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Penny Haxell*, Department of Combinatorics and Optimization, Faculty of Mathematics,
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The dean (as usual) wishes to form a committee, by choosing one member of each department in the faculty. However, as everyone knows, there are certain pairs of faculty members who really should not be on a committee together (neither one of them can tolerate the other having the last word). Thus the dean needs to avoid choosing both members of any such pair. Under what conditions can a good committee be chosen? Can we characterise those faculties for which a good committee exists? What if the dean wants to form several disjoint committees? We will discuss some of the mathematics behind this type of question. (Received June 06, 2006)