

A History of Undergraduate Self-Governance at Caltech



Ted Jou

SURF 2002

Miriam Feldblum, mentor

Current Events

- Student Protest on December 12, 2001



- *“When I came to Tech, I used to hear good things about the administration - that they supported us and our desire to express ourselves and that they understood that this school was a unique environment deserving of a uniquely large amount of student self-government and of respect for our views & needs. Today, I see an unwillingness on the part of the administration to stand up to people who don't understand this - and it is destroying everything that makes this place worthwhile.”*

Student Self-Governance

- *Definition:* The privilege of students to have control over the creation and enforcement of rules regarding student life.

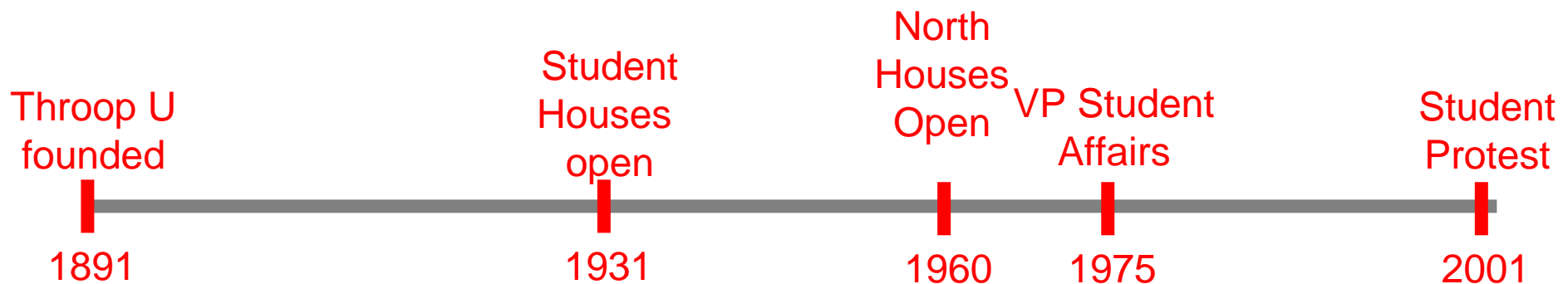
Methods

- Archival Research
 - *California Tech*
 - *Big T*
 - *little t*
 - Associated Students Minutes
- Survey of Alumni
 - 632 Responses
 - Years: 1935 - 2002
- Personal Interviews



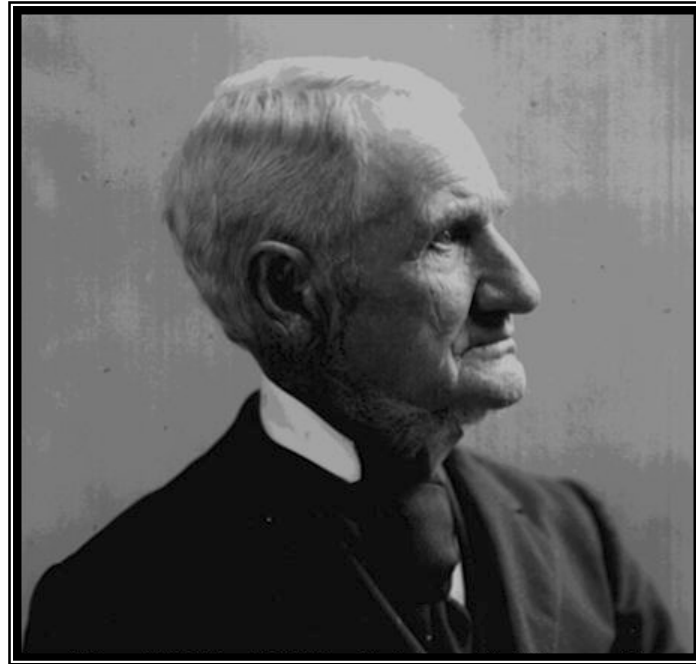
Overview

- The Beginning (1891-1936)
- The Houses (1931-1958)
- Student Activism (1958-1980)
- Administration (1975-2002)



The Beginning (1891 – 1936)

- November 2, 1891, Throop University opens in Pasadena, CA



Throop U
founded

1891

Inception of the Honor Code

- *“The discipline of the institution will constantly keep in mind the development of self-governing citizens, self-respecting, law-abiding men and women. The helpfulness of the ever-watchful friend will take the place of the educational police officer.”*

-1892 Throop Polytechnic Institute Catalog

- Formal inception of honor system in 1910

Throop U
founded
1891

Honor Code
begins
1910



Associated Student Body

- ASB records begin in 1912
- ASB forms Board of Control (BoC) in 1913
 - BoC has jurisdiction over rules:
 - No unnecessary disturbances in the buildings during recitation hours
 - Damage to property shall be paid for by offender
 - No smoking about buildings
 - No conduct unbecoming a gentleman or engineer
 - The honor system shall be respected for exams

