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Tuition hike bill approved by the House

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The House approved a bill Wednesday which would increase college tuition at state-financed colleges in the fall.

Representatives also tentatively approved a bill that would allow school administrators to expel students who present a danger to other students in a classroom.

The tuition bill introduced by State Rep. Wilhemina Delco, D-Austin, would double undergraduate resident tuition for the 1985-1986 school year. Non-resident tuition would triple.

Delco said the bill would enable the Legislature to fund state colleges and universities at or near current funding levels. The proposal would generate an extra \$200 million in state revenues during the next two years.

The bill has been forwarded to the Senate for approval. If passed by the Senate and signed by Gov. Mark White, the bill would raise tuition for undergraduate resident students from \$4 per semester credit hour to \$8 for the 1985-86 school year and then to \$14 for the 1986-87. Tuition would then be raised \$2 every year until it reached \$20 per hour.

Non-resident tuition would be raised from \$40 per hour to \$120 for the 1985-86 year and then to \$180 for 1986-87. Non-resident students would then be required to pay 100 percent of their education costs.

The bill would also raise tuition for post-graduate studies.

The school expulsion bill by Rep. Bill Haley, D-Center, would give local school districts authority to suspend a student for up to six days a semester if the student presents a danger in the school.

The education reform package last year called for alternative education programs for students rather than suspension or expulsion, whenever possible.

Another vote is needed to send the bill to the Senate.

The bill would provide school districts with an option rather than requiring them to seek other educational programs for the troubled students.

Haley, chairman of the House Public Education Committee, said Texas schools are incurring a \$9 million price tag for alternative education programs under the current system.

Several attempts by Rep. Al Granoff, D-Dallas, to amend the bill failed.

"This is going to affect thousands of felons in the state of Texas," Granoff said. He said the expulsions will only put the troubled students on the streets, thus leading to additional problems.

An amendment by Rep. Gregory Luna, D-San Antonio, would allow the student to receive partial credit for homework the student makes up as a result of his or her suspension.

The House also tentatively approved, 83-55, a bill by Rep. Ed Kuempel, R-Seguin, which would exempt independent school districts and their contractors from having to pay prevailing local wages on construction projects.

Kuempel said the rates are intended to protect local workers but some rates, which vary drastically among school districts, cause less competitive pressure and higher bids.

In other action the House approved and sent to the Senate a bill that would raise the price of a marriage license from \$7.50 to \$15.

House members also tentatively approved a proposal that would extend a law requiring three signed copies of drug prescriptions. One would be kept by the physician, one by the pharmacist and the other would go to the Department of Public Safety.



Down For The Count

Photo by MIKE SANCHEZ

Ross Volunteer juniors (left to right) Morgan Levy, Mark Schulze and Kevin Morton force the head of senior Sean McCaffery into a mud pit. The RV held its annual Mud Day

Wednesday afternoon. Mud Day is a day in the spring semester, picked by the juniors, giving them a chance to "get even" with the seniors.

House initiates bill requiring stiffer penalties for hazing

By TRENT LEOPOLD

Staff Writer

Hazing incidents at Texas A&M helped initiate a Texas House bill to increase the penalties of hazing, an assistant to State Rep. David Patronella, D-Houston, said Tuesday.

Patronella filed a bill March 7 that would increase the maximum punishment for hazing to one to two years in jail and a \$5,000 to \$10,000 fine.

Tom Reed, assistant to Patronella said the recent death of Texas A&M cadet Bruce Goodrich awoke the public to the fact that hazing is a crime. And that crime should carry a harsher punishment, he said.

The current maximum punishment for hazing is three months in jail and a fine of \$250.

Under the bill, consent of the hazing victim would be no legal defense and hazing would be possible even if the victim gives his consent.

The bill recommends a fine of \$500 to \$1,000 and three to six months in jail for hazing involving no injuries, and a \$1,000 to \$5,000 fine and six months to one year in jail for hazing causing an injury.

The bill recommends a \$5,000 to \$10,000 fine and one to two years in jail for hazing resulting in death.

The bill also says alumni organizations are guilty of hazing if they knowingly permit, encourage or assist in a hazing incident.

Earlier this month Corps of Cadet sophomore Joseph Gassman of Frankfurt, West Germany was suspended for forcing a freshman to perform unauthorized exercises.

Nine upperclassmen have been summoned to hearings in connection with another Corps incident involving 10 cadets.

According to a report released by the Committee to Halt Useless College Killings in New York, hazing will likely be a criminal act by the end of 1985.

Seventeen states already have laws specifically outlawing hazing and setting up criminal penalties for hazing.

Student Senate passes housing bill

Grad student dorm space recommended

By JERRY OSLIN

Staff Writer

The Student Senate passed a bill Wednesday night that recommends the University Housing Office reserve dormitory space for single graduate students entering Texas A&M for one year.

"There is dorm space on campus that is not being filled," said Sen. Brian Hay. "This bill will help attract graduate students because on-campus housing is a factor in deciding what school to go to."

But Sen. Rhonda Duckers disagreed with the bill because she said the University currently is not able to house all incoming freshmen.

"There's an emotional need for freshmen to live on campus," she said. "A lot of freshmen need support and guidance from other students."

The Senate also passed a bill that calls on the University to establish a coed dormitory on campus.

