

Committee approves fee increases

By JANE G. BRUST
Battalion Staff

A 20 percent increase in dormitory room rates at Texas A&M University was approved without discussion Monday by a committee of the Board of Regents.

The new rates, recommended by the Committee for Academic Campuses and expected to be approved at today's full Board meeting, will be effective with the fall semester. The committee was to make a formal recommendation to the Board for final approval today. The recommended increase would raise the rates of all residence halls per semester as follows:

- Group I dorms — non-air, with phones, includes Hart, Law, Puryear and Walton halls — from \$219 to \$263.
- Group II dorms — air-conditioned, with phones, includes Corps dorms 1-12 and Crocker, Davis-Gary, Moore, Moses and Hotard halls — from \$353 to \$424 (except Hotard, which rises from \$193 to \$424).
- Group III dorms — air-conditioned suites — includes Fowler, Hughes, Keathley, McInnis, Schumacher halls — from \$389 to \$467.
- Group IV dorms — air-conditioned, remodeled — in-

cludes Legett Hall — from \$408 to \$490.

Group V dorms — new modulars, includes Haas, McFadden, Neeley and Hobby halls and new modulars A and B — from \$523 to \$628.

Group VI dorms — Commons Area, includes Krueger, Dunn, Mosher and Aston halls — from \$546 to \$655. Howard Vestal, University vice president for business affairs, told committee members this is an "unusually high" increase and the University has never before had an increase of this magnitude.

Vestal said the increase is due primarily to necessary salary increases for staff associated with the residence hall system. The state legislature mandated a 5.1 percent emergency pay raise effective Feb. 1, and there is a possibility of a 14.6 percent pay raise.

The proposed 1981-82 budget for residence hall accounts reflects a 22 percent increase in salaries, from \$496,067 for 1980-81 to the requested \$603,434.

Vestal said another factor in the dorm room rate increase is the increased cost of utilities. The proposed budget shows a 26 percent increase in utility costs, from \$2,964,458 to \$3,722,144.

Programs concerning dormitory administration reflect a 31 percent increase from \$953,241 to \$1,250,000. A plan to computerize housing office operations would be funded under this budget category.

The written proposal of the 20 percent rate increase explained that funds must also be generated to pay the debt service on bonds sold to finance construction of the two new modular dorms.

Jack Teague, executive assistant to Vestal, said the proposed total debt service figure for 1981-82 is \$2,996,488, a 34.6 percent increase from 1980-81's figure of \$2,203,182.

Teague said this increase is definitely a part of the 20 percent room rate increase.

Another fee increase approved by the committee would raise the married student housing rental rates by an average of 12.3 percent. The following increases would apply to specified housing units:

- Southside, three bedroom — from \$187 to \$210.
- Southside, one bedroom — from \$121 to \$136.
- Hensel Terrace — from \$142 to \$160.
- College View — from \$196 to \$220.
- College Avenue, one bedroom — from \$196 to \$220.

College Avenue, two bedroom — from \$224 to \$251. All University-owned student apartments are furnished, with the exception of the new Avenue A apartments. Rates for those new apartments will remain at \$224.

Other fee changes approved by the committee are as follows:

- Board plans, an 8.9 percent increase:
 - Five-day plan — from \$462 to \$503.
 - Seven-day plan — from \$517 to \$563.
- Shuttle bus fees, five percent increase:
 - Individual student — from \$38 to \$40.
 - Student and spouse — from \$55 to \$58.
 - Faculty/staff member — from \$50 to \$53.

The committee will also recommend a 10.2 percent increase in laundry fees, from \$63.50 to \$70, and an increase in ROTC uniform rental fees for drill and ceremonies cadets, from \$125 per year to \$150.

Another recommendation will seek to eliminate the \$4 ROTC uniform handling fee. The Department of Defense permits the University to use a percentage of total annual uniform payments to provide special uniforms for the Corps of Cadets which were previously financed by the uniform handling fees.

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The Weather

Today	Tomorrow
High 72	High 73
Low 51	Low 52
Chance of rain none	Chance of rain 20%

Cyclotron plan eyed by Board

By JANE G. BRUST
Battalion Staff

Texas A&M University System regents on the Planning and Building Committee Monday approved an appropriation of \$135,000 for the preliminary design of the Cyclotron expansion.

The committee was to recommend the appropriation to the full Board for final approval today.

The proposed appropriation from the Available University Fund would supplement previous appropriations of \$65,000.

Dr. Dave H. Youngblood of the Cyclotron Institute told Board members the expansion will give the laboratory the capability to do research that is "unmatched anywhere else in the world."

He also said all precautions against radiation leakage were taken in the drawings presented by Earl Alexander of Walter P. Moore and Associates.

