

Local

2-year accreditation self-study begins

By PAMELA EADES
Battalion Reporter
Texas A&M University is beginning a self-study required every ten years for accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The association is an accrediting board for schools in 11 states and parts of Latin America. Accreditation ensures that students will receive a recognized degree and that transfer credits will be accepted by other colleges and universities. Dr. Charles McCandless, associate vice president for academic affairs, said Monday.

A steering committee will be chosen this spring to begin work on a massive self-study of Texas A&M, McCandless said.

The steering committee will direct and guide the progress of the study, in addition to preparing its own report on the future of the University, McCandless said.

McCandless directed the steering committee during the 1972 self-study.

Dr. R. W. Barzak, editor of the 1972 study, said, "This (accreditation) is sort of like the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval on your program."

Barzak, an associate professor of English, will also edit the 1983 study.

The 1983 self-study will be patterned after the study completed in 1972, Barzak said.

More than 200 faculty, staff members and students were involved in the 1972 study, Barzak said. They served on 11 committees which examined the University using standards set by the association.

The committees examine the University to see if the long-range goals of the University are being met and how well the administration is doing.

Along with 11 standards committees, all colleges and departments within the University also complete self-studies. These documents will be available to the 11 standards committees and the steering committee.

All the documents generated by the self-study could fill a five-foot bookshelf, Barzak said.

McCandless said organization of the project can be a difficult task for the steering committee.

"One of the more complex problems that we have is how to coordinate it (the University

self-study) with the standards committees and the departmental committees and the college committees," McCandless said.

Barzak said the entire study project takes approximately two years to complete.

After the self-study is completed, a team will be chosen by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. This team will visit the University, evaluate the University's work and submit its recommendations to the association.

The association will use the University self-study and the report from the visiting team to decide whether to renew accreditation for Texas A&M.

"The major established institutions like Texas A&M are in very little danger of losing their accreditation," Barzak said.

If accreditation is granted, a one-year follow-up report and a five-year interim report will have to be completed and submitted to the association. These reports will detail what the University is doing in response to the recommendations from the association and the visiting team, McCandless said.

Study committees formed

Twelve standards committees will be involved in the self-study of Texas A&M University. These committees will compare the University with standards established by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The studies will be done by faculty, staff and students of Texas A&M.

The twelve committees are:

1. The Steering Committee
2. Committee on Purpose
3. Committee on Organization and Administration
4. Committee on Educational Program
5. Committee on Financial Resources

6. Committee on Faculty
7. Committee on the Library
8. Committee on Student Personnel
9. Committee on the Physical Plant
10. Committee on Special Activities
11. Committee on Graduate Programs
12. Committee on Research

Each committee will prepare a report to be submitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

In addition to these 12 reports, each college and each department within each college will submit their own self-study to the standards committees.

Iranians at Texas A&M are OK'd by Immigration

By GWEN HAM
Battalion Reporter

The hostage crisis may have been pushed to the back of many U.S. citizens' minds, but Iranian students are still the target of a 15-month-old nationwide crackdown by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Immigration service figures show that between Nov. 11, 1979, after the takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, and Feb. 2, 1981, more than 60,000 Iranian students nationwide have been interviewed to verify their academic status.

Deportation hearings are still proceeding against 3,008 Iranians. And 2,887 who were facing expulsion have applied for political asylum — postponing their departure, at least for the moment, according to a INS release.

But in the meantime Iranian students at Texas A&M University, having completed their interviews, appear to have escaped

any deportation orders.

"All Iranian students, about 75 at the time, at Texas A&M were interviewed around December of 1979," said Mostafa Mostafavi, president of Texas A&M's Iranian Student Association.

"Most students understood their reason — the Immigration Service said that diplomatic relations with Iran had been broken and the interviews were just part of their policy. I don't know about the others but it didn't make me mad," Mostafavi said.

"The Immigration Service came over here, but I can't really remember that much, except that they took pictures of each of us," he said. "They already had all the information about our proper visas and etcetera in their files."

Mostafavi said he wasn't frightened by the interviews.

"Not at A&M — if someone hasn't done something wrong, why should he be scared?" he said. Enrollment of Iranians at Texas

A&M dropped from 75 students to about 52 students this year, but Mostafavi said he believes that the students who left did so only because they had finished their education at Texas A&M.

Charles Hornstein, Texas A&M Immigration Coordinator, said that all Texas A&M Iranian students were correctly documented. Several were sent to San Antonio for further questioning but they all came out OK, he said. None were deported.

Still the Iranian students are the targets of hostility.

Mostafavi said that on campus he really hasn't noticed any worsening in attitudes since the hostage release. But the overall attitudes of people off campus toward Iranians has deteriorated, he said. He declined to clarify what he meant.

"It's very unfortunate and I don't like to draw any type of conclusions," he said.



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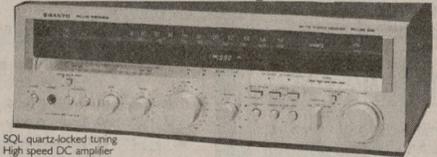
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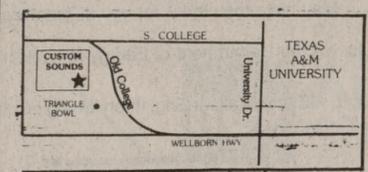
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