

# State and Local

## Regents appropriate \$550,000 for design of biotech building

By Frank Smith  
Senior Staff Writer

The Texas A&M Board of Regents appropriated \$550,000 Monday for the preliminary design of the Institute of Biosciences and Technology, a proposed \$24 million project that will be based at the Texas Medical Center in Houston.

Regents also approved a number of other items at the full Board meeting, which followed a series of committee meetings held on campus Sunday and Monday.

Dr. Eugene Sander, in a written justification of the biosciences project, said the institute "will be a center of excellence for basic biological and biomedical sciences at the molecular level." Sander is the A&M System's deputy chancellor for biotechnology development.

In other business Monday, A&M President Frank Vandiver gave a favorable report to members of the Board's Executive Committee concerning the selection of a new Corps commandant.

"We have identified a flag officer who is currently serving (in the Air Force) and will retire in April, then come to us," Vandiver said. "I think you will be very pleased with him. He is a lieutenant general, an Aggie and a man who's eager to have the job."

Vandiver later said the candidate probably will be nominated for the position at the Board's May meeting. He said he couldn't disclose the candidate's name yet "because I'm not sure how many people know about it on his end of it."

The vacancy in the commandant's office was created by the August retirement of Col. Donald Burton. Dr. Malon Southerland, assistant vice president for student services, is serving as the interim commandant.

The Board also made appropriations of \$400,000 to the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, and of \$235,850 to the Texas Transportation Institute.

The experiment station is to spend its money on laboratory equipment, while TTI will use its

funds to purchase equipment for photographic instrumentation, materials research, computing, and traffic sensing and identification.

In addition, the regents adopted a resolution on the "mission and structure" of Texas A&M at Galveston.

The resolution authorizes Chancellor Perry Adkisson to begin plans for a research institute of marine sciences on the Galveston campus, possibly in cooperation with the University of Texas.

In other business, the Board:   
• Confirmed the appointment of Dr. Sammy M. Ray as interim president of A&M-Galveston. Dr. William H. Clayton's resignation of the school presidency became effective Jan. 1.

Ray, coordinator of A&M-Galveston's graduate programs, first joined Texas A&M's faculty in 1959 as an assistant professor. He became a full professor of oceanography and meteorology in 1969, served as head of A&M's Department of Marine Sciences from 1972 to 1977 and was dean of the Moody College of Marine

Technology from 1982 to 1986.

• Approved a project to replace Kyle Field's artificial turf. The old surface will be removed, an asphalt overlay will be applied to the field and the track surrounding it, and a new carpet will be installed. The project is scheduled for completion by the end of July.

• Appropriated \$165,000 for the preliminary design of the proposed \$9.4 million addition to the Doherty Petroleum Engineering Building.

• Adopted resolutions commending the coaches and members of the Tarleton State University and Texas A&M football teams.

• Bestowed upon Charles Cargill the title "vice president for operations emeritus." Cargill retires from his position as A&M's vice president for operations, effective Jan. 31.

• Approved naming the new petroleum engineering building (to be built on the west campus) for Board member Joe C. Richardson Jr., and approved naming the Engineering Research Center for regent Royce E. Wisenbaker.

### In Advance

#### Senate to consider bill on senior tickets

A bill that would change the way senior tickets for A&M football games are distributed will be discussed at the Student Senate's first spring semester meeting **Wednesday at 7:30 in 203 Harrington.**

The proposed bill would affect senior tickets only, House Speaker Miles Bradshaw said, and would change which second deck tickets are allotted for first-day sales, giving out seats between the 35-yard lines first instead of the 15-yard lines.

"It's an attempt to give seniors better seats," he said. "We've gotten quite a few complaints from seniors who resent sitting on the

15-yard line when they were in line for tickets at 8 a.m."

Business that will be introduced at the meeting, but not open to public discussion, includes a bill that would cut the senate size in half, from 87 to 44 senators.

The Senate also will consider a bill that would change some bicycle racks around the library to moped racks.

A delayed grade reports bill also will be discussed.

The bill could result in a resolution asking that grades be released the week following fall semester finals instead of in the second week in January.

