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Caperton angry about nominated regents

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan, said Monday he is so mad at Gov. Mark White for ignoring him in appointing two members to the Texas A&M Board of Regents that he may try to block their confirmation.

Caperton, whose district includes A&M, said he had campaigned for White and had sided with him on major legislation. He said he had also backed White in a previous controversy over the regents because he thought White would be fair in dealing with Caperton's district and the state.

"That trust, in my opinion, was misplaced," Caperton said in a Senate speech, and he added:

"Gov. White, I respectfully suggest that you will need to find someone else to carry your legislation in the future in the Senate, and that you find somebody else to champion your cause down here on this floor."

Janis Monger in White's press office said the governor would not comment.

Caperton said White had ignored his advice Friday in appointing John Mobley of Austin and L. Lowry Mays of San Antonio to the board.

White also reappointed Royce Wisenbaker of Tyler to the board, but Caperton said Monday, "I have no reservations about Mr. Wisenbaker."

He said at least one of the new appointees should be returned to White. Asked which one, Caperton

Appointed regents waiting approval by Texas Senate

By SARAH OATES
Staff Writer

Two men appointed by Gov. Mark White to the Texas A&M Board of Regents said Monday they were "surprised" by White's decision. White announced his choices Friday.

White named three Texas businessmen, all former students, to

fill positions on the board. The appointments, which were referred Monday to the Texas Senate nominating committee, still must be approved by the Senate.

John Mobley, 54, owner of Austin-based Mobley Industries, and Mobley Co., a Bryan oil-field services and waste-management

See Regents, page 4

person in his speech.

Asked at a news conference if he had been referring to Don Mauro of Bryan, 35-year-old former law partner of Caperton's and a cousin of State Land Commissioner Garry Mauro, the senator replied, "He was one of the names that I discussed, yeah."

Caperton said his was not an isolated incident, that he had heard "grumbling" from other senators whose views were being ignored by the governor.

"Consultation apparently to Mark White means that you bring the senator in after the decision has been made, and you say, 'This is what I've decided. What are you going to do about it?'" Caperton said. "Well,

we'll just see what we can do about it."

Mobley's home senator is Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin, and Mays' senator is Glenn Kothmann, D-San Antonio, and Caperton was asked if he would ask them to use their position to block the appointments.

"I don't want to get senators in trouble with their constituents, and my anger and dismay is more towards Mark White than it is towards any individual appointees, so I did not ask either Gonzalo or Sen. Kothmann to invoke senatorial courtesy on either of those appointees," Caperton said.

"I do feel that a principle is at stake here, and I think it would be totally appropriate in a symbolic way to send at least one of those appointments back to the governor."

New secretary says students must sacrifice

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's budget cuts may force some students to give up their stereos, cars and beach vacations to pay for college, said William J. Bennett, the new secretary of education.

Bennett acknowledged that eliminating loans and grants for more than 1 million college students would force some families who are already sacrificing "to tighten the belt even further."

But he suggested that other students will simply have to forego luxuries.

He likened it to a "divestiture of certain sorts: stereo divestiture, automobile divestiture, three-weeks-at-the-beach divestiture."

"I do not mean to suggest this will be the case in all circumstances, but it will, like the rain, fall on the just and unjust alike," said the former philosophy professor.

Bennett, at his first news conference, also said the belt-tightening could make people more cautious about spending \$20,000 on a college education.

He cited a new report from the Association of American Colleges that concludes the bachelor's degree has lost much of its value.

"More of us might start thinking about that (\$20,000 investment) with the same sort of care we think about when we buy a car: kick the tires and drive it around the block," said Bennett.

"That kind of greater scrutiny and deliberateness on the part of the consumer — 'What am I getting for my money here, Mr. Chancellor?' — wouldn't be a bad thing, either," said the former National Endowment for the Humanities chairman.

Bennett said the reaction to Reagan's proposed budget cuts for the 1986-87 school year have been "way out of line."

John Brademas, president of New York University, charged Sunday they amounted to "a declaration of war on middle-income America."

Reagan asked Congress last week to deny guaranteed student loans to all students from families with adjusted gross incomes above \$32,500; to eliminate grants, work-study jobs and other aid for those with incomes above \$25,000; and to limit to \$4,000 a year the maximum federal help any student can draw.

Bennett said the government should target its help on students "who might not otherwise get to college at all," rather than giving some the choice to choose expensive private institutions.



Photo by MIKE SANCHEZ

No Wax Shine

Dale Adams, a freshman aerospace engineer from Houston, applies lacquer to the combat boots of the fish drill team. Lacquer is glossy, and so it's used instead of shoe wax. The boots are being prepared for an upcoming performance during Mardi Gras.

Faculty Senate resolution supports fund-raising efforts

By KIRSTEN DIETZ
Staff Writer

At Monday's Faculty Senate meeting, the senate showed support for Chancellor Arthur G. Hansen and President Frank E. Vandiver's efforts to secure funding for Texas A&M and heard discussions on a core curriculum report.

The senate approved an executive committee resolution encouraging the Board of Regents to support Hansen and Vandiver's efforts.

