

THE AGGIE CONNECTION

STUDENT GOVERNMENT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

The Aggie Connection is a monthly newsletter published by the Texas A&M University Student Government, the link between students and administration.

Vol. 1, Number 2

Recurring problems to be solved w student input Student Academic Council formed to represent opinions on issues

When it comes to undying controversial issues such as Q-drop policies, night exams, graduation with honors and changing curricula, faculty members and students don't always see eye to eye. In an effort to remedy the imbalance of input and communication between these two groups, the Student Government Academic Affairs Committee has formed a Student Academic Council.

In the past, the strength of the student voice relating to academic matters has been nearly stifled. There are 160 University administrators, department heads and deans on the University Academic Council, and Ken Johnson, student body president, is the only student representative.

"Even though the Student Academic Council is still in the organizational stages, its purpose will be to help present student opinions in a favorable light to the 160 members of the Academic Council," Coordinating Chairman Nancy Nelson said. "This project is the culmination of several years worth of work and we have the support and interest to see it through at this time."

The student input on academic issues will come from members of the sophomore honor society, Lambda Sigma, junior honor society members and other students interested in academic affairs. Two members will form a contact pair, and each pair will be responsible for meeting the Academic Council member from their assigned department once a month to discuss policy issues.

A lack of organized strength in and between each college student council and the Academic Council has also been a problem for students.

"There needs to be a group 'up on top' to coordinate efforts instead of having only one person represent all college councils," Lilli Dollinger, director of communications, said.

Kathy Bartholomew, Student Government vice president of academic affairs, added: "There are a lot of misunderstandings between students and faculty. We

want to get in and talk with the faculty and administration of the Academic Council before bills are passed. We want organized student input, and we're trying to coordinate this through every college council. Then we can utilize the influential people within each college council to help us present our ideas to the administration."

Bartholomew instigated the plan for the new council. Nelson said: "We are expecting a favorable response from the faculty and administration and we think the students chosen for the Student Academic Council will gain their respect. We anticipate that the council will be a viable part of student/administration relations."

Furr awarded for distinguished service

LAURA FURR (Spence, Briggs, Underwood) was selected outstanding senator for the month of October for her distinguished service in Student Government. Her constituents have been directly affected by her involvement in three recent bills:

(1) The Dorm Security Bill resulted in better awareness of female dorm security on campus. Furr is now the Student Government representative on the Texas A&M Safety Awareness Committee.

(2) The Rat Control Bill, after much research by Furr, resulted in the clearing away of underbrush in the Corps quad area, where rats hide.

(3) The Consumer Safety

Bill deals with traffic problems in the Skaggs shopping center.

Furr, a senior elementary education major, went door to door in the three residence halls she represents in an effort to find out student opinions for the campus canvass. She is presently working on a bill that would allow diet soft drinks to be sold at home football games, so that diabetics would not be discriminated against.

Editor's note: The senator of the month is chosen by the Student Government Awards and Banquet Committee on the basis of outstanding committee and constituency work and distinguished senate involvement.

Aggies give SG their 2¢ worth

Was Your Voice Heard?

A senator's constituency is his common denominator in making decisions. Bearing this idea in mind the Canvass is not statistically accurate. The goal of the Canvass is to be an indicator to the senators of how to vote so that their decisions will be representative of their constituency's opinions on issues. The Canvass simultaneously will aid in the job of producing more informed voters and better representative senators.

Concerning recognition of Texas A&M's growing Greek system the numbers show that the majority of students polled are not ready to accept Greek recognition. Students who live on campus displayed a stronger objection to recognition, as opposed to students who live off campus, by voting

86.4 percent against and 10.1 percent for recognition (Y-788, N-92, V-32). The task force on the issue composed of representatives of OCA, Corps, Inter-Fraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, RHA and Student Government was formed last year by a senate bill. This group will make a recommendation on whether or not Greeks should be officially recognized by the university and will also discuss the question of a student referendum.

Due to the high interest level exhibited in the issue of obtaining cheaper long distance phone services, the student services committee is negotiating with two companies (in an attempt to promote competition) for the ability to sell these services in the MSC. Although the overwhelming

majority of students oppose the issue of night exams as shown by the 72.4 percent against night exams and 25% in favor (Y-866, N-2511, U-90), there remains the fact that those who are most affected by night exams are in favor of the policy. By polling students clubs in the college of business, the results favored night exams. With the academic college senators polling their constituents with this method, they were able to determine their views. However, the growing problem of unauthorized night exams has been dealt with by Vice President of Academic Affairs J. H. Prescott. No night exams will be conducted without Prescott's specific authorization.

Those who use the service are those who should pay for the service was the sentiment reflected by polling the majority of stu-

dents on user fees. Students opposed the policy of the continued rise of student service fees for all students when not everyone uses the shuttle bus, health center and intramural services. Although there remains some disagreement on the extent of the rate hike for team sports, the idea of "those who use, pay" is the opinion supported by the majority of students.

Student Government is actively working with the university administration on improving Easterwood Airport facilities due to the positive interest shown by the majority of students polled who expressed an interest in a more established airline service. However, further surveys and more complete statistical data for marketing purposes will be required to finalize the project.

Summary of Canvass # 1.

25% 50% 75%

	25%	50%	75%	
Greek recognition	15.4	79.4		Yes No Undecided
Night Exams	5.2	25.0	72.4	Yes No Undecided
Cheaper LD Phone Service	192.3	6.3	1.4	Yes No Undecided
User Fee Concept	186.7	12.8	.5	Yes No Undecided
Better Airline Service	69.1			Yes

STUDENT OPINION CANVASS #2

FINANCIAL AID

1. Have you ever received a loan or grant or applied for a student job with the Financial Aid Office?

YES ___ NO ___ Unaware of services offered ___

If yes, were there any complications?

YES ___ No ___

If complications, due to:

- ___ A) lack of staffing
- ___ B) lack of service attitude by staff
- ___ C) lack of available information on deadline or procedures
- ___ D) paperwork hassles
- ___ E) others

CONSTRUCTION ON CAMPUS

2. Do you support using current student recreational and parking areas on central campus for new buildings?

- ___ A) for student use (dorms, etc.) only
- ___ B) for administrative purposes only
- ___ C) both
- ___ D) for no new buildings

Are you aware of the plan to build the University Press building on the east end of Duncan field?

YES ___ NO ___

TRAFFIC FLOW

3. Have you ever been hit by a bicycle or moped on campus?

YES ___ NO ___ Close Call ___

In your opinion, has the congestion of bicyclists, moped riders and pedestrians on the sidewalks of central campus reached the point of a traffic flow problem?

YES ___ NO ___ Undecided ___

What should be done?

- ___ A) walk bicycles and mopeds on sidewalks from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and provide plenty of bike racks on campus periphery
- ___ B) restrict bicycles only to streets between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- ___ C) limit vehicular traffic to allow more bicycle traffic from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ___ D) other

SUMMER SCHOOL PRE-REGISTRATION

4. Will you know if you will be attending summer school at A&M and which courses you will be taking by late March or early April?

YES ___ NO ___

If yes, would you pre-register for summer school?

YES ___ NO ___

Name _____ Phone _____

Living Area (Apt. or Dorm and #) _____

Academic College _____ Classification _____

Make your voice count

by completing the canvass form.

1. Save the form for your senator when he or she knocks on your door.

or

2. Mail to: Student Government
216 MSC
College Station, TX 77843

or

3. Drop in canvass box in 216 C MSC, the Student Government Office.

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