Throop U
founded
1891

Honor Code
begins 1910
BoC
formed 1913

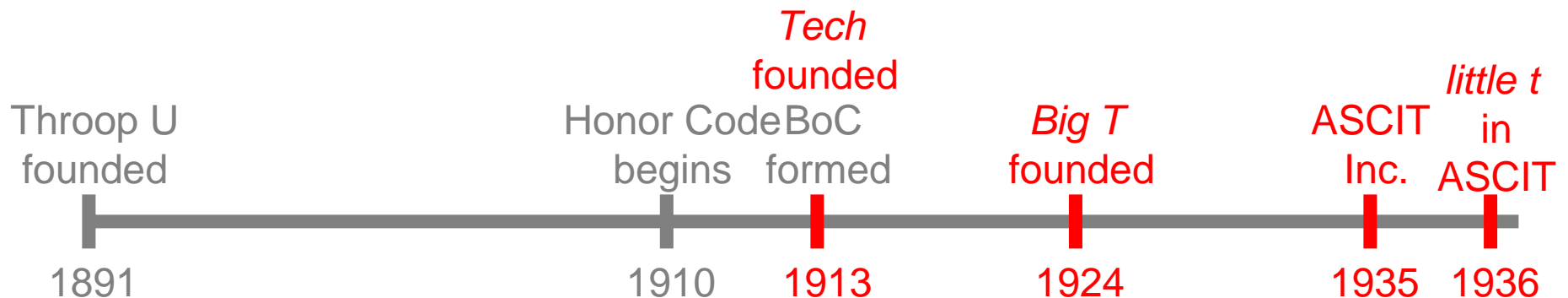


Student Publications

- *Throop Tech* founded in 1913
 - Amendment No.1 to ASB Constitution

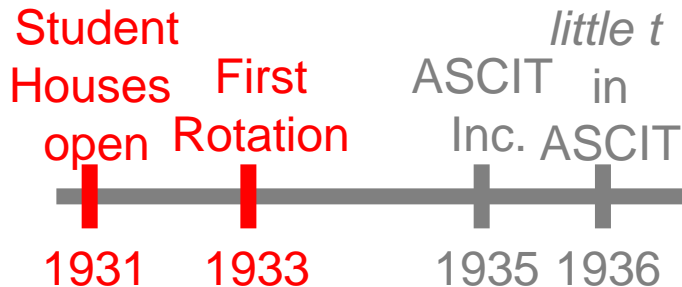


Frank Capra, *Tech* Editor 1917



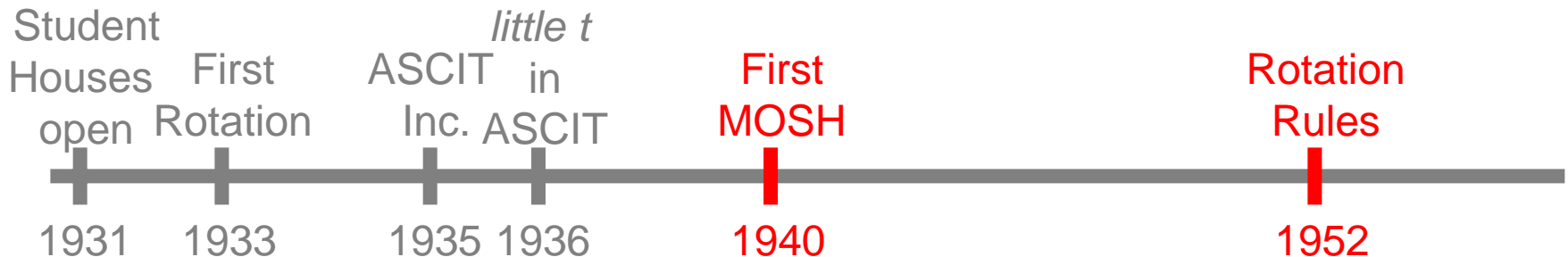
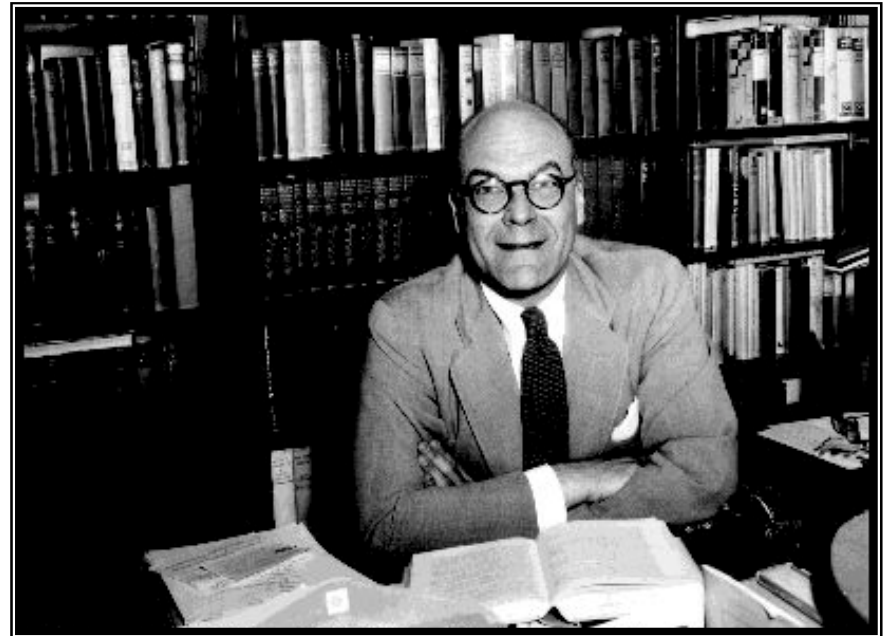
Student Houses (1931-1958)

