

# Tuition increase being considered

## Revenue wouldn't benefit A&M

by DEBBIE NELSON  
Battalion Staff

A Texas Senate Concurrent Resolution committee report pushing a 100 percent student tuition increase has been making waves at public state colleges and universities.

All SCR 101 recommendations are simply proposals to the governor. Only the Texas Legislature (which reconvenes in Spring 1981) can raise tuition, for no sooner than the Fall 1981 semester.

Even if tuition doubles, there is a chance Texas A&M would receive little benefit.

Howard Vestal, vice president for business affairs at Texas A&M, said the SCR 101 committee report was created mainly for funding construction at Texas colleges and universities which do not receive Permanent University Fund money.

Texas A&M and the University of Texas are the only schools receiving the constitutionally-based PUF money, and would receive no construction funds from such an account.

New funding for construction is needed, Vestal said, because the last Texas Legislature passed a bill reducing the ad valorem tax — from which schools other than Texas A&M and UT got extra funds — to virtually nothing.

Other uses SCR 101 has proposed for tuition-increase money include more student grants and scholarships.

The Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System, Friday in Austin proposed uses for funds from tuition increases, should they become law. The Coordinating Board's recommendations are just that, and have no more authority than the recommendations of the committee itself.

Mack C. Adams, head of the division of student services for the Coordinating Board, said the Board decided to "ask the legislature to give first priority to increasing faculty salaries."

In addition, Adams said the Coordinating Board requested a separate building fund which would "aid the repair and rehabilitation of buildings as well as provide for new construction."

A constitutionally-created fund now funds new building construction, Adams said, but makes no allowances for repairing existing buildings.

The SCR 101 will meet again Wednesday to further discuss proposals for the tuition increase, Adams said.

Adams said the last time state tuition increased significantly was 1957, when establishment of a \$50-per-semester minimum had students paying nearly 16 percent of their educational costs. Out-of-state students, at \$200 per semester, were paying 63 percent of their educational costs.

Adams estimates each semester hour of college credit now costs the state of Texas about \$91. Of this cost, resident students pay \$4, leaving the Texas taxpayers to cover 95.61 percent of educational costs.

Non-resident students average paying \$1,200 (43.82 percent) of their educational costs.

SCR 101, headed by Texas Lt. Gov. William P. Hobby and House Speaker Bill Clayton, proposed doubling tuition rates for all students, plus raising medical and dental school tuition to cover 10 percent of the educational costs.

Gov. Bill Clements has not endorsed the Hobby committee's proposal.

Present charges for resident student tuition are \$4 per credit hour. Non-resident tuition is \$40 per credit hour.

Charges for 15 credit hours are presently \$60 for resident students and \$600 for non-resident students.

If tuition doubles, residents would pay \$120 for 15 semester-credit hours. Non-residents would pay \$1,200. The legislative committee urged that foreign and out-of-state students pay 50 percent of their educational costs.

Tuition at Texas medical schools would also rise, to \$3,600 per year.

Texas A&M's medical school tuition is \$300 per semester, Dean Robert Stone said. "Medical tuition at all Texas schools is extremely low compared to other schools in the country," Stone said.

Adams said SCR 101 proposes medical and dental students pay 10 percent of their educational costs, which run \$36,000 per year per medical student and \$25,000 per year per dental student.

Scholarships and financial aid would need to increase if medical school tuition rose significantly. "We need to be extremely careful that we don't exclude all financially poor students," Stone said.

However, the Texas A&M medical school — with 128 students — is only in its fourth year of existence, and lacks a broad scholarship base.

Stone said he hopes to suggest the legislature would prevent tuition increases from affecting students already enrolled in medical schools, but would be operative for newly-enrolled students. Prospective students would have time to prepare themselves for tuition increases.

Clarke Diebel, controller for Texas A&M, said his office is not making "any plans whatsoever" to accommodate a tuition increase.

Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services at Texas A&M, said, "As far as doubling in-state tuition, it's not that significant an increase — going from \$4 an hour to \$8 an hour .... I would see it as possibly creating more financial problems for students coming to Texas A&M from other states and foreign countries."

