

The Battalion

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Committee checks leaders' grades

By KIM TYSON
Battalion Campus Editor

Grade qualifications for student government members will be checked, says Allison King, vice president of rules and regulations.

King said Friday she set up a credentials committee to check mid-year grade averages, after rumors circulated that certain student leaders do not meet grade standards required to hold office.

Tom Paterson, the committee's chairman, said he plans to issue waivers to all student government members at Wednesday's student senate meeting.

The waiver would permit the registrar's office to see if grades meet the minimum requirement stated in the constitution. Grades cannot be checked without written consent according to privacy laws regarding access to personal records.

The constitution states, "All members of the student government executive com-

mittee shall have an overall grade point ratio of at least 2.500 at the time of their election or appointment and post at least a 2.000 GPR during their term of office." (The Battalion incorrectly reported this as "during their first term of office" in a story last Thursday.)

"Members of the student senate must have an overall grade point ratio of at least 2.250 at the time of their election and maintain a 2.000 GPR during their term of office."

King had previously not acted, she said, because she felt it was not her delegated duty. She said she also plans a constitutional by-laws revision to formally tell students that student government is responsible for seeing whether their grades meet academic standards of their offices.

King said Paterson will report directly to her, and that she will report his findings to the senate.

"We aren't sure whether we'll have problems with senators saying they won't sign to have their grades released," King said.

Paterson said he thought most members would sign if they felt the requirement was justified. He said the fact that both the constitution and the University Rules and Regulations have grade requirements would make students feel this was justified.

Eugene Lyles, assistant student legal adviser, said that legally the grades can't be checked without consent but that refusing to have their grades checked would make students eligible for removal by the judicial board. The judicial board has final authority to rule on constitutional violations.

A writ of mandamus was filed Thursday ordering King to act, but was withdrawn after she announced she had set up the committee.

Begin blasts Sadat's speech

Israel won't attend talks

United Press International

JERUSALEM - Israel says it will not attend military talks in Cairo, bringing all direct negotiations with Egypt to a halt. But a senior U.S. official predicts the two nations will resume peace talks within 10 days.

Prime Minister Menahem Begin, after a 3 1/2-hour cabinet meeting Sunday, announced Israel would postpone the departure of its delegation to the defense ministers' conference in Cairo. He said it was because of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's tough speech Saturday.

In his speech, Sadat told his Parliament Egypt would fight "until the end of the world" if Israel refuses to withdraw from captured Arab land. He asked for sophisticated American arms, like those included in Israel's arsenal.

"Before the Egyptian people's assembly, President Sadat made an extremist, aggressive speech and addressed ultimatums to Israel that are totally unacceptable," Begin said.

Begin today was scheduled to address the Knesset, Israel's parliament, on the stalled peace moves. Sadat was meeting with Foreign Minister Mohammed Kamel to "reassess the situation," the official Cairo daily Al-Ahram said.

Begin's announcement Sunday, which halted all direct negotiations between Egypt and Israel, followed Sadat's surprise recall of Egyptian delegates from a foreign ministers' meeting in Jerusalem last week.

Despite their harsh statements, both sides left open the possibility of resuming peace talks.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance returned to Washington Sunday from a Middle East mission. A senior official aboard his plane said direct talks would resume in one week to 10 days with the United States acting as mediator. He said the rhetoric of both sides would cool and the talks eventually would progress slowly and quietly.

The official, who could not be identified, also said the United States "would be willing to take a look at" Sadat's request for sophisticated American weapons, including fighter planes.

U.S. Undersecretary of State Alfred

Atherton is remaining in the Middle East. He will continue working on a statement of principles that was under discussion in Jerusalem.

In Sadat's speech Saturday, he called for total withdrawal from land occupied by Israel in the 1967 war and recognition of Palestinian rights to self-determination, two points repeatedly rejected by Israel.

Begin said Israel is interested in a "suitable atmosphere for the calm conduct of negotiations."

Russians complete first in-space docking

United Press International

MOSCOW - The Soviet Union has accomplished another space first by docking a pilotless space capsule with a manned orbiting space laboratory.

