

Seniors get vote in appeal hearing

By PHYLIS HENDERSON
Battalion Staff

Student body presidential candidate Matt Woodruff's appeal of the Student Government election procedures concerning the voting rights of graduating seniors was upheld Thursday night by the Judicial Board after a four-hour closed meeting.

Chairman Paul Bettencourt said the meeting was closed in order to "keep the burden off the members of the board when they are formulating their opinion."

At the beginning of the session both Woodruff and Executive Vice President Greg Dew presented arguments before the board.

"We were asked to come in for information purposes," Woodruff said.

Dew said: "My purpose in the meeting... was to present the case in defense of the election commissioner."

The board then requested that Woodruff and Dew leave the room so they could begin deliberations.

The Judicial Board agreed in an unanimous decision that graduating seniors do have the right to vote in Student Government elections and that election commissioner, Leah Whitby, had violated her authority in denying the voting rights of these students. It was judged, however, that Whitby was not acting with "willful and wanton dis-

regard" for the election rules and regulations as Woodruff had charged.

The opinion said it was not within the authority of the election commissioner to limit voting qualifications over and above those qualifications set out in the election rules and regulations.

Bettencourt said the board reviewed the student body constitution, the student senate by-laws and the election rules and regulations to determine all areas that pertained to voter qualifications.

"The only voter qualifications are two sentences in Section 3400 of the election rules and regulations," Bettencourt said. Section 3400 states that voter qualifications are current enrollment in the University and a current, valid I.D.

"There were people (graduating seniors) who were denied the right to vote who met these qualifications," Bettencourt said.

The board directed the election commission to open a polling place in the Memorial Student Center Monday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the purpose of allowing graduating seniors the opportunity to vote.

All graduating seniors, including those whose I.D. was punched in the March 31, April 1 election, but who were then denied the right to vote, will be allowed to vote on Monday for all offices for which they are eligible.

The opinion said it was not within the authority of the election commissioner to limit voting qualifications.

Seniors who were not stopped from voting will be held to the honor system to not vote again, Bettencourt said.

Offices to be voted on include student body president, legislative vice presidents, living area senators (except Corps senators), academic at-large senators, Residence Hall Association offices, Yell leaders and Off-Campus Aggies offices.

Rolls will be used to check the status of voters at the polling place. "We already have the rolls," Whitby said. The rolls were obtained from the Registrar's office and they list all seniors who have applied for a degree.

Bettencourt explained the board's decision saying: "We wanted to make it

as uniform as possible and we wanted to make sure these people had a full day of voting."

Woodruff agreed saying: "I personally feel that's the best way to handle it (the election). I think it's the only way. I didn't foresee it (the appeal) being this much of a hassle. I'm sorry for the trouble it's causing all the candidates."

Tensions mounted between Dew and the board after the reading of the decision. Brad Smith, student body president, tried to serve as mediator.

"I support your decision," Dew told the board, "I'm required to support it. But I think there are some questions that have to be answered." Dew refused to allow the release of the election re-

sults until his questions were answered.

Dew was particularly concerned with which offices graduating seniors would be eligible to vote for. "Established election regulations do not specify what are appropriate offices, or this matter would not have come up," he said. "It (the constitution) says what their (the senator's) constituencies are, but it doesn't say who can vote for them."

Bettencourt tried to explain the board's position on the constituencies. "The difference is what we define as at-large," he said. "Specifically, anything tagged freshman, sophomore, junior or senior cannot be voted on by graduating seniors."

"This is what we feel like is the only sensible line we can draw."

The Judicial Board authorized the release of all election results excepting those of the offices which would be effected by Monday's election. Dew and Whitby, however, delayed release of the results of the senior academic senators for certification by the board because of questions not only over the board's decision, but also to review the validity of the results.

Temper began to flare.

"There's no reason for this conflict because we made the decision," Bettencourt said. "We made the only logical decision."

"It is our responsibility to release

those results. We are the final authority on election matters."

Dew countered: "The results have to be released by the election commissioner."

Maureen Kerrigan, a member of the board, said: "We're not going to change our minds."

At one point, the board considered issuing a writ of mandamus to Dew ordering him to release the election results of these races. Smith, however, averted the conflict.

"Just give me five minutes to talk with them," Smith told Bettencourt. Lance Wright, a member of the board, said: "We're sacrificing our principles for diplomacy. It (the refusal to release the results) is like insisting that the world stop turning."

When satisfied that the results were valid, Dew and Whitby released the results to the board for certification.

"Their decision to allow graduating seniors to vote," Dew said, "does not change the fact that it is the responsibility of the election commissioner to ensure that the results of the election are valid before they are released to the public."

"Their decision has made it especially important for us to exercise extreme caution throughout the remainder of the election."

