

10 bills passed, one rejected

# Senators try for ground dedication

By LIZ NEULIN  
Battalion Staff

Student senators resolved once again to seek official dedication of the grass around the Memorial Student Center in their regular meeting Wednesday night.

In four hours, the Student Senate passed 10 or 12 pending bills, tabling one and rejecting another. They also spent 30 minutes of the time posing for an Aggeland photographer.

They defeated "Keep of the grass resolution II," which requested that people not walk on the grass to prevent "unsightly worn spots."

"We're not trying to do this to preserve the landscape," said Mike Humphrey, vice president for academic affairs and a sponsor of the approved bill. The senate asked that the grass be dedicated to "former students of Texas A&M University (who) have fought valiantly in defense of their nation, state and alma mater." Signs informing people of the memorial status of the grounds were also requested in the resolution.

"Traditions start in very small ways," said Warren Neeley, vice president of the Traditions Council. "We're trying to help out this tradition."

"This is an emotional issue," Libby Wallingford, a member of the Traditions Council, said in an uncommonly quiet senate chamber. "It's about men who died for A&M... Why not set aside some

grass... for these men who died for us? Why let a few people run our traditions? Traditions at A&M are slowly slipping away." Applause followed her speech.

Humphrey pointed out that the grass has been informally dedicated for many years. He also brought petitions asking to memorialize the grass. More than 3,000 signatures were obtained two days this week.

But senator Lynn Gibson, president of the MSC Council, said if a tradition is made into a rule, some people will be encouraged to break it.

"I don't believe in legislating traditions," said Gibson. The council last month designated the policy not discouraging use of the grass. "We did not in any attempt to change tradition... Traditions weren't rules to follow. They were made by students of this university."

"That grass has already been shrined in spirit," said Phil Sutton, vice president for external af-

fairs. The signs would be informing, not legislating, a tradition, he said. The senate passed the bill by voice vote.

The Campus Chest fund was changed to an emergency fund by senate action. Loans of any amount, due in 60 days, may be made when a student's need is determined as an emergency.

Defining such emergencies will be up to the loan fund chairman and must be approved by one of five student senate vice presidents, the executive director or the student body president. Penalties for overdue loans were also eliminated.

"Since it's an emergency loan fund, we don't need a penalty," said Fred Pheiffer, Campus Chest chairman. If the loan is not paid back, the fund chairman may block transcripts or registration until full payment is made.

Power to appoint a temporary blood drive research committee was taken from the Student Government executive director and given

to the speaker of the senate. Another measure passed by senators. The speaker will appoint a committee each year to recommend a blood firm to direct the drive.

"The senate should be more involved in research areas," said Hensarling, sponsor of the bill. Amendments to place the committee under the vice president of student services or external affairs were defeated.

A measure which passed without debate directs the student body president to report the student legislation passed during the previous semester as part of his address to the senate at the beginning of each semester.

Senators established a committee to investigate University Council membership and operations, which will disband after delivering its report in February.

Senators also voted to amend laws to include a parliamentary

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