

crisis of 2008-2009—especially stressful for a faculty that had become particularly reliant upon the endowment for operating revenue. The University and FAS have come quite a distance since then, but many professors retain personal recollections of those governance and financial crises.

Although the May 7 discussion framed these mostly substantive differences in terms of communications processes and procedures, faculty comments illuminated some of the deeper concerns.

Francke professor of German art and culture Jeffrey F. Hamburger, a Faculty Council member, urged reaching out to the faculty majority who skip faculty meetings, either from genuine cynicism or mere expediency.

Professor of history Alison Frank Johnson—newly elected to the council—said colleagues, and she herself, believed “a proliferation of administrators who are not faculty members,” with new duties and responsibilities, had produced a “sense of alienation” and a “more corporate feeling” about faculty affairs “that not all of us fully understand.” Consultation is different from governance, she noted; people could be asked to share ideas, only to see them ignored as impractical or inconsistent with other aims. Professor of philosophy Edward J. Hall said colleagues he had spoken to were invited to meetings about online program implementation, but not to consult on whether the overall idea or educational direction made sense.

Saltonstall professor of history Charles Maier observed that governance involved talking together to contribute to government within the University. The sense had arisen, he said, that policies now *originate* within the administration. He cited the announcement of SEAS’s move; decisions about resources; the “debates and disquiet” about HarvardX (where it appeared there was a rush to board the “fast train at the station” without being sure of the destination); and the University’s internationalization via structures that might better serve the needs of professional-school faculties than those of FAS. As a result, he said, “We don’t quite know how to have an input.”

Other speakers’ specific suggestions for rethinking the Faculty Council or revisiting its originating legislation, and for enhancing digital communications,

Yesterday’s News

From the pages of the *Harvard Alumni Bulletin* and *Harvard Magazine*

1913 Construction is underway on the new Larz Anderson Bridge, connecting Cambridge and Boston, with completion expected before the Yale Game.

1943 Widener Library receives 11,000 books, pamphlets, and periodicals belonging to Theodore Roosevelt, A.B. 1880, LL.D. 1902, including 150 personal scrapbooks and manuscripts, and microfilm copies of thousands of his letters.

1953 Asked to comment on fellow Appleton, Wisconsin, resident Nathan Marsh Pusey ’28, Ph.D. ’37, Senator Joseph P. McCarthy describes Harvard’s president-elect as a “rabid anti anti-Communist” and is promptly chastised by most of the national press.

Student housing remains a problem. Only 10 percent of incoming freshmen are commuters, compared with 25 percent in the 1920s and 15 percent in recent years.

1963 The College Pump reports that “at the exact moment the representative of the Twenty-Fifth Reunion Class presented the imposing Class gift of over a million dollars to President Pusey, a dramatic lighting bolt flashed across the western sky.”

1973 President Derek C. Bok’s name appears on the list of “political enemies” of the Nixon administration submitted to the Senate Watergate committee by John Dean. Possible explanations include Bok’s opposition to the nomination of Judge G. Harrold Carswell to the Supreme Court, and his Washington trip to protest the invasion of Cambodia.

The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare’s Boston office criticizes the University’s affirmative-action plan, specifically the dearth of “a department-by-department breakdown of goals and timetables for the hiring of minorities and women in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.”

1988 Harvard announces plans to replace the 48-year-old Colonial-style Gulf station at the intersection of Mass. Ave. and Harvard Street with a “moderately priced” 150 to 200-room inn.

1993 Noting that in the past academic year, 64 percent of freshmen had Unix e-mail accounts, but only 42 percent of seniors did, the editors explain, “Computer technology at Harvard is advancing...[so rapidly] that seniors are substantially less computer literate than Yardlings.”



Illustration by Mark Steele