers the following interview:*

## The Students

- Q. What is the enrollment of the College of Engineering?
- A. The enrollment of the College of Engineering for the first semester of this school year was 2,252 students. Of this number there were 2,171 men and 13 women undergraduates and 68 men graduate students.
- Q. How does this enrollment compare in size with other O.U. colleges?
- A. This enrollment makes the College of Engineering second in size only to the College of Arts and Sciences. I wish to add that there are more men undergraduate students in the College of Engineering than in any other college within the structure of the University.
- Q. What are the three largest schools in the College in order of size?
- A. The three largest schools in order of enrollment are: (1) Petroleum Engineering, (2) Electrical Engineering, (3) Mechanical Engineering.
- Q. How does the enrollment of the College of Engineering compare to that in engineering colleges of other educational institutions?
- A. The statistics on enrollment given in the February, 1954, issue of **The Journal of Engineering Education** indicates that the College of Engineering of the University of Oklahoma ranks six-

teenth in the nation out of 155 engineering colleges with nationally accredited programs of study.

- Q. How many foreign students are enrolled in the College of Engineering?
- A. The records available to us indicate that there are 110 upperclassmen. These students have come from thirteen nations. I do not have a record of the freshmen.
- Q. Do you consider the foreign student enrollment indicative of prestige of the College of Engineering?
- A. I am a modest person; however, I can answer this question only by saying, "Yes, I do."
- Q. Is there any noticeable trend toward more students majoring in Engineering?
- A. Yes, there has been an increase in enrollment in Engineering. For instance, on October 12, 1951, the Office of Admissions and Records reported a total of 1,511 undergraduates in Engineering. For the first semester of this year there was a total of 2,184 undergraduates. There is a critical shortage of engineers in this country, and the in-

crease of enrollment in the College of Engineering is a healthy sign.

## The Faculty

- Q. Have there been any additions and/or losses of major importance to the faculty in the past year?
- A. We have lost some good men during the past year and we have added some good men to our faculty. There are several vacancies on our faculty at the present time.
- Q. Are faculty salaries a problem in holding and recruiting more faculty members?
- A. Yes, faculty salaries are below those earned by professional engineers in industry or in consulting practice.
- Q. If it is a problem, how much of an increase would be necessary to raise the faculty salaries to an attractive level?
- A. Faculty members who have resigned and gone into industry have realized an increase in income of 30% to 60% more than they were earning at the University. A 40% increase in salaries would be desirable. Some of the younger members on our faculty are receiving

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Dean Carson and Earl Foster, '12ba, '13Law, Oklahoma City, executive secretary of the Interstate Oil Compact Commission, talk with Dr. Edmundo Luongo Cabello, '33eng, Minister of Mines in Venezuela, at dedication of a new Creole Petroleum Company plant in Venezuela.

## QUESTIONS FOR THE DEAN...

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ing very little more in the form of average monthly salary than the graduating senior receives during the first month of employment.

Q. What are some of the significant achievements of the faculty within the past year?

A. I think the achievements of the faculty during the past year have been many. In general, they include good teaching and counseling, research, writing, and participating actively in local and national professional engineering organizations. The pictorial section of this magazine will show some of the research and development achievements of the faculty. The faculty-student relations in the College of Engineering are exceptionally good and that is a healthy situation. We know that a student's personal qualifications must be developed along with his academic program.

### The College

Q. Recently the Massachusetts Institute of Technology announced a plan to add more studies in the humanities to its curricula. Do you see any need for more Liberal Arts courses for engineers?

A. I see a need for better preparation in reading, writing, and arithmetic in all programs of study from kindergarten to college graduation. Engineers, like college graduates in any other walk of life, have educational background shortcomings. About twenty years ago I introduced public speaking and report writing in the curricula of the College of Engineering. I am sure these courses have been beneficial to the persons who enrolled in them. We believe that a person who graduates from the College of Engineering should be educated as well as having obtained a background for earning a livelihood as a professional man. There are a number of courses taught by the Arts and Sciences faculty included in the College of Engineering curricula. For instance, 36% of the courses in the Mechanical Engineering curriculum are Arts and Sciences courses.

Q. From your experience what kind of preparation does industry expect of a graduating engineer?

A. A knowledge of the fundamentals of mathematics, physics, chemistry and engineering. A balanced education and

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**QUESTIONS FOR THE DEAN . . .**

a sufficient number of applied engineering courses to give him the "Engineering Approach."

- Q. Are jobs plentiful for the 1955 graduating senior engineer?
- A. Yes, more companies are sending representatives to interview engineering candidates for employment than we have graduating seniors. Some students have reported as many as sixteen offers of employment.

Q. In what fields of engineering are the demands greatest?

A. The demand for engineers is great in all fields of engineering.

Q. What is the future of engineering as to scope?

A. Unlimited. Scientific discoveries made in recent years have made it that way.

Q. What is necessary to continue the growth and development of the College of Engineering?

A. It will be necessary to have more floor space and equipment to satisfactorily take care of the present increase in enrollment in the College. A larger fac-

ulty will be required. To attract qualified persons to our faculty we must have a salary scale comparable to that of industry.

Q. Dean Carson, how long have you been at the University?

A. I have just rounded out thirty most enjoyable years. These have been enjoyable years because it is a pleasure to associate and work with young people, and to watch our graduates progress in their professional careers. It is also a real satisfaction to know I have had a part in building a great College of Engineering.

# OFFICIAL BALLOT

## 1955 Election of Board of Trustees of the Oklahoma Memorial Union, Inc.

**VOTING REGULATIONS:** In accordance with Article VIII (Nominations and Elections) of the Amended Articles of Incorporation of the Board of Governors of the Oklahoma Student Union, the following nominees are candidates for membership on the Union's Board of Trustees. Every paid member of the University of Oklahoma (Alumni) Association is entitled to vote for four (4) of the nominees. The four elected will each serve three-year terms.

**IMPORTANT:** Vote for only four (4) nominees. Ballots must be received on or before May 1 at the office of the Secretary, Board of Trustees, Oklahoma Memorial Union, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma. Each ballot must be signed to be valid. (Both husband and wife, if paid members, are entitled to vote. Both may use this ballot, showing a double vote, but both must sign.)

### NOMINEES

(Vote for 4)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Joe Curtis<br>Pauls Valley               | <input type="checkbox"/> George Shirk<br>Oklahoma City | <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Dave Price<br>Oklahoma City | <input type="checkbox"/> Dave Busby<br>Ada          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kitty Shanklin Rountree<br>Oklahoma City | <input type="checkbox"/> Hicks Epton<br>Wewoka         | <input type="checkbox"/> Carrol Daube Sutton<br>Ardmore   | <input type="checkbox"/> Walter Arnote<br>McAlester |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hal Muldrow<br>Norman                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Harold Belknap<br>Norman      | <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Braddock<br>Altus            | <input type="checkbox"/> A. B. Imel<br>Cushing      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lee Thompson<br>Oklahoma City            | <input type="checkbox"/> T. Howard McCasland<br>Duncan | <input type="checkbox"/> W. M. "Jack" Bell<br>Shawnee     | <input type="checkbox"/> C. E. Loomis, Jr.<br>Enid  |

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_