

# Engineers Have Lab Troubles

By SARALEE ORTON  
This is the third article in a series on the reactions of professors in the various colleges to the four term system.

The four term system has raised special problems in the College of Engineering and Architecture, according to three professors interviewed yesterday.

Maurice S. Gjesdahl, head of the mechanical engineering department, said laboratory periods have been affected greatly by the change in programs. Under the four term system, the length of lab periods was increased just as were regular class periods, he said.

As a result, there are fewer sequences in the term and the periods are still not long enough

to double up on experiments, he said. The result has been to cut out some experiments in some courses, he said.

Gjesdahl said another problem has been to keep the number of students in each of the limited number of lab sections low.

Benjamin A. Whisler, head of the department of civil engineering, repeated the necessity for making many rearrangements in the laboratory schedule in order to make experiments fit the time available.

He said in his department too, it has been necessary to cut the number of experiments, split classes or combine experiments.

However, Whisler said he finds the term system "a very pleasant teaching situation." There seems to be a "much more leisurely approach" with 75-minute classes and 20-minute breaks between

classes, he said.

Barnes W. McCormick, associate professor of aeronautical engineering said students taking seminar-type courses such as the one he teaches, have new problems under the term system.

In these courses, students con-

duct a project and write technical reports outside of class, he explained, and under the term system there is simply not an equivalent amount of time to do the work.

McCormick said he personally does not care for the term system as well as for the semester plan.

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