

The Battalion

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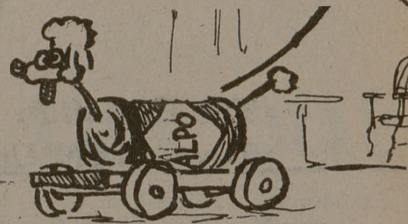
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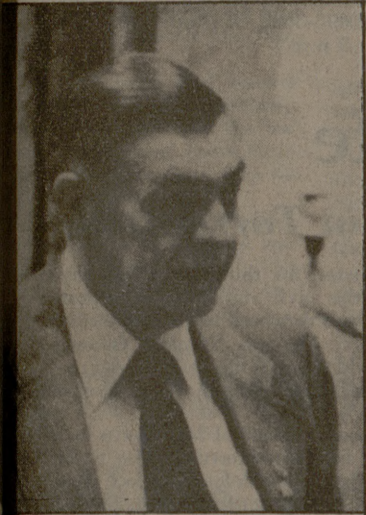
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Regents promote three, appoint one



Dr. Fred Benson



William G. Locke

By LEE ROY LESCHPER
Battalion Staff

Following what is becoming almost a habit, Texas A&M University's Board of Regents has promoted three University administrators and appointed a fourth.

The board has made administrative changes in five of its six meetings in the last nine months.

Dr. Fred J. Benson, dean of the College of Engineering since 1957, was appointed University vice president for engineering and non-renewable resources in yesterday's meeting. The regents created that position during their September meeting.

Dr. Thomas T. Sugihara, professor of chemistry and director of the University Cyclotron Institute, was named dean of the College of Science. Ed Davis, director of University management services, was promoted to assistant vice president for business affairs.

William G. Locke, a former vice president of the Limbeck Corporation, Houston, was appointed assistant director for administration for the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

The appointments, made by University President Jarvis Miller and approved by the board of regents, are effective Feb. 1. Sugihara, Davis and Locke all fill positions left vacant by earlier promotions.

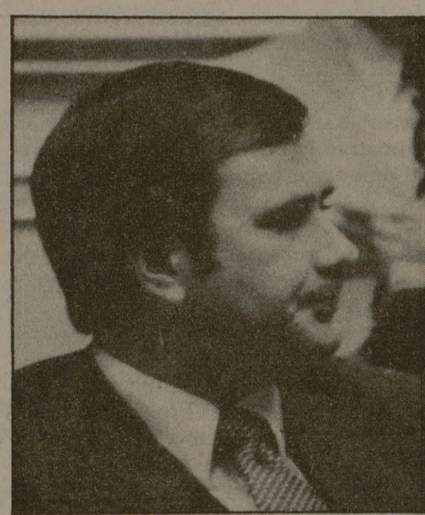
The board created the vice president for

engineering post which Benson assumes, along with a vice president for agriculture position which has yet to be filled, at their September meeting. President Miller requested those positions in an effort to coordinate the research and public service programs of those two areas.

Benson joined Texas A&M's civil engineering faculty in 1937 after earning his master's degree from Texas A&M. In addition to being dean of engineering for 20 years, he had directed the Texas Engineering Experiment Station since 1959. Now vice president of the University Research Foundation, he directed that organization from 1963 to 1977. The Kansas native received his undergraduate degree at Kansas State University.

Dr. Sugihara became head of the University Cyclotron Institute in 1971 after four years on the Texas A&M faculty.

A native of Colorado reared in Southern California, Sugihara earned his undergraduate degree at Kalamazoo College in Michigan and master's and doctorate at the University of Chicago. After post-doctoral work at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he joined the faculty of Clark University in Massachusetts, where he was chairman of that school's chemistry department before coming to Texas A&M. Davis joined the University business affairs department in 1972 as assistant direc-



Ed Davis



Dr. Thomas Sugihara

tor of management services. He became director three years later. A 1967 graduate of Texas A&M, he earned a master's degree from the University in 1973. Before he joined Texas A&M's staff, Davis served four years as a U.S. Army intelligence officer. Davis was Corps cadet colonel his senior year at Texas A&M.

Locke entered private business in 1969 after a 21-year military career, joining the Dallas-based Wylly Corporation. The 1948 West Point graduate joined Limbeck Corporation in 1975. The Arkansas native earned a master's degree in 1964 from the Harvard School of Business Administration.

Construction contracts approved by Board

Over \$3.5 million in contracts for construction and improvements within the Texas A&M University System were approved by the system's board of regents Tuesday.

