Dallas News Looks At A&M's Issues

(Editor's note: The following their discretion to let female stueditorial column appeared in The Dallas Morning News Sunday, Apr. 1. We think Mr. Acheson has done a fine job in summing up the three big issues facing the A&M System Board of Directors and the Century Study.) By SAM ACHESON

Editorial Staff News Dallas Morning News

Trustees of Texas A&M College enjoy no bed of roses. Year in and year out, they are faced with more prickly policy problems and pressures than nearly any other governing body of an institution of higher learning in tion by a wide margin. the state.

Currently, they are confronted with three hot issues:

(1) Should women students be admitted to the 86-year-old main branch at College Station?

(2) Should compulsory military training be abolished, mak- napolis be made coeducational. ing it optional?

(3) Should the college name be changed to indicate its status as a university?

Neither of the first two demands is of recent origin. Question of converting the all-male school into a coeducational institution has been agitated for science and tactics. years. Numerous lawsuits have 1960. On Oct. 14 of that year the Texas Supreme Court disposed, finally, of the question of

The court said, in effect, that the board was not discriminating against women on the ground of their sex. Hence the trustees could not be ordered, or mandamused, to admit them. But training-and that covered only in leaving the matter to the dis- the first two years in college. cretion of the board, the court decision has led to the present today. Yet, in spite of this request that trustees exercise freedom of choice as juniors and

dents enter Aggieland.

Advocates of coeducation argue that trustees are inconsistent. For, as they point out, woman students are allowed now-and have been for years—at the three other colleges within the Texas A&M system. They are Arlington State, with 8,318 students; John Tarleton College at Stephenville, with 1,389 students, and Prairie View State College, with 2,920. Their total enrollment of 12,627 students, many of whom are women, exceed the 7,724 registered at *College Sta-

But opponents cite the historic emphasis on military training at College Station as a major reason why it should continue as an exclusively male student body. They say you might as well ask that either West Point or An-

Texas A&M College has trained more officers for the armed forces than any other single institution. It supplied more Army officers in World War II than West Point. It has long enjoyed one of the highest ratings in the nation as a school of military

This performance raises the been filed to compel trustees to second issue: that of compulsory take this action. Latest was in military training. Before World War II, all able-bodied undergraduates were required to take four years' training as members the legal right, or power, of the of the cadet corps. But after trustees to exclude women stu- 1945, the board of trustees scrapped compulsory training, allowing each student to choose whether he would enroll in the corps or not.

Not until 1952 did the trustees restore compulsory military Such is the modified requirement

many, Texas A&M's status as a land-grant college does not call Congress merely said in the Mor-

for compulsory military training. rill Act, under which Texas A&M and 67 other land-grant institutions were set up throughout the nation, that they were expected "not to exclude" schools of military science and tactics." Federal funds paid to the 68

institutions from land-grant endowments are a mere drop in the bucket. The total they had to share in 1958 was only \$5,052,000, or a little more than \$70,000 each if divided equally. Major federal funds go to Tex-

as A&M for research, mainly in its agricultural experiment stations and at College Station, together with funds for statewide diffusion of the results of research through its extension service. This totals nearly \$5,-000,000, or almost as much as the State of Texas appropriates each year to operate the college. This enormous research pro-

gram, now broadened to include nuclear engineering, electronic aids for automation in industry, oceanography and other developments, points up the third issue -that of A&M's university stat-

This oldest of the state's institutions of higher learning fully qualifies to be called a university. That is, under the long-

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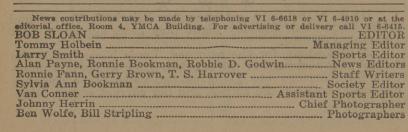
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How trustees will decide on

each of these three questions is

diverse groups concerned with

There are 41,000 ex-students.

Most are probably opposed to any

radical change from past policies

or traditions. Many say that all

three issues are so much yak-yak

and not to be taken seriously.

Many in faculty and administra-

tive posts hold, however, that

A&M must move and alter with

the times. It is up to the trus-

tees to say whether any or all of

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seniors, many of the students elect to belong to the cadet corps.

Contrary to the impression of

accepted concept of a university.

AGRICULTURAL South Pacific

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Model U.N. Club Ready

tions Club, advised by Martin T. Kyre, Jr. and Dr. Ramon Arango, instructors in the Department of History and Government, will represent Belgium at the Model U.N. Conference at the University of Texas Apr. 12-14.

Television station KBTX-TV in Bryan presented a 30-minute interview with the club's delegation to the conference this morning over "Town Talk." Besides the two faculty advisors, the delegation is made up of Luke Soules, Lyn McKinnie, Bob Wakefield, Mickey Metcalf and Richard Alvarado.

In the past few weeks, the group has been working with the Honorable J. Frans Herpin, Belgium Consul-General stationed in Houston, Tex., and with other sources to become intimately familiar with the character and problems of the Belgian people.

The delegation visited in Herpin's home recently, and last Saturday he and his wife drove to A&M to address the Club and view the campus. A highlight of the Herpins' visit was a tour through the new Nuclear Reactor Center.

The club has been meeting in Kyre's home since early last semester to exchange information about the United Nations and to begin becoming familiar with Belgium and its problems as a country. However, the organization has had official recogniyet to be determined. Each is highly controversial within the tion by the college only slightly over a month.

"Several times there has been some confusion when our club name was mentioned; some mistake us for the A&M United Na tions Club, which is much larger but does not participate in national Model U.N. activities,'

Bulletin Board

Professional Societies

American Institute of Industrial Engineers (A.I.I.E) will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Room 2-D, Memorial Student Center. Activation analysis will be discussed by Richard E. Wainerdi, head of the Activation Analysis Research Laboratory.

Members of the club recently addressed the campus United Nations group; result of this meeting was an agreement that the United Nations club sponsor the delegation of seven's trip to Austin.



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