

Southern universities pay better

North loses profs to budget cuts

Editor's note: This is the second in a three-part series on "raiding," the hiring of qualified personnel in universities by businesses and other universities with more money.

by Kathy O'Connell
Battalion Reporter
At Texas A&M University, the colleges of business administration, engineering and sci-

ences are involved in the mad scramble to get top-notch faculty and researchers. And they're willing to pay a price for them. Dr. A. El Kohen, an assistant professor of mathematics, came to Texas A&M last year from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. His salary at UW was \$17,000; his salary at Texas A&M is \$20,000, an increase of 14.7 percent.

Kohen said he came to Texas A&M because, "the teaching load is reasonable and one can do a lot of research here." Kohen, along with 125 other faculty members, was hired at Texas A&M this year. The Fortnightly, a newsletter for University faculty and staff, reports that 50 of these new faculty members came to Texas A&M from northern states and 40 from southern states. The other 35 came from private industry or international universities.

An article in the Milwaukee Journal reported that an assistant professor in the physical sciences earning less than \$22,000 a year at the University of Wisconsin at Madison was offered \$37,000 a year at Texas A&M, a difference of 68.2 percent.

The average salary in petroleum engineering in the Southwest was \$45,600, while the same position in the Midwest and Northeast drew a salary of \$35,195, a difference of 26 percent.

The same is true for a professor in chemical engineering. In the Southwest the average salary was \$45,100, in the Midwest and Northeast the salary was \$34,000, a 26.2 percent difference.

Not only are individual col-

leges faced with losing faculty because of low salaries, but northern universities as a whole also are faced with defecting faculty.

Take, for instance, the University of Washington. An unexpected 10 percent cut in the 1981-82 budget—a loss in state appropriations of \$33 million in its operating budget—aroused the fear that hundreds of faculty would be laid off.

Higher education appropriations in the state of Washington only increased by 6.4 percent between the 1979-80 academic year and the 1980-81 academic year. This compares with a 44.8 percent increase in Texas appropriations over the same period.

Michigan State University also was faced with \$16 million in budget cuts and the potential lay-off of more than 100 tenured faculty. Yet, it successfully managed to reduce the number of faculty who were threatened with losing their jobs.

The reduction in faculty was achieved through an incentive program to faculty members whose jobs were threatened. Under the program, the professor would volunteer to leave the university with two years' salary,

Faculty salaries rise at Texas universities

Higher salaries may be one of the primary reasons why faculty are moving from the Frostbelt to the Sunbelt — and salaries at Texas universities are no exception.

Bolstered by substantial increases in legislative funding, faculty salaries at Texas public senior colleges and universities rose 18 percent last fall, the largest annual increase since the Coordinating Board began collecting the data in 1965.

Faculty salaries rose an average of 8.9 percent nationwide, and preliminary data indicate the increase in Texas will exceed all other states.

The 18 percent increase exceeded the rate of inflation for the first time in six years, as compared to the Consumer Price Index, which measured 10.2 percent in fiscal 1981.

A study by the Coordinating Board last year found that Texas faculty members had lost more than 22 percent in purchasing power since 1969. Annual increases in faculty salaries had fallen behind the rate of inflation every year since 1975-76, Coordinating Board data shows.

Salaries for faculty members of the first four ranks this fall averaged \$26,465 at the state's public senior colleges and universities, an increase of 18.1 percent or more than \$4,000 over the 1980-81 average.

Average budgeted salaries for all faculty ranks (including

lecturers and teaching assistants) at public senior institutions jumped 18 percent to \$23,453. The 1980-81 average was \$19,881.

At Texas public junior colleges, average budgeted salaries rose 13.4 percent. The average salary of \$22,849 represents a \$2,698 increase over a year. The junior college average reflects salary levels for general academic programs only and does not include data from vocational-technical programs.

These increases are expected to place faculty salaries in Texas at or slightly above the national average. In several states, increases in faculty salaries were appropriated because of the economic conditions.

In a letter to Gov. William Clements, Preston Smith, Lubbock, chairman of the Coordinating Board, said: "The strength of our institutions depends largely on the excellence of their faculty. The actions of the past legislative session leave no doubt that state policy makers are committed to a top quality system of higher education."

In response to concerns over the loss of faculty purchasing power, the 67th Legislature appropriated a 17 percent raise for faculty members of public colleges and universities for 1981-82. Another 8.7 percent pay raise was authorized for next fall in anticipation that the inflation rate would be at least that high for another year.

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Hit-and-run driver sought

A ride home from the Texas A&M-Arkansas football game ended in a broken leg for a motorcycle rider, and this week, Crime Stoppers is looking for the hit-and-run driver involved in the accident.

At about 10:40 p.m. on Nov. 14, a Texas A&M student and his passenger were riding a 1981 Yamaha motorcycle south on Bizzell Street. A light-colored car, possibly a Camaro or a Pontiac, skidded around the corner,

off Jersey Street and onto Bizzell. The car crossed the center

stripe and fish-tailed, striking the motorcycle, causing a complete fracture of the motorcycle passenger's left leg.

As the motorcycle driver stopped to aid his rider, the car left the scene of the accident and headed east on Jersey Street.

Police have few clues as to the identity of the driver of the car. Dr. Leonard Ponder, a health and physical education department, said the person responsible for the crime.

Crime Stoppers also will pay up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest and indictment in any unsolved felony case. In all cases, callers need not identify themselves and their anonymity is guaranteed.

The crime of the week is re-enacted every Tuesday during the 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. newscasts on KBTX-TV. People who wish to provide information can reach Crime Stoppers at 775-TIPS.

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