Two-thirds of the appropriations, in one \$2.4 million contract, went for construction of a new classroom-laboratory building at the system's Moody Maritime College in Galveston.

Texas A&M University projects accounted for most of the remaining appropriations. The board allocated \$474,411 for stated design work on an academic and library building at the University, scheduled for completion in 1979. The existing building, future home of the English Department, College of Business Administration and Texas Transportation Institute, is expected to cost \$16 million.

Duncan Dining Hall will receive \$6,750 in improvements under a contract the regents awarded to R. B. Butler, Inc. of Bryan. Campus improvements including additional lighting, improved utilities at the Firemen Training Center and storm drainage expansion near G. Roland White Coliseum were covered in a \$1,675 contract awarded to Jordan &

Woods General Contractors of College Station.

The board allocated \$58,158 for installation of a sprinkler-type fire protection system in the basement of the Memorial Student Center. A fire in the basement of the Center last summer heavily damaged materials stored there, but did not damage the Center itself.

Preliminary design work for 10 new married student apartment buildings was approved under a \$20,612 appropriation. Some board members had earlier questioned construction of the new apartments. But after touring present married student apartments Sunday and Monday, the board agreed to continue plans for the apartments.

The fifth and sixth floors of the University library addition now under construction will be completed as soon as possible, thanks to a \$161,400 appropriation from the board. Originally the interiors of those two floors were to be left unfinished.

In the move faculty members probably consider most important each year, the board approved promotions for 109 University and Texas Agricultural Experiment Station faculty members and granted tenure to 78 faculty members.

Students won't get benefits of new wage law until later

By TERRI HUFF

Texas A&M University students employed on campus will not receive immediate benefits from the new minimum wage law, according to H. Ray Smith, director of personnel for Texas A&M.

The minimum wage for staff employees moved to \$2.65 Jan. 1, but it remained at \$2.30 for the 2,500 to 2,700 student workers. Funds appropriated for the university by the Texas Legislature during their last session was for a two-year period from Sept. 1, 1977, through Aug. 31, 1979.

"They did not allocate their funds based on a minimum wage situation," Smith said, "so the result is when we go from \$2.30 to \$2.65 for staff employees, sufficient funds are not left to pay for such increases on the student side."

A 1976 Supreme Court decision removed universities from minimum wage guidelines, so technically the University is not required by the federal government to pay the federally accepted minimum wage to either staff or students. However, Smith said, "We feel it's essential on the staff side for all of our regular employees to be recruited, trained, and retained if we're to have a continued efficient operation of the university. To be competitive on the staff side we have to stay up with the federal minimum wage because all of our competitors by law are not exempt as universities are."

The Texas A&M staff minimum wage will rise again Sept. 1 of this year to \$2.90 per hour. At that time, however, the stu-

dent employees will also receive an increase.

Their minimum wage will move from \$2.30 to \$2.50 and the University also will begin paying 5.85 percent of their social security contribution.

"We are talking about a 14.5 percent increase in the minimum wage Sept. 1 for students," Smith said. "The 5.85 percent increase in social security will make the students' salary go from \$2.50 to approximately 2.64 per hour," he said.

The state appropriates funds for the running of the University, but certain areas on campus must generate their own funds such as the management services area, which includes food services, and the student services areas, Smith says. "To increase the minimum wage for our student labor to \$2.65 Jan. 1 and to \$2.90 Sept. 1 as we did on our staff side would result in an increase in cost in the food service area alone of an estimated \$100,000 and in the dormitory operation area, \$80,000. The result would be higher rates," he said.

Smith said that no one making \$2.65 or above before \$2.65 became the new minimum wage had received a raise as of yet. "We probably have some less than desirable situations on campus at this point," he said. Persons earning \$2.65 who may have had some seniority while the minimum wage was still \$2.30 now are making only the minimum. "Some of these persons may be unhappy at this point, but again because of the availability of funds, we simply could not maintain consistency. Starting Sept. 1, and through the years we hope to maintain this proper balance," he said.

Smith said that as positions on campus become vacant his office would make sure these positions are needed before they are refilled. However, he said there were no plans at this time to eliminate any position should a vacancy occur.

Also, there are situations on campus in which part-time non-student employees are performing the same duties as student workers, Smith said.

Lower rates unprofitable

Banks stop giving loans to students

By CHERYL HICKMAN

Currently in Bryan and College Station, banks have stopped lending to students through the Federally Insured Student Loan Program.

Federally insured student loans are low interest, long-term loans made through banks. They have no relation to the Texas A&M University funded Hinson-Hazlewood loans although both of these loans must be applied for through the University Financial Aid department and must be university approved.

