

## Academic Senate defeats proposed closing in Nov.

**June 15, 1970**

UCSD faculty have defeated a resolution proposing that classes be adjourned for one or two weeks prior to the November elections to allow students and faculty more time to campaign for or against candidates and issues.

More than half of the members of UCSD's Academic Senate voted, in a mail ballot, to reject the resolution, 186 to 85. UCSD students polled on the same question also turned the idea down, 360 to 134.

Backers of the resolution argued that student-faculty participation in the electoral process should be encouraged because "the experience will allow the entire spectra of student political beliefs to be fed into the political process at its most fundamental level." They argued that student electioneering, "while not an academic exercise," would be "immensely educational."

"This would allow each individual to evaluate for himself the merits or faults of the system as it exists on a first-hand basis," the argument stated.

Opponents of the resolution argued that "the faculty is trying to get the Regents to recognize that the university should not in any way be involved in politics.

"We, as professors, have a primary obligation to meet our classes according to an academic calendar published a full year in advance," opponents said. "If we wish to maintain Senate control over courses and curricula, it is necessary that we not ourselves add to the current pressures to politicize the university."

Opponents also argued that the proposed recess would cut into the summer vacation or Christmas holidays, and either alternative would "cost the students two weeks extra room and board while depriving them of two weeks employment. Some 60 to 70 percent of our students depend upon pre-Christmas employment."

They argued further that the American Council on Education has warned that "very serious questions concerning the tax-exempt status of universities may be raised if we change the normal academic calendar in order to partake in the political campaign."

"It is virtually predictable," their argument concluded, "that in the event of such calendar changes we would face a variety of taxpayer lawsuits."

A similar resolution recently was defeated by the Academic Senate of the University of California at Davis, 453 to 215.