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The Weather

Today	Tomorrow
High 82	High 84
Low 65	Low 63
Chance of rain none	Chance of rain none



Staff photo by Brian Tate

Comprehensive Coverage

Along with the rain Thursday came a problem for Lin Peterson. Her photographs being sold in the MSC Craft Show had to be protected from the elements and so did she. A piece of plastic provided a quick answer to the drizzly problem.

Incomplete results released

By DENISE RICHTER
Battalion Staff

Following a one-day delay, partial Student Government election results were released at 11:20 p.m. Thursday.

Complete returns will be released after a special election Monday in which graduating seniors, previously forbidden to vote, will have the opportunity to cast ballots.

From that election, winners of the following offices will be determined: student body president, legislative vice presidents, yell leaders, Off-Campus Aggies, Residence Hall Association, living area senators except for the Corps of Cadets; and several senatorial positions.

Certified results indicate the following winners:

Class of '84 secretary-treasurer — Jay Still; social secretary — Barbara Brunner.

Class of '83 president — Mike Lawshe; vice president — Larry Collis; treasurer — John Motley; secretary — Ann Horne; social secretary — Debbie Richmond.

Class of '82 president — Gary Branch; vice president — James Bond; secretary-treasurer — David Moyer; social secretary — Susan Pavloski.

Graduate Student Council representatives: Agriculture — David Kee; Architecture — Celia Hall; Business Administration — David Montplaisir, Stephanie Moore; Education — Romy Rivera; Engineering — Robert Kosnetz, Thomas Geer, James Martin; Science — Ken Fredeen; Veterinary Medicine — David Snyder.

Senators: Corps sophomore — Bill Montgomery; junior — Jeff Greenwade; senior — Lee Flagg.

Senators: Agriculture sophomore — Brian Terrell; junior — Jim Harris; senior — Dale Langley; graduate — Brian Hay.

Senators: Business sophomore — Margaret O'Brien; junior — Alison Sanders; senior — Trisha Enke; graduate — Tracy Cox.

Senators: Engineering sophomores — Rodger Drew, Judy Marcotte, Steve Forman; juniors — Greg Bates, Dan Kahler, Kevin Bordelon; seniors — Bill Price, Tony Marshall, Ross Walton; graduate — Cliff Walton.

Senators: Liberal Arts sophomore — Sharon Hall; junior — Larry Gottlieb; senior — David Close; graduate — Mark Shomaker.

The following offices will be contested in a run-off election: Class of '84 president — John Dungan and

Kam Hutchins; vice-president — Nicole Williams and Joseph A. Sandoval.

Class of '82 historian — Mark Morris and Bryan Bartels.

Graduate Student Council: Agriculture (five places) — Paul Pierce, Bruce Clark, Neil Jeter, Morrie Luka, Jim Harris, Marcel Valdaj, John Roach, Kevin Bond and Sandra Hodge.

Education (two places) — Rick Putnam, Kay Moss and Barbara Tuepke.

Engineering (one place) — Sam Aleton, Dan Ruhn, Patricia Harding, Derriek Sallee and Alison McFarland.

Run-offs in these elections will be held Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Polling sites will be the Memorial Student Center, the Commons, Evans Library, Sbis Dining Hall and the guard room.

The delay was caused by computer programming problems when tabulating the returns and the Judicial Board's review of presidential candidate Matt Woodruff's request for appeal of the procedure concerning the voting rights of graduating seniors.

After a four-hour closed meeting of the Judicial Board, the decision was made to uphold Woodruff's appeal.

For complete election results, see page 10.

Senate approves battered budget

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Some said it would mean "ruined lives and shattered hopes," but the Senate overwhelmingly approved a package of budget cuts that would reach into nearly every facet of government except defense.

The Republican-controlled Senate, after days of beating back Democratic efforts to amend it, Thursday accepted a package containing \$36.9 billion in fiscal 1982 reductions.

The vote was 88-10, with Sen. Lowell Weicker, R-Conn., joining nine liberal Democrats in opposing the measure.

President Reagan was reported pleased with the Senate action by Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., who saw him in his hospital room Thursday night.

The spotlight now turns to the Democrat-controlled House, which begins drafting its own budget package next week.

"This resolution means the Senate for the first time in years has come to its senses," said Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici, R-N.M. He said it would begin to reverse a trend of excessive government spending.

But Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., said the budget "makes no sense in economic terms or in human terms."

"In its wake will be the ruined lives and shattered hopes of millions in our society," he said. "The cold and dry statistics in the budget resolution do not begin to tell the real story of this budget."

Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., said the American people may have voted last November to eliminate fraud and waste and curb the federal bureaucracy.

"I do not believe, however, that they voted for a cruel abandonment of America's commitment — indeed, America's obligation — to help those most in

need," he said.

Among the reductions are a \$1.5 billion cut in the food stamp program, a nearly 25 percent cut in elementary and secondary education programs that would be funded through block grants, a phase-out of public jobs, a \$1 billion cut in Medicaid, elimination of the Economic Development Administration and eight regional commissions, and termination of the minimum benefit payment under Social Security.

