

UT dorm rates to increase

Regents okay hike, favor Pan Am merger

DALLAS, Tex. (AP) — University of Texas system regents approved rate increases Monday for all residence halls, cooperative units and married student housing at UT-Austin.

A regents statement said the new rates are the result of increased costs to date and projected increases expected before the end of the year.

The rates for residence hall room and board rates will go up about 25 percent while the monthly rate paid by 12 women's co-ops will be increased 15 to 17.2 percent and married student housing rates will be increased 10 to 32 percent.

The regents went on record Monday as favoring a merger with Pan American University if the Texas Legislature wants it.

The motion to accept the Lower Rio Grande Valley university into the system was unanimous although regent Tom Law of Fort Worth said he still "had some questions."

UT Board Chairman Allan Shivers reiterated the board was only being receptive to such a merger and was not on record actively trying to bring Pan American under its wing.

Texas A&I system directors are on record as wanting Pan Am, located in Edinburg, in its system. This is seen by many as a move to thwart the University of Texas from having a South Texas campus.

Texas A&I has its main campus at Kingsville with branches at Corpus Christi, Laredo, and a citrus research center in Weslaco.

A&I Board Chairman J. C. Martin of Laredo backed the A&I resolution but said, "I have no desire to get into a fight with the University of Texas."

The A&I resolution states: "Whereas the best interest of education in South Texas lies in consolidation of all available resources, therefore be it resolved that efforts be initiated toward establishment of a University System of South Texas including all units of the Texas A&I University System, Pan American

University and any future units of higher education that may be developed in South Texas."

Shivers said Martin telephoned him Monday morning to say the A&I system still wanted Pan Am. Shivers said he then called Morris Atlas, past board chairman of Pan Am and now chairman of its merger committee. Atlas said the proposed merger with the A&I system is a "dead issue."

Bills to merge Pan Am, which has more than 7,000 students, into the UT system are pending in both legislative houses.

Sen. Raul Longoria of Edinburg is sponsoring the Senate bill and Rep. Felix McDonald of Edinburg

is a cosponsor of the House bill. A committee hearing on the House bill is set for Tuesday night.

In other action Monday, the UT regents:

—Approved a master's degree in linguistics for UT-El Paso. The regents also approved construction contracts for remodeling of Benedict and Worrell Halls.

—Approved preparation of preliminary plans and cost estimates for the first phase of remodeling of John Sealy Hospital at the UT Medical Branch at Galveston. The regents also approved construction of an interim dining hall for use while the addition to the hospital is under

construction. They also approved final plans and authorized advertisement of bids for third-phase building at the UT Medical School at Houston.

—Approved establishment of the Vertebrate Paleontology Fund at the UT Austin Department of Geological Sciences.

—Approved a postdoctoral certificate program in pedodontics, the care and treatment of children's teeth, for UT San Antonio Dental School.

—Awarded contracts of more than \$2.2 million for new equipment to expand the generating capacity of the power plant at UT Austin. The awards are part of a \$4.5 million expansion of generating capacity to take care of electrical energy needs for new campus buildings.

—Approved acceptance of gifts to establish the Ernest Cockrell Jr. Memorial Professorship in the UT Austin College of Engineering.

—Awarded a contract of \$4.4 million for a new College of Engineering building and renovation of the engineering technology building at the UT Arlington campus.

—Approved final plans for a conference center, estimated to cost \$3 million at UT Dallas.

—Accepted gifts of \$35,835 from the late Dr. Mary Grace Muse Adkins to establish a scholarship fund for library science students at UT Austin.

News Briefs International

Minh orders Americans out

SAIGON (AP) — President Duong Van Minh on Tuesday ordered all Americans assigned to the U. S. defense attaché's office to leave Saigon within 24 hours.

US evacuates Saigon

SAIGON (AP) — The U. S. government began evacuating its last official representatives in Saigon Tuesday as the South Vietnamese capital prepared for Communist rule.

Israeli consulate siege ends

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — A siege of the Israeli Consulate in downtown Johannesburg ended early Tuesday after 16 hours, and Police Minister Jimmy Kruger announced that an assistant security officer at the consulate with "some political axe to grind" was responsible.

National

Ford to run for election

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford definitely plans to run for the presidency in 1976, a White House spokesman said Monday in response to a published report that he would not run.

Government index reverses

WASHINGTON (AP) — A government index reversed for March what had been the first solid gain since the recession started, the Commerce Department reported Monday.

THD seeks advice

The Texas Highway Department (THD) is accepting applications for projects aimed at improving public transportation in rural and small urban areas.

The program is for public transportation systems operating vehicles on rural highways. The system will serve passengers in rural areas, towns of less than

5,000 people and areas between larger cities.

Public agencies or public-purpose organizations (non-profit) may apply for federal grants, covering capital and operating costs.

Plans for the system will have to accommodate the elderly and the handicapped.

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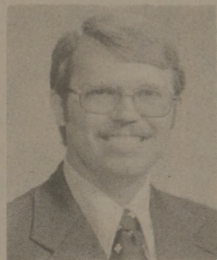
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