Federally insured loans are based on individual need. Under the program, an undergraduate student can borrow up to \$2,500 each academic year with a maximum total loan of \$10,000. This loan draws seven percent interest and gives the borrower up to 10 years after graduation

for repayment.

However, the low interest rate, the large amounts of money, the long repayment period, and a nationally high default rate make these student loans unprofitable for most banks. The banks could make more money using these funds to make higher interest, short term loans. Therefore, most banks either set aside relatively small amounts of money to be used in the program or they don't participate in the program.

"In a way, this is public relations work," said Al Bormann, assistant director for the Texas A&M Student Financial Aid Department. Bormann said that many banks make these loans in hopes that the borrowing student will eventually become a permanent depositor with the bank.

"So they take the chance that even if

they lose money on the federally insured program they can make it back through their depositors," said Bormann.

Many banks, however, do not take this position. "A lot of banks are real profit oriented and when they're in a situation that might cost them money, they get out of it," said Bill Landiss, a loan officer at University National Bank.

Only two banks in Bryan-College Station will participate in the federally insured program. Those two banks, University National and City National, have loaned out all of the funds they have available for the program. They will not be making any more federally insured student loans until enough money from repayment of outstanding loans becomes available.

Under the program, these loans are in-

sured by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare so if the student defaults, the lending bank is repaid by the federal government. However, if the bank has a high default rate "the government can punish them and not pay back 100 percent of the loan," said Bormann.

First National Bank in Bryan dropped the federally insured program in November 1977, for this reason. Orlan Weatherford, senior vice president of the bank said, "We turned in a couple of bad reports on paybacks."

Bormann suggested that anyone interested in a federally insured loan should look for a lender bank in his home town. "Loans are usually made available to kids through their parents' bank," said Bormann.

Concepts not needed to graduate, Lacey says

By LIZ NEWLIN
Battalion Staff

Physical education instructors misinformed students when they said the course known as Concepts is required for graduation.

Registrar R. A. Lacey and Dr. C. W. Landiss, head of the health and P.E. department, agree that Concepts is not necessary to graduate.

P.E. instructors have been told of the clarification, said Emil Mamaliga, head of required P.E. and elective activity programs.

Student academic advisers will be notified through a change in the schedule of classes.

Both offices encourage students to take the course, which will be renamed "Physical Fitness Evaluation."

The name "Concepts" is taken from the book used in the course and does not adequately describe what students study, Mamaliga said.

"We urge that they take it," he said. "We just feel the student is the loser."

Topics in the course include body structure and physiology, fitness, exercise, cancer detection, back care and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). A swimming test and physical fitness evaluation also appear in Concepts.

"We feel they need to be given this information someplace," Mamaliga said. "Many don't understand how unfit they are. Awareness is the basis of the course."

The Academic Council, which sets requirements for graduation, states four semester hours of P.E. are needed for physically able students. Concepts is not mentioned specifically. That regulation has not been changed in at least four years, said Dr. Tom Adair, secretary of the council and acting head of the physics department.

Generally, students complete P.E. 101, 102, 201 and 202 for the requirement. Beginning last semester, students who signed up for P.E. 101 were assigned to Concepts. When classes became full, the computer had instructions to place them in P.E. 102 and reassign them to P.E. 101 later.

But the registrar cannot tell from a stu-

dent's transcript whether or not he has taken the course.

"All we're interested in for graduation is, 'Do you have four semesters in P.E.?'"

Lacey said. "If it's less than four, then we find problems, not before."

Campus buses not equipped for handicapped

The new intra-campus shuttle system that operates daily has offered most students a taste of mass transit. But there are still those that are unable to take advantage of the system.

The buses, rented from Transportation Enterprises, Inc. of Austin, are not equipped to handle handicapped students.

Under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, sect. 504, university sponsored activities and programs should be made accessible to all students. This includes the intra-campus shuttle buses, said Don Gardner, local Texas Rehabilitation Commission representative.

The buses could be modified by the addition of a hydraulic lift. The student would roll onto the lift, be elevated to the level of the bus, and wheel on in.

