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Senate approves budget

By ANDY WILLIAMS
Battalion Campus Editor

Debate over money proposed to fund awards and a reception for student senators highlighted the special meeting at which Texas A&M University's student government budget for 1978-79 was approved Wednesday night.

In other action, Bill Jentsch was appointed chairman of the election commission by student body president Bobby Tucker.

As approved, the new budget totals \$27,546.58. Aggie Muster and participation by Texas A&M students in the American Student Federation will be paid for from this money, as will numerous other programs and \$13,122 of administrative costs of student government.

The budget proposals were presented to the senate Monday. They were amended by senators that night, then by a committee headed by Wayne Morrison, vice president for finance, during the next three days.

The budget, as revised by the committee, contained many cuts in funds. The only increase over a sum proposed by the senate was one of \$150 added to the original suggested \$700 to pay for awards and a reception for the senate's members. The figure was eventually reduced to \$675.

"It seems to me the duty of the senate is not to reward itself for a well done," said senator Mark Tucker in proposing that the \$850 figure be reduced.

No copies of the budget were released before the meeting Wednesday. Morrison said that money made "partly to protect ourselves. In a budget, any time you make a cut, someone is going to be hurt. We wanted a chance to explain to the fore people could criticize us for making cuts."

"I would strongly question one who would question the budget," Morrison said.

He said that at the beginning of the school year, the senate had \$1,055 in outstanding bills that could not pay. These have now been covered by money made from refrigerators rented to students in the student government, he said.

Much of the debate dealt with spending approximately \$1,700 on projects connected with the newly organized American Student Federation, of which Texas A&M student Jeb Hensarling is president. The association is a national lobbying group for students.

J.C. Colton, vice president of academic affairs, and Austin Stelling, vice president for rules and regulations, said they preferred to see money spent on traditional Aggie functions.

"What I'm saying is, when it's time to cut, let's don't start with Aggie traditions," Colton said in reference to a reduction of \$400 in funds for Aggie Muster made by a committee from the \$1,500 originally designated by the senate.

Hensarling said the senate had previously passed legislation which stated that it will support the federation.

"Put your money where your mouth is," Hensarling said. "If you want the influence, it's going to be some money."

The senate eventually voted to accept the committee's proposal of \$1,100 for Muster.

Dinner presented to honor senator

State Sen. Bill Moore promised at a dinner held in his honor Tuesday to support the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The districts' goals include lower property taxes and freedom from government regulation.

The 5th District senator called the SWCDs' personnel "the only environmentalists that exist, and certainly the only ones that I listen to."

"Any way I can aid you in the legislative process, I certainly intend to do," Moore said.

The Moore appreciation dinner was given by the Washington SWCD at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park.

Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, a guest speaker, praised Moore for his role in getting the recent tax amendment passed, action which Hobby credited for making property tax administration a local affair.

Top state and local officials of the SWCDs and numerous judges and commissioners from the 19 counties in the 5th senatorial district attended the dinner.

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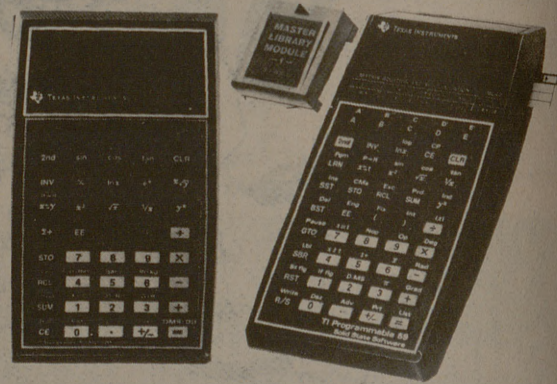
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