Final exam policy debated

by Michelle Powe

Battalion Staff

The Faculty Senate spent a aborious session Monday passing and amending by-laws, approving curriculum changes and discussing the possibility of requiring future graduating seniors to take final examinations.

The Senate's Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Standards presented to the Senate a report which strongly suggests abolishing the policy of exempting Texas A&M degree candidates from final examinations, saying the policy is a serious compromise of important academic values."
The Faculty Senate will

vote on the issue at its January meeting.

During its evaluation of the exemption policy, the com-mittee surveyed faculty members and interviewed leaders of major student organiza-

The student leaders inter-viewed represented the Student Government, Corps of ciation, Graduate Student Council and Cap and Gown (a senior honor society).

Some of the objections that surfaced during the interviews and surveys were:

— By being exempt from finals, less of expected of graduating seniors in their last semester than in any other

— Many graduating seniors stop attending class after the last regular examination and miss material presented after

- Some students manipulate their degree plans by tak-ing an unusually large number of courses during their last semester or delaying difficult or feared courses

The policy requires evaluating students on unequal standards. Degree candidates don't have the opportunity or the jeopardy that other stuing their final grades depend-ing on how well they do on the final exam.

— The policy limits the academic freedom of professors. It limits the types of assignments and projects that can be used.

Some arguments in favor of the policy were:

— The present policy allows graduating seniors to receive their diplomas at commencement, and allows graduation ceremonies to take place while school is still in ses-

— The early commissioning of officer candidates allows candidates at Texas A&M to receive their commissions before candidates at other schools.

- Completing the final semester early allows graduates to interview for jobs or prepare for graduate or professional schools.

— The policy is a nice reward for being a senior, and may even be considered a right of graduating seniors.

While both student leaders and faculty members cited advantages and disadvantages to the policy, nearly all the students were in favor of senior exemptions and the majority of the faculty surveyed were opposed.

The Faculty Senate will de-bate and vote on the policy change recommendation Jan. 16, the first class day of the spring semester.

If the Senate approves the policy change, the issue will have to go through a few more channels, including recommendations by University vice presidents, before the Senate proposes the change to President Frank E. Vandiver for final approval.

The committee also recommended that the policy change, if approved, be put into effect no later than the graduating class of December 1985.

Board finishes up routine concerns

by Christine Mallon

Battalion Staff

The most exciting thing that happened at Monday night's CSISD school board meeting was when the meeting was tem-porarily recessed by Christmas carolers led by the principal of South Knoll Elementary School.

The second most exciting thing was when Board President Bruce Robeck introduced his parents from Oregon who were in the audience.

"They just dropped by to see how I spend my Monday nights," Robeck explained.

This was the last meeting of the year and the board was trying to get routine matters out of the way before the holidays.

The board voted to extend the use of district schools for new churches that will come to College Station in the near future. The churches are:

 Beautiful Savior Evangelical Lutheran which is currently holding services at South Knoll. • St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church which is holding its services at College Hills Elemen• Aldersgate United Methodist Church which will temporarily use the junior high school faci-

• St. Francis Episcopal Church of the Redeemer which will begin holding services in January at Oakwood Elemen-

tary School. In other action, Superintendent H.R. Burnett announced the appointment of Tommy Att-

away as the new personnel director for the district.

Durst, Wood, Milberger and

Associates have completed the annual financial audit of the district which will be submitted to the Texas Education Agency this month.

The actual expenses for the general operating funds were about \$142,800 less than the estimated total in the 1982-83

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District Attorney joins others calling for new trial for Geter

United Press International
DALLAS — District Attorney
Jenry Wade Monday said he as joining defense attorneys in lling for a new trial for Lenell eter, a black engineer senticed to life in prison in a robery case that has sparked alletions of racism.

Wade said that because of uestions raised by news ounts of Geter's robbery trial, Dallas County District Attor-'s office was seeking a new

"On behalf of this office, I'm ning with defense attorneys Lenell Geter in asking that ecourts grant him a new trial,"

The case gained attention, in art, because a number of Geri's co-workers at E-Systems in Greenville testified that was at work the day of the

That went squarely against e testimony of five restaurant oloyees, who identified Geter the robber, and Wade said he lieved their testimony proved ter's guilt.

"I have reviewed the record

the previous trial, which is ngthy," Wade said. "The evi-ence indicates his guilt since all the five witnesses who were robed identified him as the guilty erson, but in view of a recent levision show and other media ports, I believe some doubt s been raised in the minds of many people concerning the fairness of his trial as well as his

said he hoped Geter would be freed from prison by the weekend, and he predicted that Judge John Ovard would order a new trial Tuesday.

"We expect a new trial to be granted in the morning," Sigel

The Dallas chapter of the NAACP responded to Wade's announcement by saying members were "elated with the news. We really are. The NAACP has been contending that if the full facts of the case were reviewed, Lenell Geter would be set free."

General Jim Mattox said Wade's announcement was a victory for 'We are gratified that the

An aide to Texas Attorney

apparent new evidence in the

'That's not to say he's guilty or he's innocent. It's just that tried. there are enough questions about the way the matter was handled that the whole thing ought to be looked at again," she said. "We've been working on this case for some time," she said.

Gov. Mark White said he was

sion of District Attorney Henry
Wade to push for a new trial for
Lenell Geter," White said. "A
new trial will also resolve any questions about the impartiality of Texas justice. I look forward to a speedy resolution of this case."

case has prompted the district Wade Monday said that his attorney to look again at the office would have Geter take a whole situation, to see if he got a polygraph test, and if he passed,

Geter's attorney, Edwin Sigel, fair trial," said Elna Christ-id he hoped Geter would be opher. the robbery charge would be dropped. But Wade said if Geter failed the test, he would be re-

Geter, 24, a graduate of South Carolina State College, was convicted in October 1982 of robbing a fast food restaurant of several hundred dollars. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Wade said his office would glad the case had been thoroughly investigate the case reopened. thoroughly investigate the case and interview all witnesses.

60 Minutes, the CBS televi-'I am pleased with the deci- sion news magazine, did a story

> Wade, in a prepared state-ment Monday, did not say that Geter was innocent or that his office had erred in its handling of the case. He merely said that he was calling for a new trial because of the publicity the case

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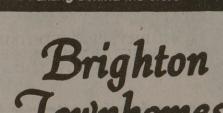
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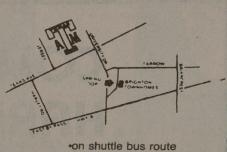
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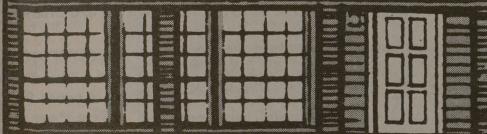
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