

# Tenure incorrectly viewed as job security

by Robin Black  
Battalion Staff

Dr. Clinton A. Phillips, dean of faculties, is experiencing one of the busiest times the University administrative office will see all year: tenure and promotion time.

Every fall, the various colleges and departments submit

their recommendations for tenured faculty to the office of the vice president for academic affairs.

From there, recommendations must be reviewed by the dean of faculties, the provost and vice president for academic affairs, college deans, the University president, and, finally, the Board of Regents.

It's quite a long, complex process that takes an immense amount of time, Phillips said.

Tenure is, historically, the protection of an educator's right to speak out in his area of expertise without fear of harassment.

Tenure allows the University to acquire quality faculty. A professor must meet certain criteria and go through a probationary

term designated by the University in order to be eligible for tenure.

"Tenure has now come to be considered — incorrectly considered — a kind of job security," he said.

Tenure does not provide job security, however, because a tenured educator may be dismissed on grounds ranging from professional incompetence to physical disability.

Texas A&M has not had a problem with this, Phillips said.

"We have had a very limited number of tenured faculty members resign rather than face losing tenure," he said.

However, the University has

had to dismiss at least one tenured professor who tried to take action against the decision.

"About 15 years ago, the University dismissed a faculty member who filed an appeal with the Association of American University Professors," Phillips said.

"The organization granted the appeal, but the Board of Regents refused to re-examine the professor's record," he said.

Phillips said the incident didn't hurt the University in terms of growth and success.

"The AAUP sent a representative to the University last year

to tell us that they no longer considered us censured," he said.

Although the University is no longer under the AAUP censure, its amount of tenured faculty is well below that of comparable universities.

"Most major universities of equal quality with A&M have at least 60 percent of their faculty tenured," Phillips said.

Texas A&M has 943 tenured faculty members, representative of about 54 percent of the total faculty.

The number of tenured faculty varies among the different colleges.

"For example, the business college has a low number of te-

nured professors because many new faculty members have been hired to accomplish growth," Phillips said.

However, University number of tenured faculty situation because healthy situation because untenured positions at University to bring blood, he said.

The low percentage of tenured faculty does not mean the concept of academic freedom, he said.

"Concerning academic freedom, tenure is a funny thing in the sense that a classmate will protect its non-tenured as well as its tenured faculty," he said.

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## Groups hold jello jump for leukemia

by Mary E. Macan  
Battalion Reporter

Fancy the thought of sliding into strawberry gelatin. Wiggly, squishy, jiggly gelatin. Saturday people will be sliding to raise money for the Leukemia Society.

Miller High Life, KTAW and Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity are sponsoring the Great Gelatin Jump, Robert Kline, project chairman, says.

Kline said the gelatin jump will operate on a sponsorship basis. Anyone who raises money through sponsors can participate, he said. Sponsorship forms are available at U-Tote'M convenience stores.

The jump will be at Post Oak Mall in College Station, he said. Registration will begin at 11 a.m., and the jumping will start at noon.

"Anyone interested in jumping in gelatin can come on out," he said. "It's for a good cause."

Prizes will be awarded to the persons who raise the most money. The first 100 jumpers to collect \$25 will receive T-shirts,

Kline said. There also will be the top money collector. The top collector will receive a computer system, and the collector in the over 1800 will be awarded a \$300 gift certificate, he said.

Kline said there will be a petition between sororities and fraternities with the winning party receiving a party courtesy High Life.

The gelatin will be in trash cans at Pasta's Pizza High Life will chill it for the jump, he said.

On the day of the jump, there will be 475 gallons of gelatin. The participants will slide into the trough.

"We don't know how many people will show up for the jump, or how much money we will make," Kline said. A jump was held in Houston recently, he said, and \$16,800 was raised.

"We just want people to have fun and collect money for leukemia at the same time," he said.



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