The expansion will include a cooling

tower constructed into the existing system which will function uninterrupted during the remaining construction period. Also in the expanded area will be a new high bay area, a helium cooling system and equipment rooms.

Estimated cost of the expansion construction is \$3 million; estimated cost of equipment is \$5 million.

The committee also reviewed a decision made Sunday to reject all bids received for the Meat Science and Technology Center. Because the estimated cost of the project exceeds the low bid by \$600,000, the design will be revised and a new bid submitted at the May Board meeting.

In other action, the Committee for Academic Campuses approved a revised academic organization for Prairie View A&M University. The organizational structure scheduled to be recommended to the full Board today will not designate specific departments in the agriculture, home economics and nursing colleges.



Signs of the times
Campaign signs for spring elections are popping up all over campus. Voting for Student Government and other campus organizations will be March 31-April 1. The Battalion will have a special election tabloid on March 30 listing the candidates who have filed for offices.
Staff photo by Chuck Chapman

Limiting of enrollment is Hydra-like problem

Crowded classes, dorms and not enough faculty worry administrators seeking solution

By BELINDA McCOY
Battalion Staff

Crowded classrooms, cramped living facilities and an overworked faculty are what can happen when a university receives a higher-than-expected enrollment increase.

When Texas A&M University had an unplanned-for burst in enrollment last fall, it experienced some of those problems as a result.

Now the University administration is considering the possibility of having to limit enrollment to the University in the future, said Dr. Charles E. McCandless, associate vice president for academic affairs.

McCandless is researching the need to limit enrollment by studying the problems created by an overcrowded University population and the problems that would be created if a limit was placed on enrollment.

"We're going to have to do something to relieve some of the pressure. Whether that means hiring more faculty, providing more buildings, limiting enrollment — something needs to be done to provide relief," McCandless said.

The Board of Regents will have to make the final decision — upon an administration recommendation — to limit enrollment to Texas A&M, McCandless said.

Just how enrollment would be limited would also have to be the decision of the Board. That decision would be based on information and recommendations from the admissions department, said Dr. Bill G. Lay, director of admissions.

Limiting enrollment to the University could create several problems.

Since Texas A&M is a state-funded institution, theoretically every taxpayer's child should have an opportunity to

attend, McCandless explained. Limiting enrollment by raising the already high entrance requirements could be considered discrimination against those students who would otherwise be granted admission.

Also, sometimes when an institution limits enrollment, McCandless said, the limiting has a reverse effect. More students apply for admission, and the qualifications of those students are more competitive. Prospective students view the standards as an indicator of a school's scholastic excellence.

"It has to do with prestige," McCandless said.

The rapid growth rate has created several problems for the University.

The biggest problem, McCandless said, is providing sufficient facilities such as classroom space to keep up with the sudden rapid growth rate, and also finding enough new faculty members.

McCandless said that funding for new faculty is not as much of a problem as simply finding people to hire.

The salaries that industries are now providing their employees are in many cases better than the salaries that universities can offer, McCandless said, so universities are losing faculty to industry.

"The money being available for faculty and being able to hire new faculty don't always go hand-in-hand," he said.

The number of students enrolled in the University is not the only thing increasing, McCandless said. Research is also increasing.

"In 1971, we were doing \$30 million worth of funded research. Last year it was in excess of \$71 million. When you have that much research, you've got to provide laboratories,

you've got to provide technicians, you've got to provide researchers. So we're not only growing enrollment-wise, we're also growing as far as our research volume is concerned," said McCandless.

The administration had expected 700 new students to enroll last fall, but instead 2,100 new students enrolled. McCandless said the increase could have been a result of more transfer students and old students returning, instead of more freshmen than anticipated.

Fewer 18-year-olds — and a natural leveling off of enrollment — had been expected for the early 1980s as a result of the early-1960's baby boom tapering off, McCandless said.

"Right now we're sort of waiting to see if it (the rapid growth) is going to continue," McCandless said. "We thought that when we reached the point where there were a fewer number of high school graduates, it would take a lot of the pressure off as far as our enrollment growth."

"There's not one neat, perfect answer (to how to limit enrollment). If there were, we'd be using it," McCandless said. "This sounds terrible, but it's true. We really hope that our expectations would be met, that there would be a natural leveling off, without having to impose artificial restrictions."

Lay suggested several methods that could be used to limit enrollment.

"The only way to limit enrollment would be to have a certain deadline for applying and select from that group based on whatever criteria you wanted to use," Lay said.

After that, selection could be made on a first-come-first-served basis, or on the basis of the strictly best qualified applicants, Lay said.

The combination of academic qualifications and activity

records could be made stiffer than it already is. Using this method, some applicants would be chosen by best results on certain tests and some would be chosen by the combination of average grades and test scores and outstanding activity records.

The University's retention program could also be tightened, McCandless said. But most deans think it is already tightened sufficiently, he said.

