

Professors' salaries:

A&M ranks third in comparison with Texas schools of similar size

By HOLLY HUTCHISON
The average salaries of full professors at Texas A&M rank compared to public universities of similar size in Texas.

"We try and pay the faculty more as they teach heavier loads instead of hiring more faculty," he said.

The University of Houston and the University of Texas have higher average salaries for their professors compared to Texas A&M, U of H paying \$24,000, U.T. \$26,000, compared to A&M's \$23,500.

Since 1971, total teachers' salaries at Texas A&M have increased from \$16 million to \$26 million.

In a recent interview, Dr. Has-Monroe, dean of faculties, "Salaries have gone up, but not teaching loads."

University student enrollment increased 78 percent since 1970, and most students are full time. The full-time teachers have a 45 percent increase in teaching time, so they are teaching heavier loads, Monroe said.

The Texas Legislature appropriated the faculty salary money for fiscal 1975-1976 (Sept. 1-Aug. 31) from the teachers' earnings of the summer session and fall semester of 1974 and the spring semester of 1975. The earnings are computed from formulas which are set by the State Coordinating Board in Austin. The formulas are based on how much it costs state schools to teach the courses. The Legislature appropriates 80-82 percent of the formula earnings to all the state colleges and universities.

Earnings for teaching undergraduates per semester hour are as follows: liberal arts—\$18.67, engineering—\$32.82, agriculture—\$25.93, business—\$19.92, science—\$19.97, education—\$17.44, and medicine—\$82.35. The formulas are uniform throughout state universities and colleges.

	Full Prof.	Assoc. Prof.	Asst. Prof.
Texas A&M	\$23,419	\$18,469	\$15,174
University Texas	\$26,033	\$18,872	\$15,520
University Houston	\$24,109	\$18,335	\$15,537
Texas Tech	\$22,057	\$15,517	\$14,707

Figures in the chart are exact. Those in the text have been rounded off.

A professor teaching a 3-hour semester for each student.

The dollar earned under the formulas must be spent on teaching salaries, but according to law, they do not have to be spent in the departments where they are

earned. "Some departments will never be able to earn in salaries as much as they receive by the formula," Monroe said.

Because student enrollment is higher in the fall, the fall semester comes closer to paying for itself than the spring semester or the summer session.

Teachers' salaries differ for reasons other than the formulas,

Monroe said. Teachers can earn more money if they are "outstanding" faculty members. This would include persons who have achieved recognition in research. Experience often increases salary. A teacher in a field of intense competition such as petroleum engineering or accounting may be paid more money, he said.

Students can be a determining factor in teachers' salaries through evaluation of the teacher's performance to the department head or dean, Monroe said.

The rewarding program is part of the merit system. Monroe said, "We are most pleased with a merit salary system. If you do more than the average person, you are paid more—no penalties."

Often colleges are granted merit salary increases in which each college receives the same percent increase, Monroe said. The way the money is distributed is decided by the individual colleges.

Request heeded at floral test gardens

By EDITH CHENAULT

When visitors walk into the Floral Test Garden, they're greeted by a sign that reads: "Take only pictures and leave only footprints." In the seven years that the Garden has been in existence at Texas A&M, there have been virtually no thefts of flowers or plants.

The garden, a cooperative effort between the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences and the maintenance department, was established in 1968 by General Rudder who was then president of the school.

Before the garden was established, the area was nothing but grass. It was cleared, and the lower part was excavated to a depth of about eighteen inches. Soil from the Brazos River bottom was brought in to fill the hole.

A French drainage system was installed, which consisted of trenches dug the length of the garden from both ends. Gravel was placed in the bottom of the trenches and covered up. The system diverts excess water

from the plants and carries it off.

In the summer and fall of 1968, the first crop was planted—bulbs which included tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, and irises. They bloomed around the first of April in 1969.

During the developmental stage of the garden, Vitopil and his associates wrote to about 14 or 15 seed suppliers and asked them to supply the garden with certain varieties of seed. "We got an excellent response from all suppliers," Vitopil said. All the seed that is now used is donated.

The seeds are planted in pots and raised in a greenhouse until they are old enough to be transplanted outside. One or two rows of each variety are planted and the plants are placed one foot apart in rows that are 18 feet long. There are approximately 800-900 varieties of plants in the garden.

There is one area in the garden designated the All-American selection garden. It is a pre-introductory testing and comparative rating area for new flower seed introductions. to 900 varieties of plants in the garden.

Ag eats squiggly worms

By VIR ANDERSON

Eating squiggly brown worms is a fond memory of last summer for David Young, a junior majoring in biochemistry.

Young and five other students worked this past summer for the entomology department in the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Cotton Insect Research Lab here. He said that their job consisted of doing field work on the Texas A&M University Farm, located on FM 60 near Snook.

The worm-eating began after Young and others heard of a fellow worker eating a whole handful of Heliothis moth pupae and decided to try the "tasty" animals themselves.

"I chomped down and it just oozed in my mouth. The worst thing when you pop them in your mouth is that they're turquoise inside," said Young. He added that the pupae tasted like almonds and described eating them by saying they "crunched at first because they were hard on the outside and were gooey inside."

"They were really good! I couldn't believe it," said Young.

He said he ate only 10 pupae but other workers ate more. "We felt kind of like Euell Gibbons as we chomped into them," he said, but then advised not eating insects out in a field since they could have insecticides on them. Young said all of those eaten were raised in a sterile environment in a lab.

The pupae, which resemble brown-skinned peanuts, do have some nutritional value.

"Insects are eaten in many parts of the world as a protein staple and as a regular part of the diet," said Sam House, biological technician at the USDA's Cotton Insect Research Laboratory.

Young's work consisted of counting tobacco budworms and boll weevils in the cotton field test plots, then surveying and recording the damage they did. He also assisted in spraying the fields with viruses and pathogens to kill the insects.

He said the purpose of the research was to find ways to economically control the tobacco budworm and boll weevil which "tear down cotton fields."

Young said he took the job because he wanted a new experience. "It beats life-guarding which I've done for three summers," He added, "I wanted something different."

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