- Four Student Houses open in 1931
- Committee of nine students recommended that *“Conduct of house functions and the maintenance of order shall be placed entirely in the hands of the students.”*



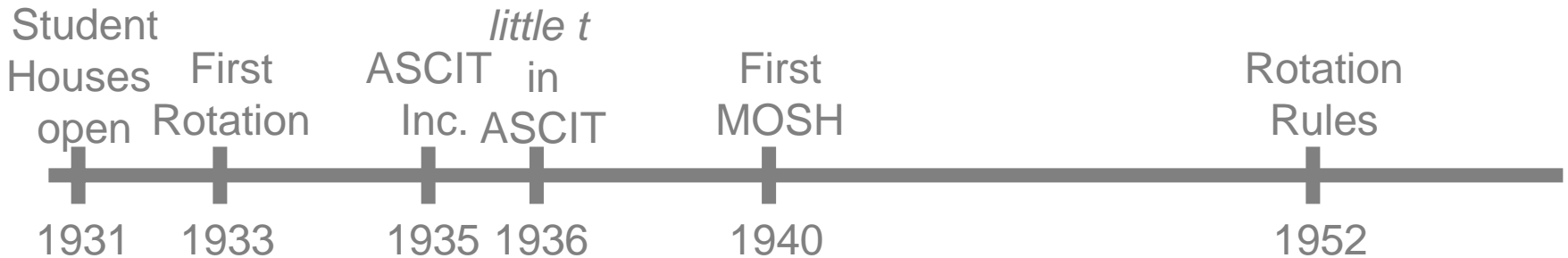
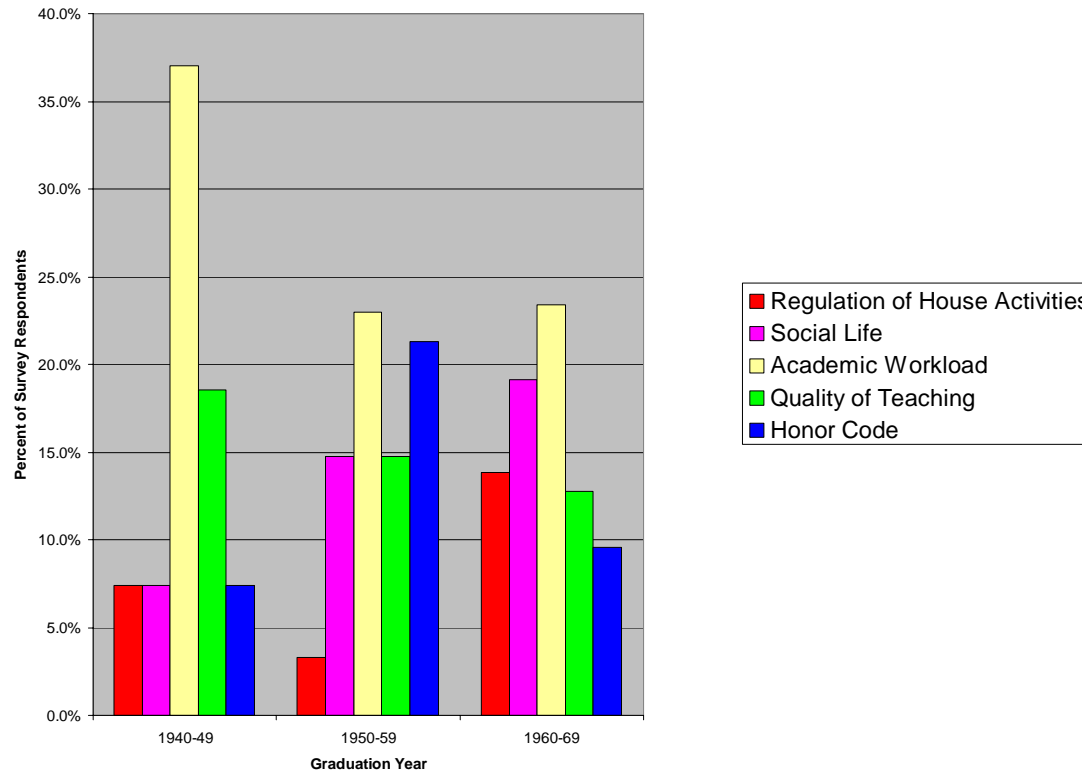
Master of Student Houses

- After almost a decade of complete student control, a faculty member, Dr. Harvey Eagleson is appointed to oversee the Houses.