An increase in financial aid is not probable, Koldus said. The biggest aid source for Texas A&M students is the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant.

Dr. William E. McFarland, director of student financial aid at Texas A&M, said BEOC grants would continue to provide a student up to one-half his direct educational cost determined by the family's financial statement. But if the total cost rises, so does the student's share.

McFarland said he sees a probable increase in self-help financial aid such as part-time jobs or student loans.

### State would make million\$

Doubling tuition at Texas' schools of higher education would pour millions of dollars into the state.

Mack C. Adams, head, division of student services for the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System, has calculated if tuition doubles, an additional \$83,685,126 will be generated.

The breakdown is:

Texas-resident undergraduate students, at a charge of \$8 per semester credit hour — \$27,523,901.

Non-resident undergraduate students, at a charge of \$80 per semester credit hour — \$14,450,772.

Foreign undergraduate students, at a charge of \$80 per semester credit hour — \$14,548,326.

Resident graduate and professional students (other than medical and dental students), at a charge of \$8 per hour — \$2,244,314.

Non-resident graduate and professional students (other than medical and dental students), at a charge of \$80 per hour — \$5,938,674.

Foreign graduate and professional students (other than medical and dental students), at a charge of \$80 per hour — \$5,897,976.

Texas-resident medical students, if tuition is raised to \$3,600 per year — \$10,705,903.

Texas-resident dental students, if tuition is raised to \$2,500 per year — \$2,375,260.



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## McNiell denies rumors that he's out of race

by SCOT K. MEYER  
Battalion Staff

State Senate Candidate N.A. McNiel has denied that he has been asked by district Republicans to withdraw from the race. McNiel is the Republican candidate for the Fifth District State Senate seat, now held by Democrat William T. Moore.

Rumors have circulated that conservative Republicans and Democrats were urging McNiel, 65, to withdraw from the race in favor of a younger man.

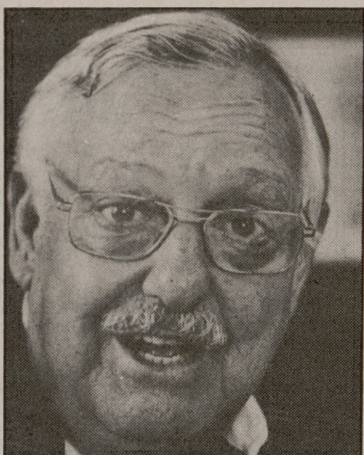
The specific person mentioned in some of the rumors was Max Hoyt of Montgomery County. The rumor held that Hoyt would be a stronger candidate than McNiel, and would be better able to defeat Democratic candidate Kent Caperton in November.

Hoyt, however, denied ever considering the position. "I think people are just chasing rainbows on this thing," he said.

"As far as I know, McNiel is, and always has been, in the race," Hoyt said.

An official of the Montgomery County Republican Party said that he had heard about the rumor, but to the best of his knowledge it wasn't true.

"There was some talk about it some months ago," he said. "I had heard that the Governor had even



N. A. McNiel

spoken to McNiel about it, but that McNiel had said he would remain in the race."

McNiell himself denied that the rumor had any truth to it.

"I don't know who's been circulating the rumor, but it's been going around for quite some time, and there is absolutely no validity to it," McNiel said.

"That kind of talk started within five days of the primary, and it keeps going around and around," McNiel said. "I don't feel it's even worth commenting on."

## Fifth student added to list for September Silver Taps

The name of a fifth Texas A&M University student has been added to the Sept. 9 roster for Silver Taps, the traditional memorial service for currently enrolled Aggies who have died.

Gehrig D. Feuge, 22, a senior geophysics major, died June 21 in Odessa after an illness. Services were held in Rankin, his hometown.

Feuge is the 18th student fatality of the academic year. His wife Carrie is a senior at Texas A&M.

The first Silver Taps of the new academic year will also be held to honor Jayson G. Harris of Hamilton, Kevin D. Hanlon of Sangus, Mass., Juan X. Riojas of Eagle Pass and Thomas H. Newman of New Braunfels.

Since no Silver Taps is held between Aggie Muster on April 21 and the start of fall classes, all students who die during that time are included in a ceremony in September.

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