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Jacqueline M Dewar* (jdewar@lmu.edu), Loyola Marymount University, 1 LMU Drive UH 2700, Department of Mathematics, Los Angeles, CA 90045, and W. Scott Wright and Dennis G. Zill. Discovering Questions as Well as Answers When Writing a Departmental History.

In the mid-1970s the Mathematics Department at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, CA, underwent a radical change in governance. It transitioned from being run in the traditional manner of unilateral decisions (e.g., on hiring new faculty and assigning and scheduling courses) made by the department chairman to a very democratic process for decisions, one that has continued to the present time. The three faculty (co-authors of this paper) who were at the core of agitation for this change, Jacqueline M. Dewar, W. Scott Wright, and Dennis G. Zill, are now emeriti faculty, having retired between 2009 and 2013. In 2015, Dewar proposed that they write a history of the mathematics department going back to the mid-1960s, when the first of the three was hired, to document and preserve this history. As this abstract is being written, the project is not yet finished, but work on it to date has revealed some surprising facts about the department and the university. This paper will describe sources being used and questions that we never thought to ask, but for which we now have very interesting answers. Anyone in pursuit of a departmental history may want to ask these questions. (Received August 31, 2016)