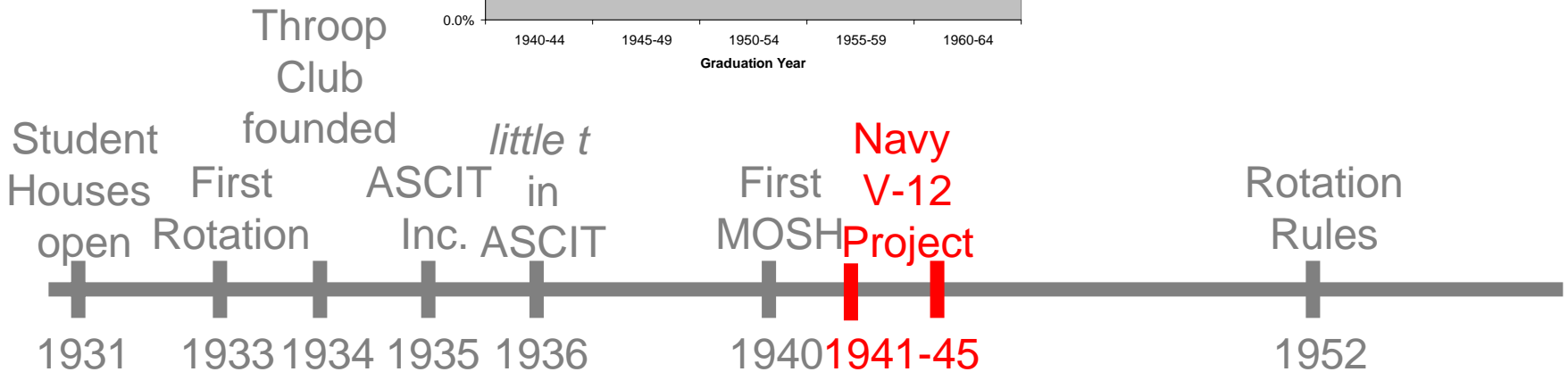
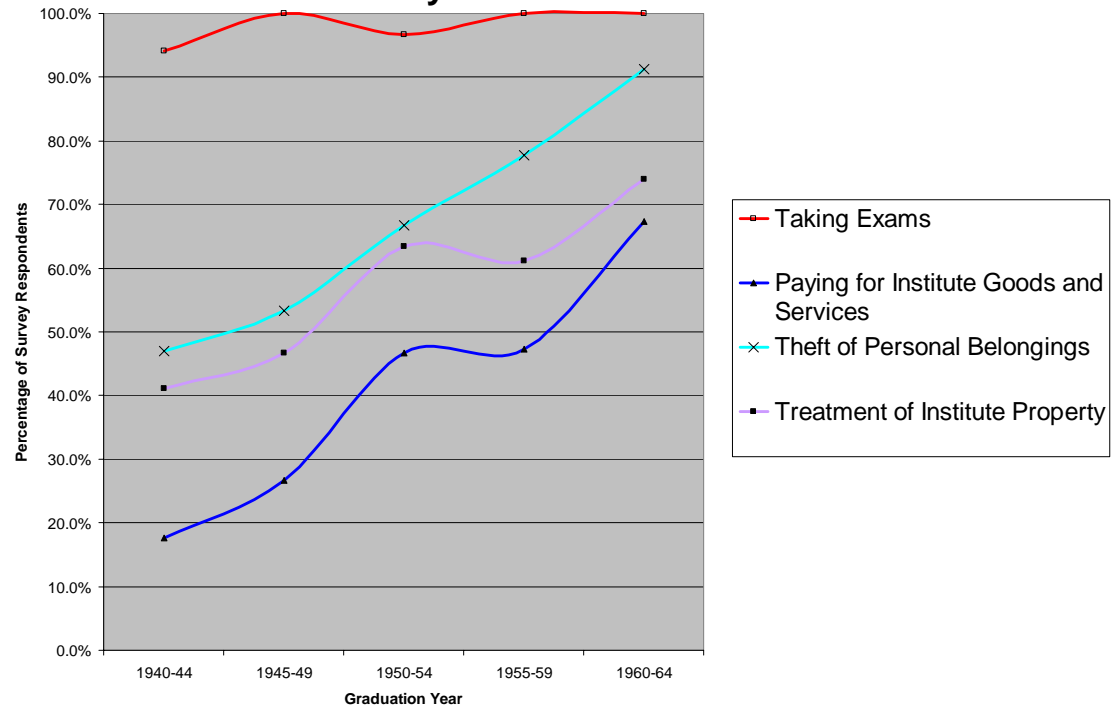
Student Issues

Which issue was most important to you while you were a student at Caltech?