The Progress 1 linked up with the Salyut 6 space station early Sunday, delivering fuel and other supplies to two Soyuz 26 cosmonauts now in their seventh week in orbit.

The official Tass news agency said it was the first time a robot spacecraft had carried out an automatic docking to deliver supplies to a manned station in orbit.

But it was not thought to involve a breakthrough in technology because the Soviets are believed to carry out even the dockings of manned capsules by ground control.

"The mutual search, rendezvous, tethering and linkup of the spacecraft was carried out automatically with the use of onboard radio-technical means and computing devices," Tass said.

Cosmonauts Yuri Romanenko and Georgy Grechko "conducted observations and control over tethering and linkup," it said.

The Soyuz 26 cosmonauts blasted into space Dec. 10 and boarded the Salyut Dec. 11. They were joined Jan. 11 by the Soyuz 27 cosmonauts, making history's first double space docking.

The operation gave the Soviets at least a temporary lead in space shuttles over the United States, which will not launch its first shuttle until next year. The U.S. shuttle will regularly carry men, equipment and satellites to and from orbit on missions lasting up to a month, while the Soviets are concentrating on long-term stays in space.

Tass said that after unloading fuel, life support and scientific materials from the Progress, the cosmonauts will reload the robot craft with their waste and it will be sent into the dense layers of the atmosphere to burn up.

Congress to battle over Panama treaty

United Press International

WASHINGTON - Formal action on the Panama Canal treaties was beginning this week in two Senate committees. But at least one senator thinks the issue's shock waves already are causing delaying tactics on the Senate floor.

Ratification preliminaries on the canal accords were the major business of the first full week of the 95th Congress's second session. The Foreign Relations Committee began its work on the documents and the more hawkish Armed Services Committee started three days of hearings on it.

The Armed Services Committee has no jurisdiction over the treaties, but there could be a damaging impact if it should make an adverse report on the military and operational impact of the treaties.

President Carter has said he is not willing to accept any amendments, which would require new negotiations with the Republic of Panama. But many Senate insiders believe ratification probably cannot be obtained without them.

One key foreign relations member may be the committee's lowest-ranking Republican-Senate minority leader Howard Baker, who in an interview on NBC-TV's Face the Nation Sunday warned there is a "tough fight" and uncertain outcome ahead.

He said following a trip to Panama during the recess he would support the accords and work for their ratification - if certain changes were made.

Meanwhile, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and others feel the floor fight over the treaties may already be under way. Kennedy's effort to win action on amendments to the criminal code reform

legislation has been stalled with some of the treaty's best-known opponents in the vanguard.

As a result, it appears the Senate may be tied up all week on the proposed sweeping overhaul of the archaic statutes.

The House planned action on 14 bills this week, almost all of them routine. The major one - if it clears the Rules Committee - would tighten up existing procedures for offshore oil or other type exploration.

A&M's tuition rates favorably in comparison

Texas A&M University's rates for tuition, fees and room and board compare favorably with those of other major public institutions of higher learning, according to results of a national survey.

Only 15 of 131 institutions responding to a survey by the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) showed lower totals than the \$410 reported by Texas A&M for tuition and fees for resident students.

Texas A&M was one of 53 institutions which did not increase resident tuition and fees this year and one of 50 which held the line on such expenses for non-resident students.

In room and board, the university ranks as the 60th most economical of the institutions included in the NASULGC study.



One more load

It may be cold, but there are some Texas A&M employees who have to work outside. Grounds maintenance workers fill a wheelbarrow full of leaves gathered in front of the Academic Building.

Battalion photo by Jamie Aitken

Primary, caucus season limited

Party reforms favor Carter

WASHINGTON - Any Democrat thinking of challenging President Carter for the party nomination two years from now can find little to cheer about in the work of the party's special panel on delegate selection. The 58-member Winograd Commission penciled in the final changes on two years of reform work Sunday. It managed to

limit the primary and caucus season, wipe out often-mischiefous, cross-over primaries and devise a complex system for delegate allocation.

Now the reforms go to the Democratic National Committee for routine review. The process was not smooth, and there were frequent complaints that the language was inexplicable.

