



"No issue in particular, I just thought that I should take a stand!"

Lack of help

Reviewed in yesterday's editorial was why having a student on the Board of Directors would not be such a good thing unless he is in on all of the activities. It was assumed then that placing a student on the Board of Directors could be done.

The placing of a student on the board does not have that many apparent difficulties, but the administration refuses to help. Just why they are doing so should be looked into further.

President Jack K. Williams and his advisors feel that the students are adequately represented by the administration and, if past record means anything, they probably are. But past experiences have shown that the students can easily be ignored—something more difficult to do with a student on the board.

It is these past experiences that lead us to want a student on the Board of Directors. Though the system may now be "workable and good," as Assistant to the President Ed Cooper told the Graduate Student Council, one cannot be sure of the future and it is against this that we must also guard.

These considerations are not the main reasons that the administration is unwilling to back having a student on the board, however.

The best guide to their resistance comes from a statement made by Cooper before the GSC. Though referring to something else, Cooper said, "the president would be put in a precarious position."

This is it exactly. The relationship between Williams and the board is, in a manner, precarious. Williams has not had the time to establish a firm relationship with the Board of Directors.

Most of the current Board of Directors are from the Earl Rudder period. They are like him in many respects and Jack Williams, who is unlike Rudder in many respects, knows it. For him to go up against a very resistant group of men with the idea of putting a student on the board would be like butting his head against a brick wall. He would be hurting his position if anything.

The administration is also arguing that it may be against the law to have a student on the Board of Directors. They say that the way to do it is go through the legislature, then place a student on the board.

There are two things wrong with this. Gov. Preston Smith has already said that universities may place non-voting members on the board. The second is that no one, especially Texans, places great trust in the legislature doing anything right. One might almost be willing to trust Smith more than the legislature.

Tomorrow: Why a student should be on the Board of Directors.

The Battalion

Opinions expressed in *The Battalion* are those of the student writers only. *The Battalion* is a non-tax-supported, non-profit, self-supporting educational enterprise edited and operated by students as a university and community newspaper.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 300 words in length. They must be signed, although the writer's name will be withheld by arrangement with the editor. Address correspondence to Listen Up, *The Battalion*, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Jim Lindsey, chairman; H. F. Eilers, College of Liberal Arts; F. S. White, College of Engineering; Dr. Asa B. Childers, Jr., College of Veterinary Medicine; Dr. W. E. Tedrick, College of Agriculture; and Layne Kruse, student.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

MEMBER
 The Associated Press, Texas Press Association
 The Associated Collegiate Press

Mail subscriptions are \$3.50 per semester; \$6 per school year; \$8.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: *The Battalion*, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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Listen up

Messing with the board

Dear Editor:

Regarding the article, "Don't Mess With Board . . ." which appeared in the January 28 issue of the Battalion, I have the following comments. First of all, there are reasons to believe that student representation on the Board would improve the present system of student-board communications which Mr. Ed Cooper described as "workable and good." Second, there seems to be no grounds for Mr. Cooper's concern that to "allow the Student Senate president to be a member of the board would give numerous other organizations justification for asking for the same representation." In fact, Ron Thomas, GSC president, informed me that the GSC appears to favor having the president of the Student Senate serve as the only student representative on the Board. Considering the great amount of time participation in Board activities entails, I doubt if there will be any rush on the part of student and faculty groups to get involved. Even so, no other student groups on campus can rightly claim that they represent all undergraduate and/or graduate students as the SS and GSC do.

Concerning the administration's desire that the proposal go only to the state government, I believe that the administration and the Board have an excellent opportunity to use their tremendous influence and prestige in getting the legislature to seriously consider the proposition. Indeed, TAMU can take the lead in Texas in improving student-board communication at public institutions of higher learning and thus help to avoid violent confrontations. (Southern Methodist University and St. Edward's University have already exerted leadership in the private realm by placing non-voting faculty and student representation on their boards.) Rather than putting himself in a precarious position by asking the Attorney General if the Board could legally permit nonvoting student representatives to participate in Board meetings, Dr. Jack K. Wil-

Bulletin Board

Tonight, MSC Radio Committee will meet in the lobby of the MSC at 6 p.m. Members should bring money to go off-campus for dinner and the meeting.

Thursday
 Cepheid Variable Club will meet in the Physics Building at 7:30.

Panhandle HTC will meet in room 201 of the Physics Building at 7:30.

Sophomore Class Council meets in room 146 of the Physics Building at 7:30.

Chemical Engineering Wives will hold a meeting at the home of Mrs. Leo Durbin, 3711 Sweetbriar, Bryan, at 7:30 p.m.

Student Senate will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Library Conference Room.

San Antonio Hometown Club will meet in Room 301 of the Physics Building at 7:30 p.m.

Rio Grande Valley Hometown Club will hold a meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the MSC to select a sweetheart.

Port Arthur Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Trigon.

Saturday
 Wheelmen will meet at the Beef Center at 9 p.m. for time trials.

liams would no doubt gain statewide recognition that he is one public university president who is doing something highly constructive and innovative to assure adequate and responsible student participation in campus governance. As a result, his stature as a statesman would be enhanced immensely. (Of course, Governor Preston Smith has already indicated that public university boards can legally involve students in board meetings on a

nonvoting or ex-officio basis.) If Dr. Williams cannot bring himself to actively work for the proposal, I hope that he will at least suggest to the Board that perhaps the proposition should be assigned to a Board committee for further study and consideration. If that is done, then I trust that the committee would intensively discuss the issue with faculty and student leaders before making a decision.
 Burton R. Hermann, '63

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