The Senate did not, at Reagan's request, tamper with basic Social Security payments, despite attempts to reduce them.

Total savings under the Reagan plan include the \$36.9 billion in Senate-approved cuts, as well as \$8 billion in reductions to be achieved administratively and an additional amount in Carter administration programs that were never accepted.

Reagan, recovering from a gunshot wound suffered in an assassination attempt Monday, had proposed slashing the budget \$48.6 billion.

The Senate's action will serve as instructions to its spending and authorizing committees. The measure contains recommendations, or options for the panels to consider, but the committees themselves will decide where the cuts actually will come.

In the House, Democratic leader Jim Wright, D-Texas, predicted the measure approved by that chamber would approach the administration's total figure "very closely."

But he hinted Reagan would not get as much of a military increase as he wants, and that the tax cut approved by the House would be smaller — reducing the size of the deficit below Reagan's projected \$45 billion.

Hobby stresses involvement for leadership qualities

Campus roles help students become future leaders

By RACHEL BOSTWICK
Battalion Reporter

The development of leadership qualities now can help guide the steps of the future, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby said Thursday evening in Rudder Tower at Texas A&M University.

Sponsored by the Class of '83, Hobby spoke to an audience of about 70 people which included a few anxious student government candidates who were awaiting election returns.

Hobby pointed to members of the 67th Texas State Legislature as examples to follow for developing leadership qualities.

Before elected by their constituents, he said, the legislators served as leaders in their schools and communities. And by following steps such as those they took and getting involved in activities on campus, Hobby said, students can become leaders of tomorrow.

The lieutenant governor expressed concern about the purchasing power of faculty salaries, which, he said, has decreased 20 percent in the last 10 years. The salaries have not kept up with rising inflation, he said, making it difficult to hold the quality educators that are needed.

The conditions of the Texas Department of Corrections prison system, which is the largest in the country, is also of major concern, Hobby said.

Originally planned to house 16,000 inmates, the prison system is now housing over 29,000 inmates, due to an annual increase of 10 percent. Overcrowding is a real problem and calls for emergency construction of dormitory units and expansion of the work release program, he said.

The establishment of a prison such as the one in Grimes County is like the establishment of a nuclear waste disposal site, Hobby said. There are things that have to be done, which is why government has the power of eminent domain, Hobby said.

The lieutenant governor said he didn't envision the problem being resolved through the death penalty.

He said he doesn't know of any evidence that indicates the death penalty is a deterrent to crime. There are about 40 death-row inmates awaiting execution now in Texas, but these are on appeal, he said.

Hobby, a native Houstonian, is a graduate of Rice University. After graduation, he joined the Navy, where he served for three years in naval intelligence. First elected lieutenant governor in 1972, Hobby said he plans to run for the office again.

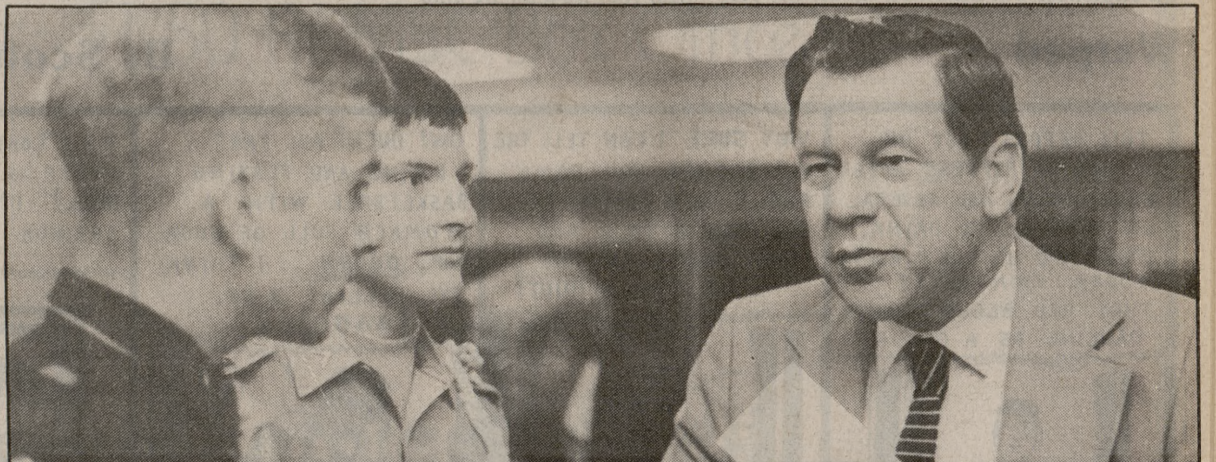


Photo by Margarita Jaime

Lt. Governor Bill Hobby spoke on how developing leadership skills can be beneficial to students in their careers Thursday night in Rudder Tower.

Here Hobby, who was sponsored by the Class of '83, speaks with Class President Mike Lawshe an another member of the Corps of Cadets.