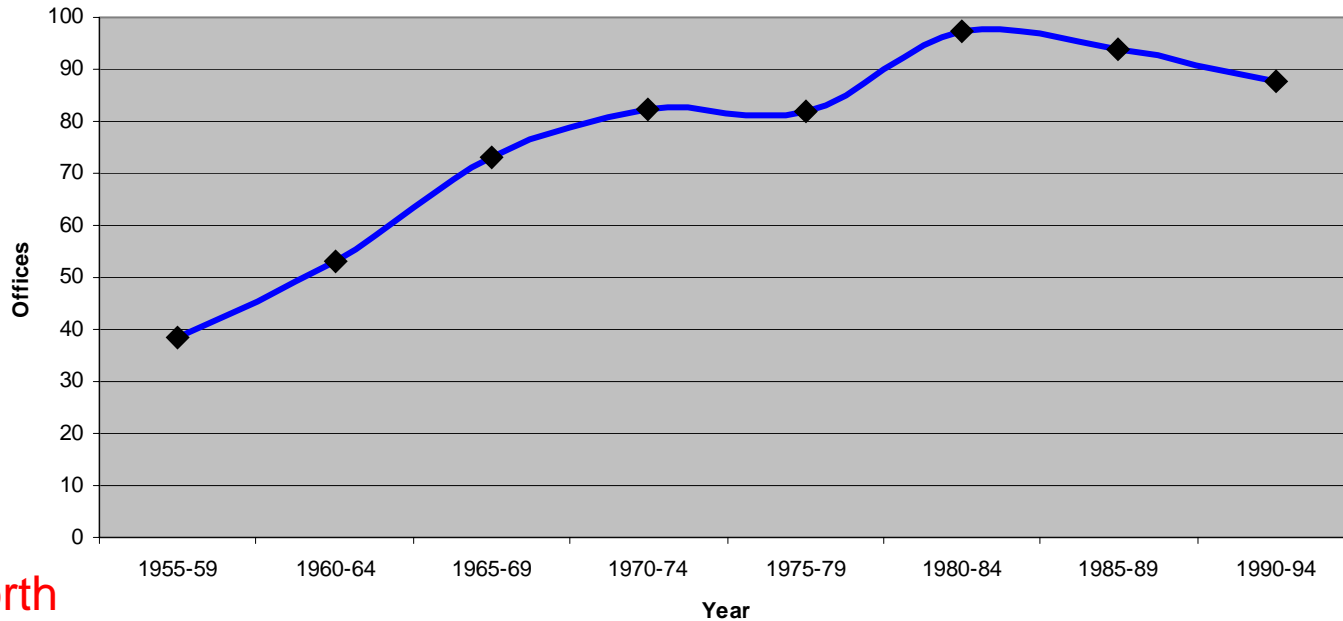
Scope of the Honor Code

Which of the following do you believe fell under the Honor Code while you were at Caltech?



Student Activism (1958-1980)

Number of School-Level Student Government Offices



North
Houses
Open

1960

ASCIT Committees

- 1958, ASCIT creates Executive Committee
- 1962, Educational Policies Committee
- 1968, ASCIT Research Project



Bob McEliece

Ricketts President 1963

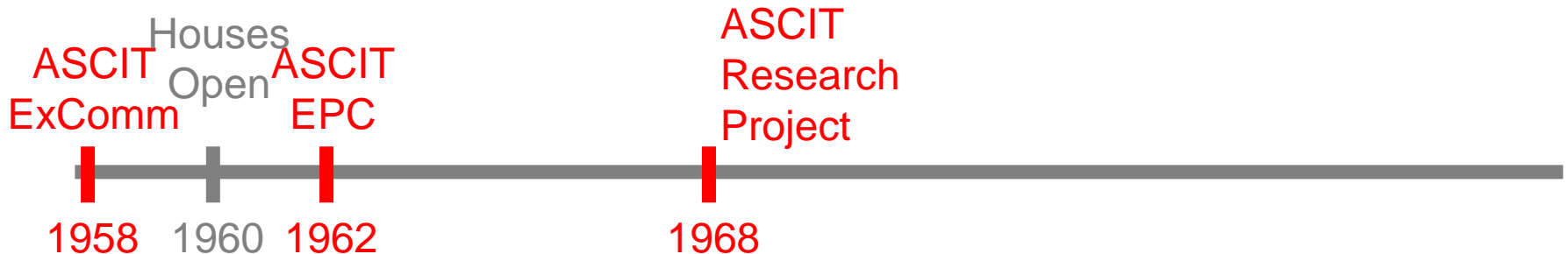
ASCIT Social
Chairman 1962

ASCIT ExComm 1962

Tony Leonard

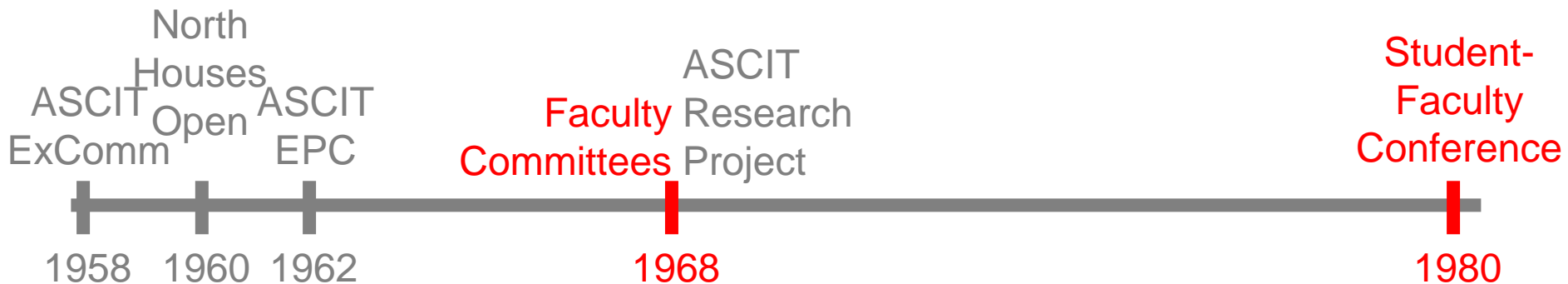
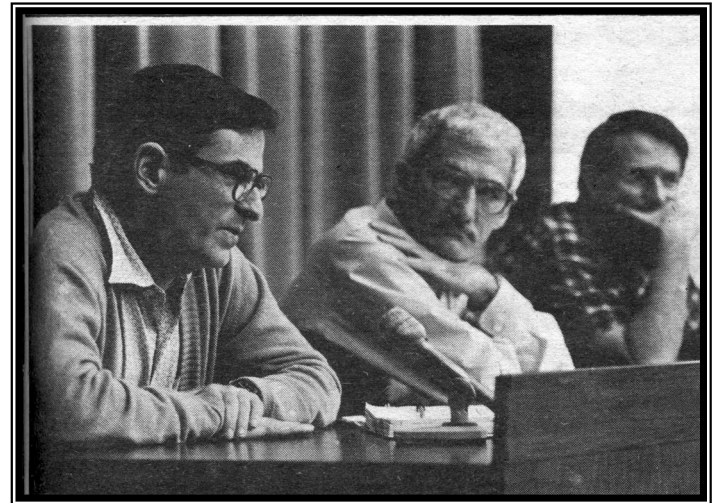
ASCIT Athletic
Manager 1958