The resolution said the state legislature's proposed budget reductions would severely set back many programs that have achieved or are on the threshold of excellence, and that there is a misconception that "fat" is present in the University's budget.

The Legislative Board Budget (LBB) calls for a 20 percent reduction in Texas A&M's budget.

The resolution contends the budget can not be considered "fat" because the University is short more than 900,000 square feet of building space, according to a state formula. Also, the LBB recommends faculty salaries be cut 24 percent, the equivalent of about 420 faculty members.

"A reduction of that staggering size cannot and should not be conceived of as 'fat,'" the explanation reads.

The resolution passed after a roll call vote, in which all senate members present approved it, except for one abstention. Sen. Jon Bond asked the results of the vote be sent with the resolution to Vandiver to show the senate's strong support for the president and the Chancellor.

The senate also heard discussion on the academic affairs committee's interim report on a core curriculum at A&M.

The report recommends each student take six hours of speech and writing skills, mathematical/logical reasoning, cultural heritage and social science and eight hours of science.

This is in addition to the State requirements of six hours of both American history and political science and the University requirement of four hours of physical education.

Also, the report recommends each student take one course in computer science, unless they have completed at least one course prior to entering the University or can demonstrate proficiency on an examination.

The report also proposes each student complete two semesters of a foreign language unless they have taken two semesters in high school or can demonstrate proficiency in a second language.

The senate was advised to listen to opinions from a wide variety of people in their respective colleges — such as constituents, department heads and faculty — before changes are made in the proposed curriculum.

Committee head Sen. Sam Black said, "I don't feel the proposal is all things to all people and to do so would be virtually impossible."

In other business, Sen. Ethel Tsutsui, chairman of the Committee on the Status of Women in the University, read a resolution the committee passed stating:

"Be it resolved that, the Committee on the Status of Women at Texas A&M University strongly urges the acceptance of the Attorney General's decision not to appeal the ruling of the Federal District Court on the

participation of women in previously all-male units on this campus;

Be it resolved that, the Committee on the Status of Women regrets the statements of opposition to the ruling and requests that the ruling be accepted as policy."

Tsutsui also said the committee is concerned with eliminating all sexist language in University publications, documents and forms. The report stated that some of the language "implies that women do not exist on campus."

The committee also will send out a questionnaire to faculty members, pending approval of the senate's executive committee, concerning perceptions of the faculty with regard to various sex equity issues at A&M.

The senate also approved a resolution by the academic affairs committee to set up guidelines to standardize and clarify course descriptions regarding prerequisites. According to the prerequisite subcommittee, this will help students know what to expect in the courses and what knowledge the student is assumed to know prior to the course.

After March 4, any course description not meeting the established guidelines of the resolution would be sent back to the appropriate reporting committee for modification or amendment on the senate floor.

The resolution allows for flexibility by providing that a course description can pass if it can be justified as "informative and sensible."

Also, the Faculty Senate approved several course withdrawals and course description changes.

Evaluating the professor evaluations

Feedback needs careful treatment

Editor's Note: This is the second article of a two-part series concerning faculty evaluations.

By REBECCA ADAIR
Reporter

The relationship between professors and students is a delicate and complex mixture. And the amount and success of that interaction can depend on many factors.

Student evaluations of instructors are an imperfect way of allowing feedback. But the student questionnaires are only one way to make accurate faculty evaluations.

Teachers are measured in four areas: teaching, research, service and publication.

Dr. Glenn Johnson, professor of educational curriculum and instruction and the director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, says many people do consider one area as most important, but he insists a balance is necessary.

Teaching and teachers must be evaluated separately, Johnson says. Any time a student learns, in the classroom or in the office, teaching occurs, he says.

In 1983 Johnson participated in a conference on "Quality Teaching in a Technical Society." Johnson's presentation, "Faculty Evaluation — The Great Debate," eventually led to a published article.

In the article Johnson wrote: "Fa-

ulty are continuously evaluated in some form or other — regardless of how unsophisticated the procedures and techniques may be."

To be beneficial, Johnson says evaluation systems should be designed around the department's specific characteristics and uses for the evaluations.

Johnson says faculty evaluators at universities which are strong in research should remember that an outstanding teacher may not be a great researcher, but may over a period of time build up a good teaching record.

Along the same lines, Johnson says, a great researcher may be just an average teacher. All four evalua-

tion areas for a teacher can never be expected to show equal yearly results, he says.

A&M has no single set of criteria to evaluate faculty, Johnson says.

"I have a great fear of some group getting the controls and dictating how the evaluations are to be done," Johnson says. "This would destroy innovation, creativity and risk-taking. You've got to stumble and bumble around a little to do anything worthwhile."

Johnson says he favors a University-wide evaluation form, but the form must not force comparability.

He says student questionnaires should be prepared considering many variables: the type of course,

student level, class size, classroom location, facilities, course objectives and the difficulty of subject matter.

Dr. William Peters, professor and head of Educational Curriculum and Instruction, says, students and other faculty were displeased with his department's evaluation form.

A committee was formed last year to consider revision, and its proposal has since been adopted. The department now uses two forms, an optional evaluation at midterm and a mandatory evaluation at the end of the semester.

The first form seeks student feedback on the course itself, allowing

See Feedback, page 5