

Board studies Q-drop

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grade point averages although they are doing no better work than former students. If grade inflation means fewer students are getting F's because they Q-drop courses, it would lead to grade inflation.

C.J. Leabo, member of the A.O.C. and coordinator of the general studies program, said he would like to see the Q-drop system remain as it is now.

"I think that there is merit in students having the option to drop courses. I think students pay for it with their loss of time and money."

Leabo said he thinks there is faculty abuse of Q-drops as well as student abuse. He cited the example of professors who tell their students to drop the course if they don't make a certain grade on a test.

Leabo said advisors play a major role in Q-dropping.

"We shouldn't just rubber stamp Q-drops. We should take the time to talk to the students, to make them aware of the consequences if they drop the course," he said.

Statistics released by the registrar's office reveal that there were 837 Q-drops this semester, more than half of which occurred in the final ten-day period. This marks a 9.6 percent increase in Q-drops over the fall semester of 1976, with an increase of only 4.8 percent in student enrollment.

Dates for Q-drops have fluctuated since 1964. At that time, students were allowed to Q-drop until the day before the final exams. In 1969, students could Q-drop only through the twelfth class day.

The policy was extended in 1973 to the twentieth class day, and in 1975 students could Q-drop through the

Rites today for former Ag. head

Services for Elmer R. "Alex" Alexander, 89, former head of agricultural education at Texas A&M University, will be held at 2 p.m. today at Memorial Funeral Chapel with burial in Restever Cemetery in Bryan.

He died late Tuesday in a local hospital.

The central campus flag will be lowered to half staff Dec. 20 in memory of Alexander, who served as head of the Agricultural Education Department from 1928 until he retired in 1953.

Born Oct. 3, 1888 in Bridgeport, he joined the faculty of what was then the Agricultural & Mechanical College of Texas in 1919 after earning his bachelor of arts degree from Baylor University. While at Texas A&M, he received a B.S. degree in 1923 and earned a M.S. degree in 1926.

Alexander was vice president emeritus of National Farm Life Insurance Co. and formerly taught at West High School. He also had worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Farm Bureau. He once served on the Governor's Advisory Committee on Veteran's Education and was author of "Cotton Section in Southern Field Crops" and co-author of "Southwestern Agriculture." Alexander resided at 1119 Ashburn in College Station.

He became the first state advisor to the Future Farmers of America in 1929 when the state association received its charter.

last class day prior to the reporting of mid-term grades. The present policy of allowing Q-drops through the eighth week of class has been in effect since 1976.

If the current policy is to be changed, the A.O.C. subcommittee will have to recommend revisions to Cooper. The matter would then be turned over to the Academic Policy Committee, which is comprised of the deans from each college. After A.P.C. approval, the proposal would go to the Rules and Regulations Committee of the Academic Council. Rules and Regulations is comprised of students, faculty and staff members. If Rules and Regulations approved the change, the proposal would then go to University President Jarvis Miller for his approval.

Two student members of the Rules and Regulations Committee said they would be opposed to moving the final date for Q-drops to earlier in the semester.

Committee member Allison King, a senior marketing major, said she would not approve of a revision in the Q-drop policy.

"As a representative of the students, I would have to disagree with changing the date for Q-drops," King said. "A lot of times students don't have a test in a class until right before mid-terms are reported. I don't think an earlier Q-drop date would

be fair to students.

Susan Rudd, a freshman med student and Rules and Regulations Committee member, said if the revision proposes that Q-drop be moved to the twelfth class day, she would be against it.

"I think students should be given as much time as possible to decide whether they will be successful in a course," Rudd said.

She added that she might be willing to compromise if there were proof that the present Q-drop date presents major problems to the faculty and staff.

Compared to four other Texas universities, A&M's Q-drop policy is one of the most liberal. North Texas State University, like A&M, sets the final date for Q-drops at a week after mid-term grade reports. Texas Tech University allows students to drop through the fifth week of class with no penalty.

The University of Houston sets the final date for Q-drops at four weeks after classes begin. At the University of Texas, students can Q-drop courses through the fourth week of class with no penalty. Students at U.T. can also Q-drop courses in which they have a C average through the week after mid-term grades without penalty but students who drop course they are failing then receive an F.

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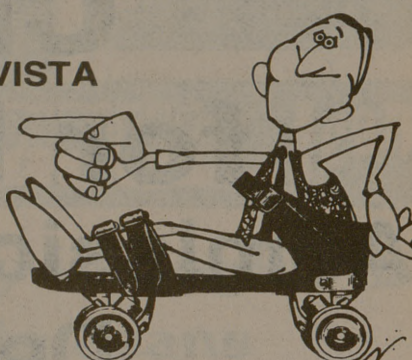
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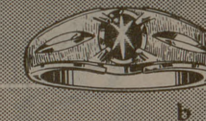

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INFORMATION TABLE: Student Center



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