Ricketts Athletic
Manager 1957



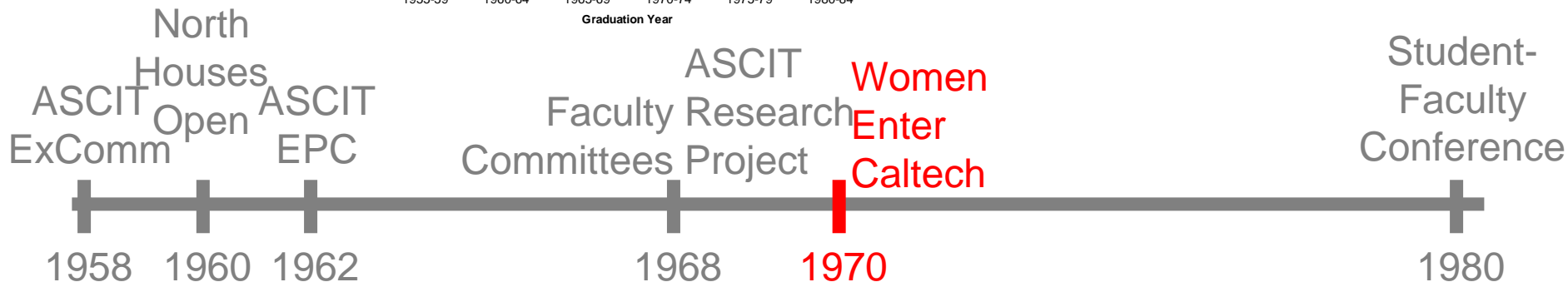
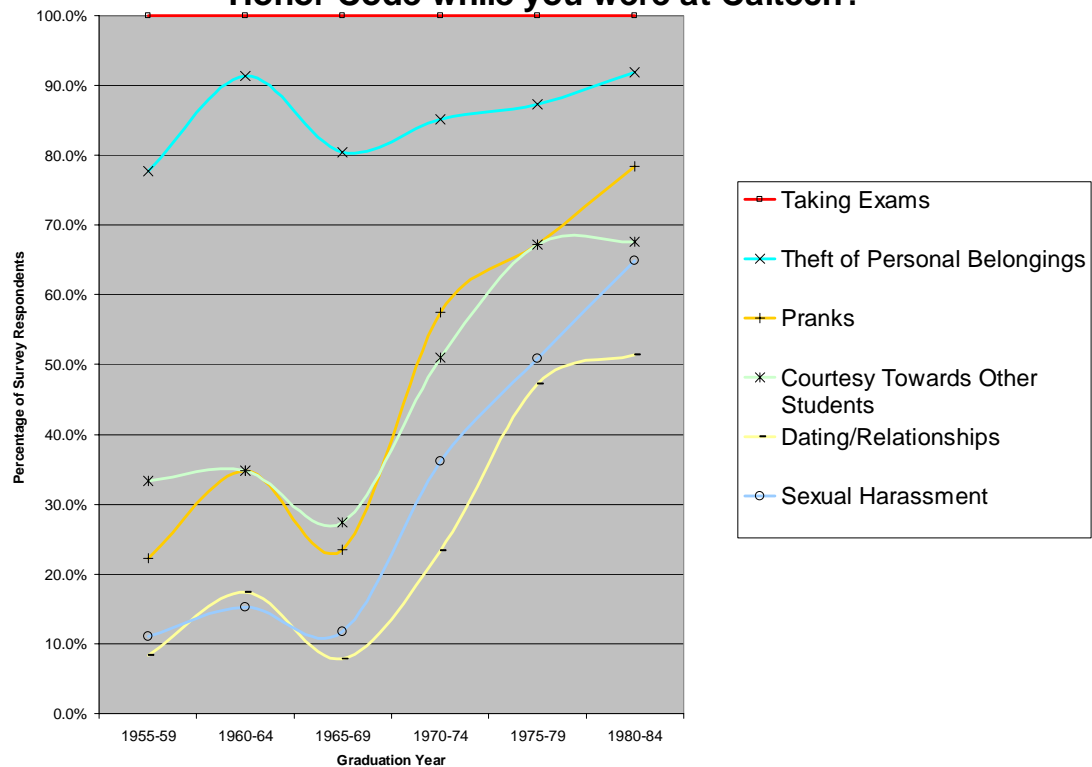
Student-Faculty Relations

