

Pre-Registration Speeds Fish

Texas A&M's new automated registration system is "checking out perfectly" during summer conferences for fall freshmen, reports Registrar H. L. Heaton.

Heaton said approximately 400 new students have been enrolled automated technique. He expects

1,600 to sign up through the computer system by the end of summer.

If the system continues to function smoothly during the fall semester, utilizing the summer conferences, it will be installed for all regular semesters,

beginning at mid-term, the registrar added.

"We've had nothing but compliments about the technique so far," Heaton said.

After going through the process, most students, he observed, ask: "Is this all?"

Another significant advantage of the new system is its emphasis on faculty counseling.

"Students will have to meet face-to-face with their advisers to devise their schedules for the next semester," Heaton emphasized. "This automated system will come nearer than any other method of assuring the student he gets the courses he needs—when he needs them."



AUTOMATIC FEE ASSESSOR

Dennis Gerik, a new freshman from Aquilla who plans to major in agricultural economics, watches as his identification card and computer card are fed into a programer to assess his fees. He will then be mailed a bill with each of his fees itemized and the course sections he has been assigned.

The enrollment process has averaged about 30 minutes for the typical student. Remainder of the two-day orientation sessions for entering freshmen has been devoted to counseling.

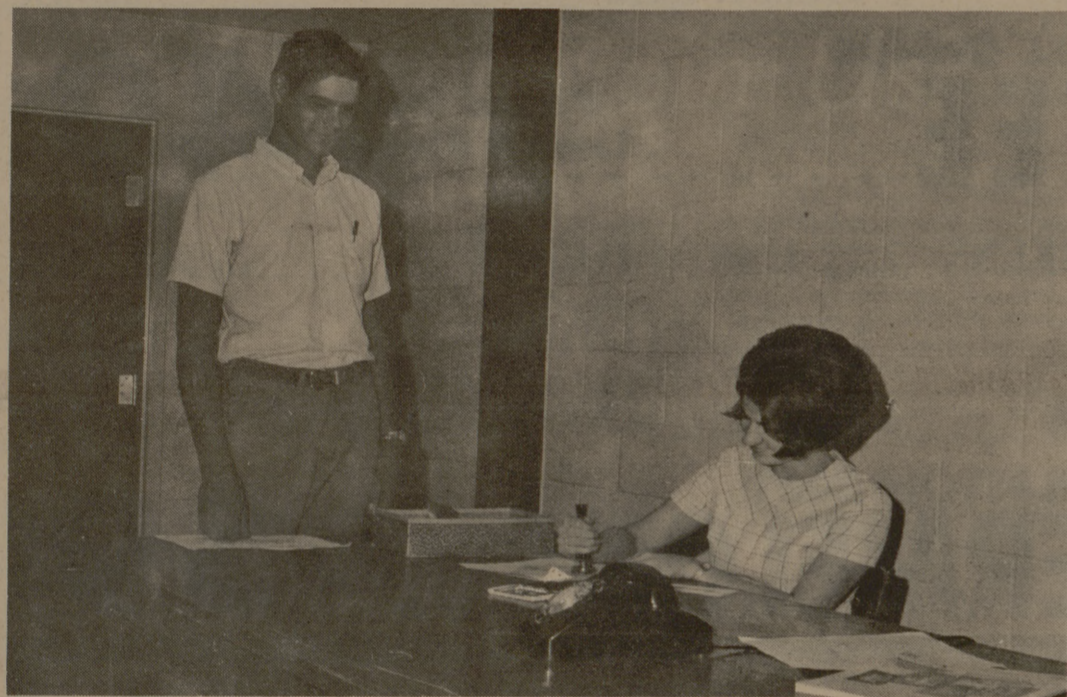
Heaton explained the computer "builds" a schedule for each student on the basis of data compiled during the student-counselor conference. The computer then figures all the financial considerations—room and board, tuition, lab fees and such variables as credit for scholarships.

An itemized fee statement is then forwarded to the student, who returns his remittance and is promptly provided his class schedule for the next semester.

Heaton said the first schedules will run through the computer next month. He said his office is waiting to perform this phase of the operation until a large number of schedules have been completed.

In the case of enrollment during regular semesters, the obvious advantage of automated registration for the student is elimination of long lines, he pointed out.

The system actually eliminates the standard two-day registration period, Heaton added, substituting pre-registration in which a student enrolls at his convenience during a six-week period the preceding semester.



THAT'S IT

One last stamp and Dennis is through with registration for the fall semester. His class schedule and other information will be completed by a computer and sent to him at his home address. The entire process took less than two minutes from identification photo to registrar's desk.



ONE SIGNATURE

All it takes to complete registration for a room is one signature. Dennis has already chosen his dorm and on "actual" registration day all he needs to do is sign the housing card. The boxes on the table contain one card for each bed in the university and assignment is made easily and quickly.

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