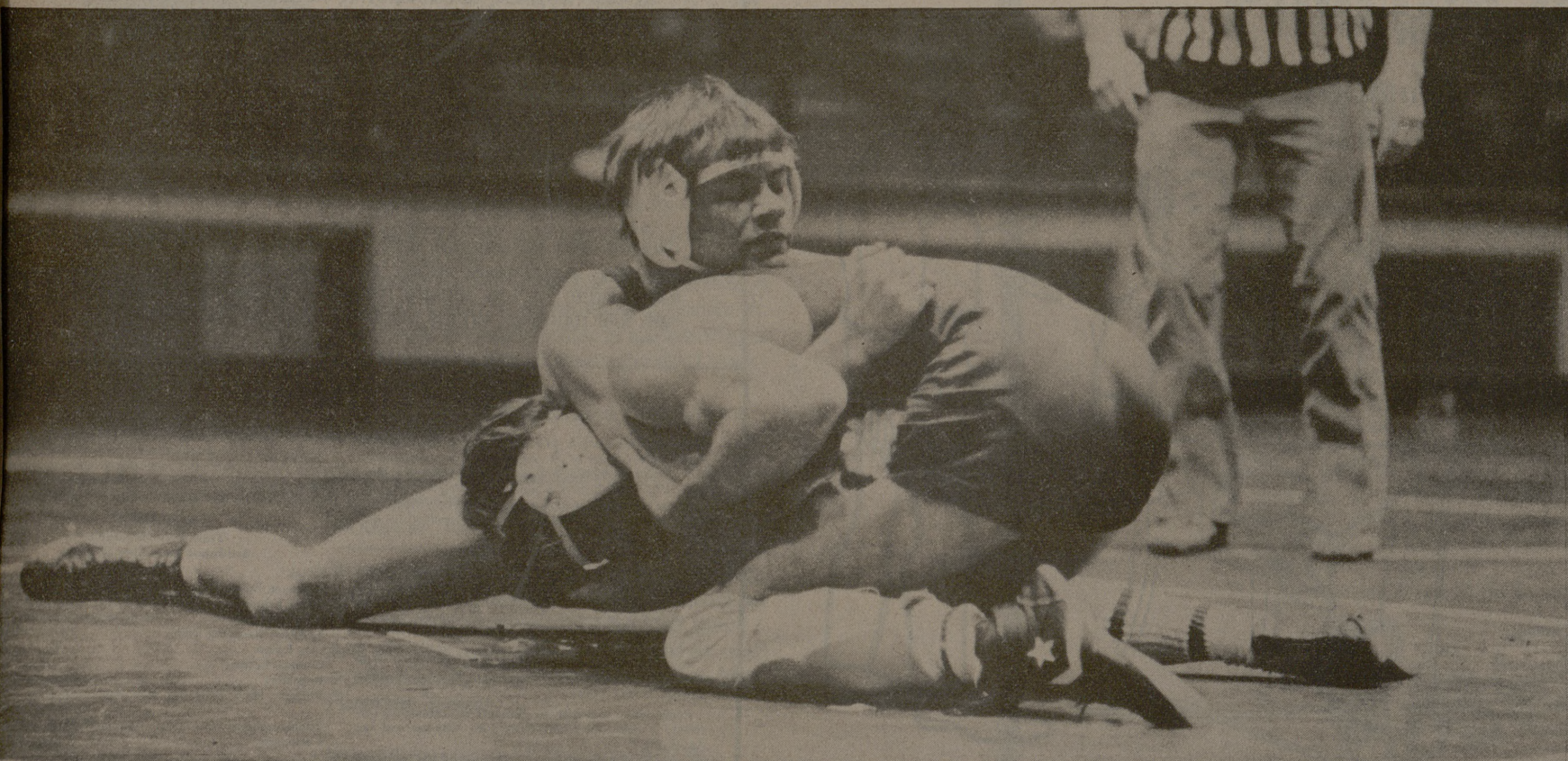
Howard Perry, associate vice president of student services, discussed the matter.

The intra-campus shuttle system is presently on a trial basis. Funds for the system have been taken from the student services fee reserve and Texas A&M Bookstore profits.

The decision will be reached at the end of the month as to whether or not the buses will run on a full-scale basis. At this time, the situation for the handicapped will also be taken into consideration.

The Student Services Committee is aware of the responsibility of providing this service for handicapped students and is presently looking into the cost of modifying the buses, Perry said.

As an alternative to modifying the shuttle buses, a "vehicle-on-call" has been suggested to serve the handicapped students, Perry said. This would involve a van that would be available to take wheelchair students around campus.



Aggie wrestlers win 45-10

Battalion photo by Ken Herrera

The Aggie Wrestling Team won against Richland College, one of the best wrestling teams in the state, 45-10. There were five forfeits by the Richland team because of injury. Number 1 - Larry

Johnson in the 134 pound class won by a score of 7-4. Number 2 - John Sweat in the 142 pound class won by a pin in only 31 seconds. (Related story, page 13.)