- In 1968, students gain representation on Faculty Committees
- First Student-Faculty Conference in 1980



Interpersonal Relationships and the Honor Code

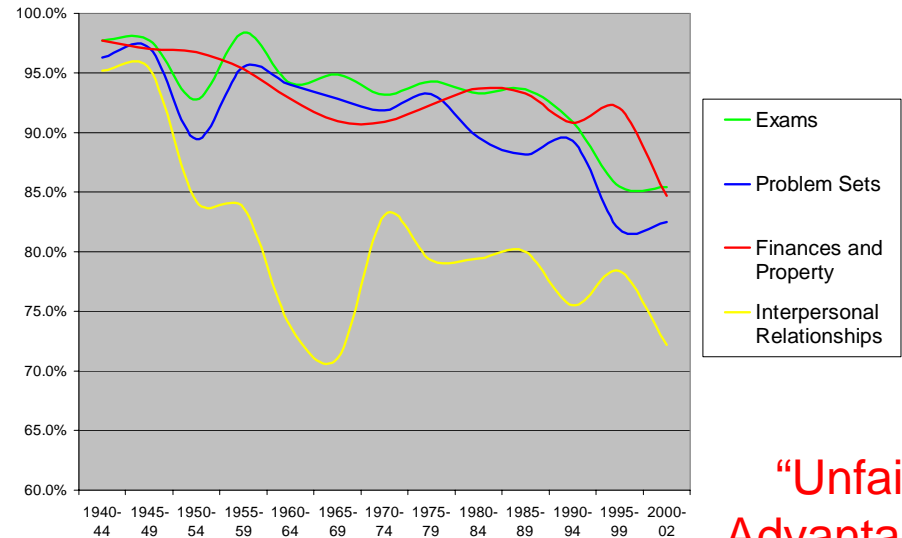
Which of the following do you believe fell under the Honor Code while you were at Caltech?



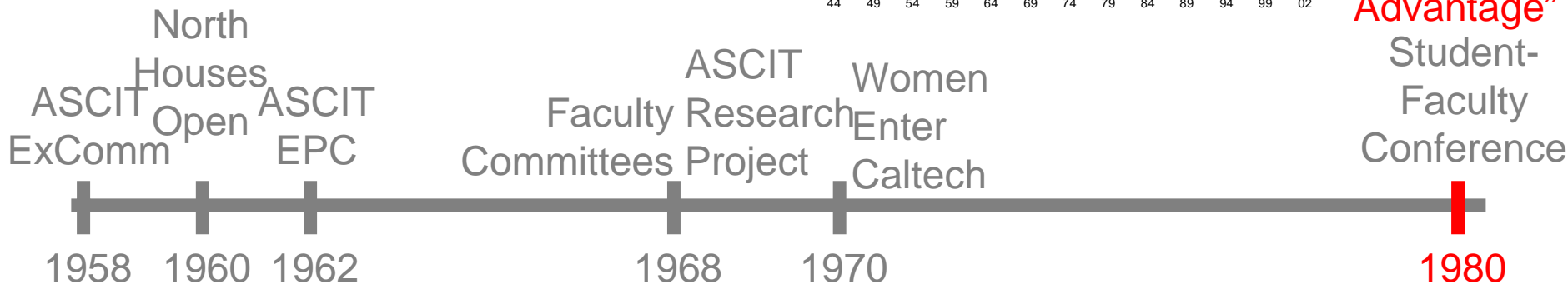
“Unfair Advantage”

- In 1980, the phrase, “No one shall take unfair advantage of any member of the Caltech community” enters the ASCIT Bylaws.

During your time at Caltech, what percentage of students do you believe always abided by the Honor Code with...