The bill said one dormitory should be established as coed on an experimental basis to find out if there is a demand for such housing.

"There have been coed dorms in the past at Texas A&M," Hay said. "Security wouldn't be a problem because everybody would know everybody else in the dorm."

But Duckers said some students

wouldn't like the bill because they would be moved out to make room for the other students.

"People have a feeling for their dorm," she said. "They aren't going to like being moved out to make room for some other student."

The two housing bills were passed even though they were rejected by RHA.

Hay said RHA rejected the graduate housing bill because it would take away dormitory space from entering freshmen. It gave no reason for rejecting the coed housing bill, he said.

The Senate was scheduled to vote on a bill that would call on the Uni-

versity to prohibit demonstrations in and around the Memorial Student Center but Wayne Roberts, vice president of student services, said it was killed in committee.

The Senate also passed a bill that would allow all Student Senate legislation to be forwarded to the president of the University as well as to John Koldus, vice president of student services.

Tom Urban, vice president of academic affairs and the bill's sponsor, said reporting to the University's president would make the Senate more effective.

"President Vandiver has received only two pieces of Student Senate legislation in the past two years," he

said. "By reporting directly to him, he will have the opportunity to see all our legislation and that will make us more effective."

Hay also said the Senate should report to the president.

"We represent the the students of Texas A&M and our legislation should go to the top to where the power is," he said.

Late in the meeting, an attempt was made by Urban and some senators to override Student Body President David Alder's veto of a resolution that would have recognized the Gay Student Services Organization. But the motion to override the veto was voted down in a voice vote.

State Senate passes new drinking bill

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The Senate voted Wednesday to make it illegal to drink and drive in Texas, a measure sponsor Bill Sarpalius said he hopes will eventually save lives.

"A number of states have come out and shown it will, indeed, reduce the number of (traffic) fatalities," Sarpalius, D-Canyon, told the Senate. "Many of you have run surveys in your own senatorial districts, and you have found that there has been a tremendous amount of support throughout the state to ban open containers."

Sarpalius' bill, which cleared committee Monday only after he agreed to limit the drinking ban to drivers — not passengers — was sent to the House on voice vote. If approved by the House, the bill would go into effect Sept. 1.

The measure would make it illegal for a driver to drink or be caught holding an open alcoholic beverage container while operating a motor vehicle. Violators would be given a ticket with fines running up to \$200.

"What the Department of Public Safety tells us is that just by having a law on the books to make it illegal to drink and drive, 80 percent of the people will comply with it," Sarpalius told reporters.

Asked what law officers could do, for example, to stop a driver from simply passing an open beer to a passenger, Sarpalius said, "What we find is that in most cases if two people are sitting in the front seat, both are usually drinking ... and if one person is caught holding two cans of beer ... the peace officer has a pretty good case in that situation."

Senators also approved and sent to the House proposals that would:

- Abolish the Texas Merit System Council at a savings of \$276,866 to the state over the next two years. The council, in operation since 1981, has provided a merit-based personnel system for state employees in accordance with federal regulations, which no longer require continuation of the council as a separate agency.

- Require a paid legislator representing a person before a state agency to file a statement describing what he has been hired to do.

- Allow the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to use projected costs of providing services so the agency can collect maximum reimbursement rates, which should result in a gain of \$5.9 million a year for the state.

- Authorize proceeds from the sale of Permanent School Fund land to be used to acquire other land for that fund, which finances Texas' public schools.

Reagan press conference scheduled for tonight

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan will hold his third news conference this year at 8 p.m. today in the East Room of the White House, sticking with his new goal of meeting with the press once a month.

It will be Reagan's 29th news conference since he took office in 1981, and the first since the death March 11 of Soviet leader Konstantin U. Chernenko.

The president is expected to be questioned closely on his expression of interest in a summit with the new Kremlin chief, Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Reagan's last news conference was on Feb. 21.

Last core curriculum hearing today

By KIRSTEN DIETZ

Staff Writer

Today is the last chance for students and faculty to express their opinion of the Faculty Senate's recommended core curriculum.

The Core Curriculum Subcommittee will hold a public hearing at 4:30 p.m. in 504 Rudder Tower.

After a low turnout for the first hearing, attendance improved significantly for the second hearing.

Patty Steele, Faculty Senate secretary, says.

Steele says while only a few students attended, about 15 faculty members stayed for the entire meeting.

Dr. Paul Parrish, vice chairman of the subcommittee, says most of the response to the recommendations have been positive.

"But most of what we have heard

has been aimed at offering modifications or improvements," he says.

The Faculty Senate will not vote on the core curriculum until the April or May meeting.

If the Senate passes the proposal, it must be approved by Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver before it can go into effect.

It would not be applicable to the students for several years.

The core curriculum report recommends that each student take six hours each of speech and writing skills, mathematical or logical reasoning, cultural heritage and social science and eight hours of science.

This is in addition to the state requirements of six hours of both American history and political science and the University requirement of four hours of physical education.

Also, the report recommends that

each student take one course in computer science, unless they have completed at least one course prior to entering the University or can demonstrate proficiency on an examination.

The report also proposes that each student complete two semesters of a foreign language unless they have taken two semesters in high school or can demonstrate proficiency in a second language.