As it stands now, at the end of two long days of debate:

The 1980 Democratic caucus and primary season should run 13 weeks from the second Tuesday in March to the second Tuesday in June. A special exemption for New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary was expected, however. States that selected delegates in that 13-week time

frame in 1976 are forbidden to move outside it in 1980. The primary-caucus period in 1976 was more than 20 weeks. Carter partisans were all for this one.

The ruling will have no bearing on so-called "beauty contest" primaries that do not award delegates.

To win delegates in future primaries or caucuses, a candidate now must exceed an escalating threshold of vote percentages - another Carter-backed move. In 1976 that threshold was 15 percent of the vote. It also was optional. In 1980, the threshold will be 15 percent up to the second Tuesday in May and rise to 25 percent thereafter. For primaries, the thresholds are mandatory. For caucuses, the rules are more flexible.

There is an asterisk, however. To prevent a winner-take-all situation in the event only one candidate exceeds the threshold, the commission said a percentage of the delegates will be awarded to the second-place finisher.

The escalating percentages will make it tougher to mount late challenges to Carter. The strict 13-week selection limit will stop any hopeful from building momentum in caucuses before New Hampshire - something Carter did in 1976.

State at-large delegate spots will be used to address deficiencies in the number of women or minority delegates. The commission also agreed to increase each delegation by 10 percent to provide voting rights to state party officials and elected officeholders. This means at least 300 more delegates will attend the 1980 convention.

Open primary states - Michigan, Wisconsin and Montana in 1976 - which allow Republicans to vote for Democratic candidates and vice versa, will have to discontinue that practice or drop their primaries. Party officials say the crossovers have fouled results of their contests in the past.

Scotland police find five bodies scattered in snow

EDINBURGH, Scotland - Police have now found five bodies scattered throughout snowbound Scotland in a bizarre murder case involving a former member of Parliament and his wife.

A suspect in the case was scheduled for a court appearance today. British law bars

identifying the suspect until he is formally charged.

Police already had found the body of former MP Walter Scott-Elliott, 82, he was educated at Eton with World War I service in the elite Cold Stream Guards. Also discovered were the bodies of his butler's

brother and the brother's common-law wife.

Police, battling a weekend blizzard, found another woman's body Sunday near a power station on the road from Comrie to St. Fillens, 58 miles northwest of Edinburgh. She was believed to be Mrs. Scott-Elliott.

Saturday they had found the body of a man on an estate 10 miles from the Scotland home of Scott-Elliott. It was believed to have been David Wright, a gardener who once worked for the Scott-Elliotts.

The investigation moved to Scotland Jan. 15 after police in London broke into Scott-Elliott's posh apartment to find it ransacked, bloodstained and robbed of antique porcelain, jewelry, cash and credit cards.

The search for the Scott-Elliotts linked their disappearance to the Christmas Day discovery of the body of a woman dressed in man's clothing in a stream at Dumfries, 60 miles south of Edinburgh.

She was identified as Mary Coggle, common-law wife of Donald Hall, 37, the brother of Scott-Elliott's butler, Archibald Hall.

Donald Hall's body was found naked and hooded in the trunk of a car outside a hotel 40 miles north of Edinburgh Jan. 16.

University ranks seventh in support, gifts received

Texas A&M University ranks seventh among the nation's public institutions in receiving gifts and other support from private sources, reveals a survey by Brakeley, John Price Jones Inc., a development-related firm based in New York.

Texas A&M's ranking was based on 1975-76 gifts totaling \$14.4 million. The 1976-77 total, which will not be reflected in national surveys until next year, is \$15.5 million.

While ranking seventh nationally overall, Texas A&M placed third in two categories: support from business and industry, and alumni. Only Michigan and Il-

linois topped Texas A&M in the business and industry category, while the top spots in amounts of money received from alumni are held by Michigan State and Wisconsin. In percentage of alumni donating to their alma mater, Texas A&M ranks second, with 37 percent, topped only by Georgia Tech at 41.8 percent.

Texas A&M placed seventh in the category for foundation assistance. The leading institutions are Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, California at San Francisco, California at Los Angeles and California at Berkeley.