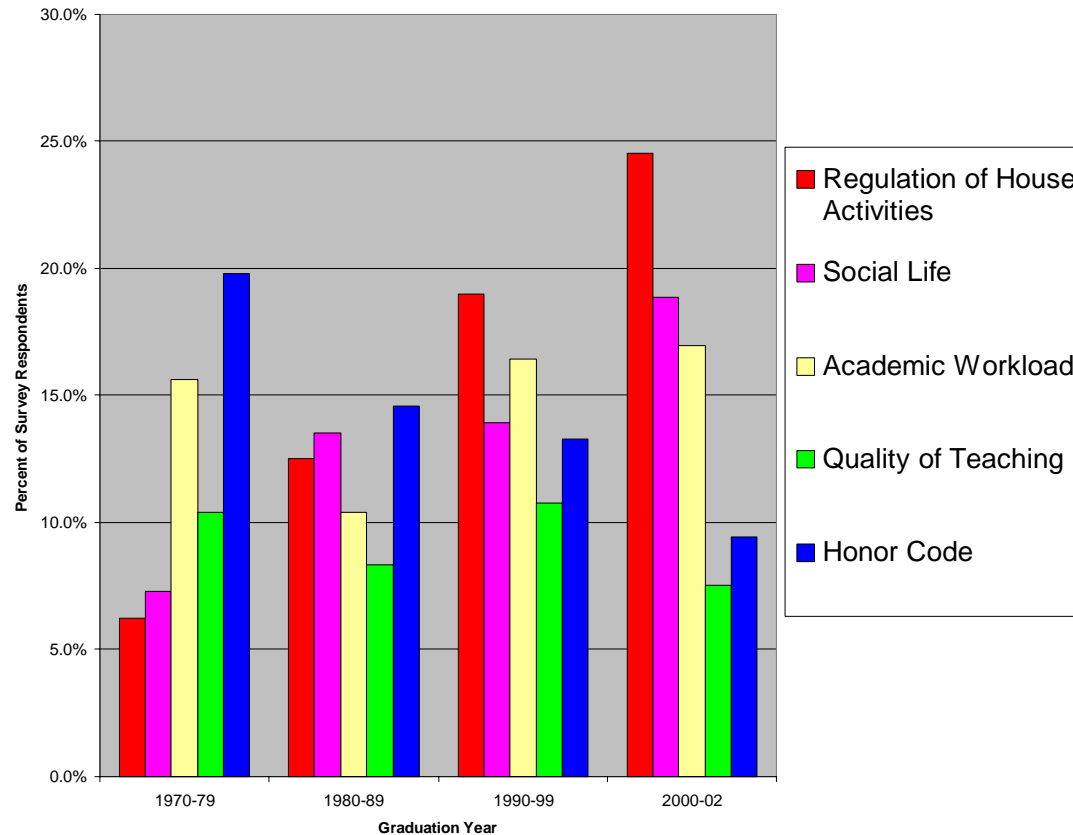


“Unfair Advantage”
Student-Faculty
Conference



Administration (1975-2002)

Which issue was most important to you while you were a student at Caltech?



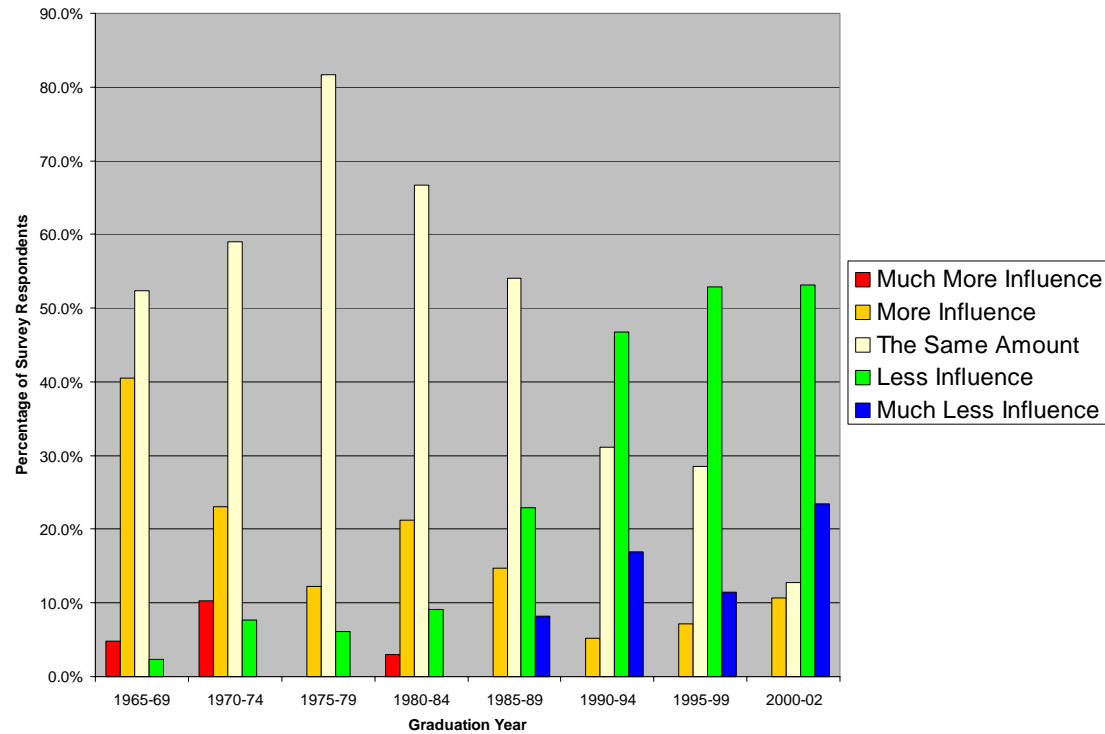
“Unfair Advantage”
Student-Faculty

VP Student Affairs
Conference



Student Influence

When you graduated from Caltech, did students have more or less influence on policies affecting students than when you arrived on campus?



“Unfair Advantage” Student-

VP Student Faculty Affairs Conference

1975 1980

Residence Life
1990

Student Protest
2001

Conclusions

- Student Issues have not changed significantly
- The Honor Code has evolved greatly through time
- Size of Student Government has grown
- Regulation of Student Life has also grown
- Perception of Student Influence is declining

Acknowledgements

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