Lay said, "We think it's good (the present retention program). We have about 80 percent of our freshman students come back for the next fall semester."

Entrance requirements could be raised, but administrators are reluctant to consider it.

"It's a reasonable standard, I think. It's not as high as some of the 'elite' schools may say they've got. But for a public institution, it's the highest in the state," Lay said.

"If we raised our entrance standards," McCandless said, "we'd have to change them quite a bit to make any significant difference."

Last fall, he said, over 70 percent of the entering freshmen were in the top quarter of their class.

"The average SAT score was something like 1,024," McCandless said. "We feel that our entrance standards are reasonable."

McCandless said his research will be complete on the issue by September. Recommendations will then be made on the decision of whether to limit enrollment.

"It's a very complex issue," McCandless said, "and whatever you decide has far-reaching ramifications. You really have to decide if you're gaining more than you're losing, or losing more than you're gaining."

Solidarity leaders call for new protest strikes

United Press International

BYDGOSZCZ, Poland — Leaders of the 10 million-member Solidarity union called today for a warning strike Friday followed by a general strike next Tuesday that will destroy the labor peace the Polish government sought and Moscow demanded.

With only two opposed and six abstaining, 33 members of the 41-member national leadership voted for the work stoppages to protest a bloody police assault last week on Solidarity members in Bydgoszcz.

National leader Lech Walesa had urged caution on calling mass strikes and stalked out of the session that began Monday and finished at 3 a.m. today. When today's session opened, he stayed away until the vote on strike dates was taken.

The vote setting a stoppage of two or four hours on Friday and the full-

scale walkout next Tuesday had been postponed until after a break for the tired delegates, ending a stormy 10-hour Monday session.

The union leadership drew up a seven-point resolution, which included the strike dates accepted today, during Monday's emergency session called to decide their next move to counter the government's defense of the beatings.

The resolution, which Walesa had to support when he found himself almost alone in advising caution, called for a two- or four-hour nationwide warning strike Friday, followed by a general strike of unspecified duration four days later.

Walesa had pleaded for moderation to avoid a full confrontation with the government, warning "rumors have reached me that a state of emergency could be introduced tomorrow."

Origin of fish pennant a mystery

By CINDY GEE
Battalion Staff

Where is Sherlock Holmes when you need him?

The elaborate Texas A&M University fish of '25 pennant hangs in the cadet guard room as a reminder that the Corps remains "the founders of traditions and the keepers of spirit." But no one knows the history behind the pennant.

In 1977, Lewis Cheek, Class of '43, was staying at a motel managed by Myrtle Minor in Many, La.

"I was on a business trip there," Cheek said. "Mrs. Minor asked who had the car with the A&M stickers on it. She wanted to make sure I was an Aggie. She said she had something she wanted to show me."

Minor gave the pennant to Cheek who promised it would go to the Corps of Cadets.

No one knows how the pennant came into the now-deceased mother's possession, not even the daughters.

The unusually large pennant applied with a gold eagle bearing a red, white and blue shield, and a fish with the number 25 on it was found neatly folded in an attic chest.

"I have no idea how it came into Mama's possession," Myrtle Minor said. "The only time Mama was in Texas was when she was a child. They went by covered wagon through Texas. No one in the family went to Texas A&M."

Minor said her mother was a school teacher. She said her father died in 1922, but her mother would have been too old to have a boyfriend out of the class of 1925. Her mother would have been in her 50s around 1925, Minor said.

"I have searched my brain to think of someone I could ask," she said, "but no one is alive that would know. It's always been a big mystery to me. I started to throw it away, but I just couldn't do it."

Paul Washburn, a member of the Class of '25, said he didn't remember ever seeing the pennant.

"Back in those days it was pretty hard to think of ways to make a little extra money," Washburn said. "There were two ways: to design and sell items like pennants, or to work as a waiter in the dining hall. At least one guy in every dorm sold pennants, because the wage on campus was 25 cents an hour."

Washburn examined the pennant and noted that most of the pennants made back then were smaller. He said the eagle is unusual and the pennant has more design than most had.

George Lewis, Class of '24, designed pennants while he was a student at Texas A&M. He designed a pennant quoting then Head Football Coach D.X. Bible saying, "There shall be no regrets."

After hearing a description of the fish of '25 pennant, Lewis joked, "That sounds like a University of Texas pennant; they thought they had to be fancy."

Washburn said most of the pennants were bought simply as personal items; they weren't usually given as awards. Many times the designer would sell about 20 chances at a time each and raffle them off, he said.

Lewis said he made several thousand dollars selling his college mementos.

"We had a captive audience. My subcommissioners, the top sergeants, sold them for me when they inspected rooms. They'd go around at night with the pennants on their arms, and they'd sell like hotcakes."