### Population of Texas prisons crowding 95-percent limit

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — The Texas prison system Monday remained open with its population at 94.91 percent capacity, narrowly below a 95 percent cap that would trigger a

suspension of new convict admissions.

The results of Friday's inmate count, released Monday, showed the prisons held 38,341 inmates — 36 short of the mark that would force prison officials to halt admissions, Department of Corrections spokesman Charles Brown said.

In addition, Monday's intake was expected to be about 70 to 80 inmates, while about 178 were expected to be released.

"It looks like we will be good today," Brown said of the prospects for remaining open.

Today, however, is expected to bring the usual twice-a-week delivery of many inmates sent into the system from the state's major population counties — Harris, Dallas, Tarrant and Bexar.

On Friday, the prisons were at 94.93 percent of capacity, 27 beds shy of closing.

Officials had predicted the population numbers would be extremely close to the 95 percent capacity, but releases from Thursday were a bit higher than anticipated. No inmates were accepted over the weekend.

## Texas bill aimed at banning late-pregnancy abortions

AUSTIN (AP) — Two lawmakers introduced a bill Monday to ban late-pregnancy abortions and require minors to get approval from their parents or a judge before terminating a pregnancy.

"There is no greater issue that the Legislature of the state of Texas has to face than the issue of protecting the rights of the unborn," said Rep. Mike Millsap, D-Fort Worth and House sponsor of the bill.

"All of the issues relating to prison overcrowding and budget problems, all of those pale to insignificance when you consider the damage done by the lack of abortion regulation laws in the state of Texas," he said.

Violation of the proposed law would be a Class A misdemeanor, which carries a jail sentence of up to one year in prison and a \$2,000 fine. Under the bill, the doctor could be charged, but not the female who had the abortion.

The director of the Texas Abortion Rights Action League blasted the bill as unnecessary

and as potentially harmful to minors.

"Try to imagine being 13 or 14 and going up to a judge and saying, 'Would you tell me I'm mature enough so that I can get an abortion?'" Pam Fridrich of TARAL said. "What a frightening experience for a pregnant teenager."

Also Monday, an Austin lawmaker called for "family life education" courses, including sex education, in public schools. Rep. Lena Guerrero, D-Austin, was chairman of a House subcommittee on teen-age pregnancy, which, she said, is at epidemic levels.

"It is time for us to discuss the facts of life in our public schools," she said.

Millsap and Senate sponsor Ted Lyon, D-Rockwall, predicted their abortion bill would pass, largely because of support from Gov. Bill Clements.

The bill would ban abortions after a fetus is determined to be "viable" — able to live outside the womb with or without help from ma-

chines. Lyon said viability generally is reached after about 24 weeks of pregnancy.

State law now allows abortion until the day of birth, although few late-pregnancy abortions are performed.

Lyon said the parental consent section also is needed.

"We are asking the Legislature to adopt a law that simply makes abortion like all other medical operations in Texas," he said. "Under current law in Texas, anytime a minor wants any type of medical operation, they have to have parental consent."

The bill allows minors to seek a judge's approval if they chose not to discuss it with their parents, as often happens in incest cases. The law would allow late-pregnancy abortions if the mother's health is endangered.

Bill Price of Dallas, director of the Texas Coalition for Life, praised the Lyon-Millsap measure.

"People in this state do not support infanticide, and when you kill a baby that's viable, a

baby that can live outside the womb, you are, in a sense, practicing infanticide," Price said at a news conference called by Lyon and Millsap.

But Fridrich, who attended the news conference, said the viability section of the bill is not needed and the consent portion could cause further problems for pregnant teens.

"We're opposed to parental consent laws because we don't believe they serve any useful purpose for enhancing family communications or helping teen-agers through a crisis," she said.

In calling for sex education in public schools, Guerrero said her subcommittee found that more than 1,000 babies were born in 1985 to Texas females age 14 or under. Guerrero said most of the young pregnant Texans are socially and economically unprepared for motherhood.

"We want to prevent abortions," she said. "We think this bill will prevent abortions."

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