The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

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Activities

"To develop a closer relationship among engineering students, to encourage a wider acquaintance, to promote general social activities among the students, and to bring the students in closer touch with practical engineering promotion."—this is the purpose of the Engineers' Council, an organization whose activities effect, to some degree, every student in the College of Engineering. Among many other things, the Council each year sponsors the annual Engineers' Round-up, the all-engineering dance, and Engineers' Day. It is very probable that a large majority of the engineering students are unfamiliar with the method in which the Council representatives are chosen. The membership is composed of two representatives from each degree-giving department, one representative from the Ohio State Engineer, and the student who represents the College of Engineering on the Student Senate. One of the department representatives is a Junior, the other a Senior. These members are elected by the student societies of the various branches of the college.

At present there are twelve degree giving departments in the College of Engineering. All of these departments have a student society except one which is at present planning to organize such a group. Seven of the societies now existent are affiliated with national organizations. Each of the societies is open to all students enrolled in its particular branch. The societies afford an excellent opportunity for the student to better acquaint himself with his fellow-students and to become personally acquainted with his instructors. Due to the fact that there are no membership requirements and the dues, if any, are so small as to be negligible, there is no reason why every student in the Engineering College should not be a member of one of the societies.

Along this line let us consider the question of whether or not engineering students do participate in extra-curricular activities to a very great extent. This question was very well answered by our Junior Dean, William D. Turnbull. During the course of his freshman year, every student has at least one conference with Junior Dean Turnbull, who points out to him the many reasons why his participation in activities is essential. Later in the year Junior Dean Turnbull has each student fill out a blank listing all his activities. Taking the class of 1940 as representative, we learn some interesting facts. Out of the 484 members of the class whose records were looked up, well over half of them are participating in at least one extra-curricular activity. The total number of activities represented was forty-four. It is surprising to learn that there is such a large number in which engineering students can be, and are, active.

The most common activity was found to be affiliation with a national fraternity. One hundred and three, or twenty-one per cent, are active in this respect. Another surprise comes from the fact that the activity which held second place for the number of men participating was Phi Eta Sigma, the national freshman honorary fraternity. The Engineering College should be proud of the fact that thirty-eight men were able to attain this distinction. Some of the other more popular activities were the Y. M. C. A., band, Ohio State Engineer, Pershing Rifles, and varsity and intramural athletics. Cognizant of the fact that there are many and varied activities and that engineers can get in them, let's keep on showing the other colleges that the engineers do their share in running campus affairs.

Newton D. Baker

The University has lost in Newton D. Baker, who resigned as a member of the Board of Trustees November 12, a man of great capacities and experience and a personality of boundless energy.

In submitting his resignation from the Board of Trustees of the Ohio State University to Governor Martin L. Davey, Mr. Baker stated that his action was prompted by ill health alone.

His life has been a long career of public service. He was elected Mayor of the City of Cleveland in 1912. In 1916 he was appointed by President Wilson to the office of Secretary of War in which capacity he served until 1921. There were few more responsible positions back in those hectic war days and few in such capable hands. Mr. Baker's political affiliations have long been important in state and national politics.