

Book Mart quits buying textbooks

The Student Government Book Mart will no longer be able to buy used textbooks.

Jeff Dunn, student body president, said the decision to stop buying used books was necessary due to a lack of funds. However, he did note that the book mart will continue to sell used books through the summer and fall semesters.

Student Government Executive Director, Mary Ellen Martin said that a limited amount of funds are available to begin repurchasing used books in the fall. She noted however that books would be bought in the fall on a selective basis only until more funds are available.

Martin also said that book mart operations will move at the end of the current semester to the old student programs office on the ground level of the old MSC.

Input on committees examined

By STEVE GRAY
City Editor

That's not a German word but a term often used by students at Texas A&M who claim no one ever listens to their complaints about the university. Some students say they feel they have no recourse but to give up and save their breath.

However, there are some 77 committees which allow some sort of student input or already have a student representative. Many university committees, however, are

composed mostly of administrative and faculty members. The lack of response to student input by some committees appears to be a two-fold problem.

Steve Eberhard, past student body president, said quick response to student interests is hampered by a combination of apathy on the part of student committee members and the possible intimidation of student members by faculty members on committees.

"Some students on committees feel they have to go to the meetings

and just listen to what the faculty members have to say," Eberhard said. "The real crux of the situation is that they (students) feel intimidated by so many administrators."

Apathy, he said, is caused mainly by students dropping out of committees because they just don't have enough time.

"The bad thing is that students with a lot of initiative in the beginning tend to become disinterested in committee work and drop out because of their course loads," he said.

"That's why some committees fail to

meet more than once a year."

Eberhard cited the U.S. Volunteer Programs Committee as a victim of poor student interest. The program was set up to provide student volunteers to help with local charity fund drives and similar projects. The committee dissolved last year but may be revitalized next fall if there is enough interest, Eberhard said.

The advisory Committee on Faculty Evaluation Procedures, which had not met for four or five years until recently, is now one of the

most active committees. Eberhard said it has met twice a month since last fall.

"It wasn't until we started actively pursuing the issue of professor evaluation did we begin getting a lot of student interest," he said.

Eberhard said the Honors Program Committee, which has more faculty than student members, has been actively working on a proposed program which would allow honors program undergraduates to do research on the graduate level. He said the program might start as early as next fall if it is approved by the university.

Eberhard said there are several committees that have potential for serving students but are not being utilized. He said the International Student Advisory Committee and the Long Range Campus Planning Committee were good examples.

Battalion reporter Jim Peters, in a recent commentary, said none of the established campus planning committees were ever consulted as to the furnishings in the new Memorial Student Center complex. President Williams established the campus planning committee three years ago in an attempt to draw student input on campus planning. However, it has not met since last spring.

Dr. John J. Koldus, administrative vice president for student services, said he was not sure why the campus planning committee was not consulted on the interior design of the MSC. He said he had worked in the past with the committee on the master plan for the campus which designated, for example, locations of roads and buildings.

"The biggest problem with committee structures," Koldus said, "is that faculty members usually serve on a continuing basis whereas students might serve for only a year."

He said most committees recognize student input but sometimes disagree over what students actually desire.

"Sometimes people don't want input but just want to have their way," Koldus said. "Committee work is always a compromise."

Koldus said he disagreed with Eberhard's contention that students are intimidated by the number of faculty and administrators on university committees.

"I think it's the nature of the personalities of the faculty and administrators on committees that students might feel intimidated by," he said. Koldus said he did not want to see faculty members evaluated unless the results were sent to the respective department heads in order to possibly improve upon course guidelines.

The four university committees that report to Koldus are the Bookstore Allocations Committee, MSC Council, Traffic Panel and the Who's Who Committee. He said all of them have been active this year except for the Bookstore Allocations Committee.

"It was originally designated as an advisory committee," Koldus said, "but it never functioned in an advisory capacity. Koldus had renamed it as an allocations committee last summer."

Koldus said he had originally planned to eliminate the U.S. Volunteer Programs Committee but now says he plans to reappoint a new one in the fall. "Tom Walker was coming up with some plans for that committee but he got bogged down while running for student body president and did not pursue his plans," he said.

As far as student apathy on committees is concerned, Koldus agreed with Eberhard.

"Committee work is not easy and, in the end, a lot of students realize that work is not what they had in mind."

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