MEMO

      TO: Robert Griffin, Dean of College of Engineering

    FROM: Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Affairs

 SUBJECT: Merger of Departments of Engineering Science and Mechanics
            and Aerospace Engineering

      CC: Dr. James Taaffe, Council of Deans
            Dr. Ronald Rogers, Graduate Council

The Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Affairs has reviewed your
memo of 12 April 1996 regarding the proposed merger of the Dept. of
of Engineering Science and Mechanics and the Dept. of Aerospace
Engineering. We have several concerns which are detailed below:

Section II.3 of the "Principles and Procedures for Merger or
Discontinuance of Academic Units" document states that such a memo
should be accompanied by "a summary of all responses received" in
the course of the assessment/negotiation phase described in sections
II.1 and II.2. The Faculty Senate did not receive such a summary
of faculty responses. Therefore, it is difficult to evaluate the
impact of the proposed arrangements on the affected faculty.

We are also concerned about the arrangements for the probationary
faculty affected by the proposed merger. Your notification memo
does not identify the probationary faculty, who are particularly
vulnerable in departmental mergers and closures. In the absence
of the "summary of responses" described above, we wonder whether
the tenure prospects of the probationary faculty are adversely
affected by the proposed merger. For example, will the tenure
requirements for any of the probationary faculty change as a
result of the merger? Are any of the probationary faculty going
up for tenure this fall? If so, will their new colleagues be
familiar enough with their work to assess them fairly? Have
they expressed concern about their future support?

These are the major concerns elicited by our review of your memo
documenting the proposed departmental merger. In light of our
concerns, we look forward to receiving a "summary of responses"
of the affected faculty.

                        Raymond White & Peggy Jessee (co-chairs)
                        Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Affairs