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Clements nominates 3 to Board of Regents

By Frank Smith
Senior Staff Writer

Gov. Bill Clements on Monday announced the nomination of a trio of former students to fill the three vacancies that have existed on the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents since Feb. 1.

Nominated as new appointees were oil and real estate investor Douglas R. DeCluitt of Waco and produce grower Wayne Showers of McAllen. In addition, the governor said he was nominating Dallas attorney William A. McKenzie for a second term on the Board. All hold degrees from A&M.

The appointees still await confir-

mation by the Texas Senate, which is expected to be granted sometime next week. The appointees' terms will expire Feb. 1, 1993.

DeCluitt, 52, is chairman and president of Sovereign Corp., a real-estate firm, and Heritage Energy Corp., an oil and gas firm. He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from A&M in 1957, and also holds a degree from the Harvard University graduate school of business administration, where he was a classmate with Regent L. Lowry Mays.

DeCluitt also served on the governor's task force on higher education during Clements' previous term. He will fill the place previously held by

Amarillo oilman Joe C. Richardson.

"I'm obviously delighted," he said of his nomination to the Board. "Anytime I have a chance to work for A&M, I'm excited about it."

Showers, 54, is president of Griffin and Brand Inc., a fruit and vegetable production company in McAllen. He holds two degrees from A&M — a bachelor's in electrical engineering he received in 1953 and a master's in entomology he earned in 1958.

Showers also is a member of the board of the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association and is a past president of the Texas Citrus and Vegetable Growers and Shippers Association.

He will serve in the spot previously held by San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros.

Showers said he looks forward to assuming his new position.

"It's certainly a challenge to me, I'll tell you that," he said. "But I feel very honored. This is probably one of the most challenging and most rewarding things that's ever happened to me."

Showers also mentioned his long-time friendship with Chancellor Perry Adkisson, which dates back to his days as a graduate student in entomology.

"I was Perry's first graduate student when he came to Texas A&M in 1957 as an assistant professor," he

said. "He signed my thesis. He's probably as good a friend as I have in the world."

McKenzie, 63, was first appointed to the Board in 1981 during Clements' previous term. He earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural administration from A&M in 1944 and also holds a degree from the Southern Methodist University School of Law. McKenzie served as vice chairman of the Board from 1982 through 1984, and is a senior partner in the Dallas law firm McKenzie and Baer.

Though McKenzie couldn't be reached for comment Monday, both new appointees described them-

selves as strong Clements supporters.

DeCluitt said, "I've known the governor for many years and I've been one of his political supporters since he first decided to run for office."

Showers echoed those sentiments. "I believe in him and I know we need a man of his ilk guiding our state at this point in time," he said.

Monday's nominations drew praise from both Adkisson and current Board Chairman David G. Eiler.

Adkisson said DeCluitt and Showers "are both outstanding people."

See Regents, page 8

Faculty Senate OKs plan to halt reports of midterm grades

By Amy Couvillon
Staff Writer

The Texas A&M Faculty Senate on Monday voted to eliminate midterm grade reports for all undergraduate students except freshmen.

The proposal, which still must be approved by University President Frank E. Vandiver, is one item on a 29-page list of proposed changes to the 1987-88 University regulations submitted for the Senate's consideration by Rules and Regulations Committee Chairman Bill Kibler.

"This was the single most debated proposal in front of our committee," Kibler told the Senate.

Kibler was present at the meeting to explain what Senate Speaker Sam Black called an unprecedented number of regulations changes. He said the original proposal had been to eliminate midterm grade reports altogether, but the committee later reached a compromise.

"The group of students that most rely on these grades is the freshmen," he said, explaining that the research done by committee members showed that most sophomores, juniors and seniors do not want or need midterm grade reports.

"As the students progress through their academic careers, the midterm grades become less and less important," he said. "In fact, few of them bother to pick them up anyway."

The Senate also considered changing some registration regulations to better address problems associated with the new phone registration system.

One regulation approved by the Senate read, "It is the responsibility of the student to be sure that prerequisites are met."

Dr. Jerome Kapes, professor of educational psychology, said that within a year, the classes each student has taken will be stored in the phone registration system so that if the student lacks the prerequisite, the computer will not allow registration in that class.

Because Kibler was unable to stay

for the whole meeting, the rest of the proposed changes will be considered when the Senate meets in April.

In other business, the Senate heard an address from Dr. Perry Adkisson, chancellor of the Texas A&M University System. Adkisson, in his first speech to the Faculty Senate, called for increased efforts in minority recruiting, competitive salaries to combat faculty flight, an aggressive search for more endowments and private gifts to A&M, and more nominations of A&M faculty for national and international awards.

"We must declare war on mediocrity," Adkisson said. "Texas is faced with a very critical choice, to either maintain its commitment to quality education or continue the policies of the last three years with the resultant loss of momentum and deterioration in quality."

Adkisson called on Gov. Bill Clements and the Texas Legislature to improve higher education funding, saying that at current funding levels, A&M cannot expect to attract research dollars and talented faculty.

He endorsed an amended version of Texas Senate Bill 123, which he called "a powerful endorsement of higher education," and said that one of the additions he has asked the Legislature to add to the bill is \$4.4 million over the next two years to support A&M's minority recruitment efforts.

He emphasized that recruitment of more minorities in both students and faculty is an integral part of A&M's growth and continued quest for excellence.

The Senate also voted to send to committee a resolution concerning classified and proprietary research at A&M, which was submitted by Dr. Chester Dunning, associate professor of history.

Dunning, who has studied classified research at A&M for six years, said that his resolution has served to initiate discussion about the the need

See Senate, page 8

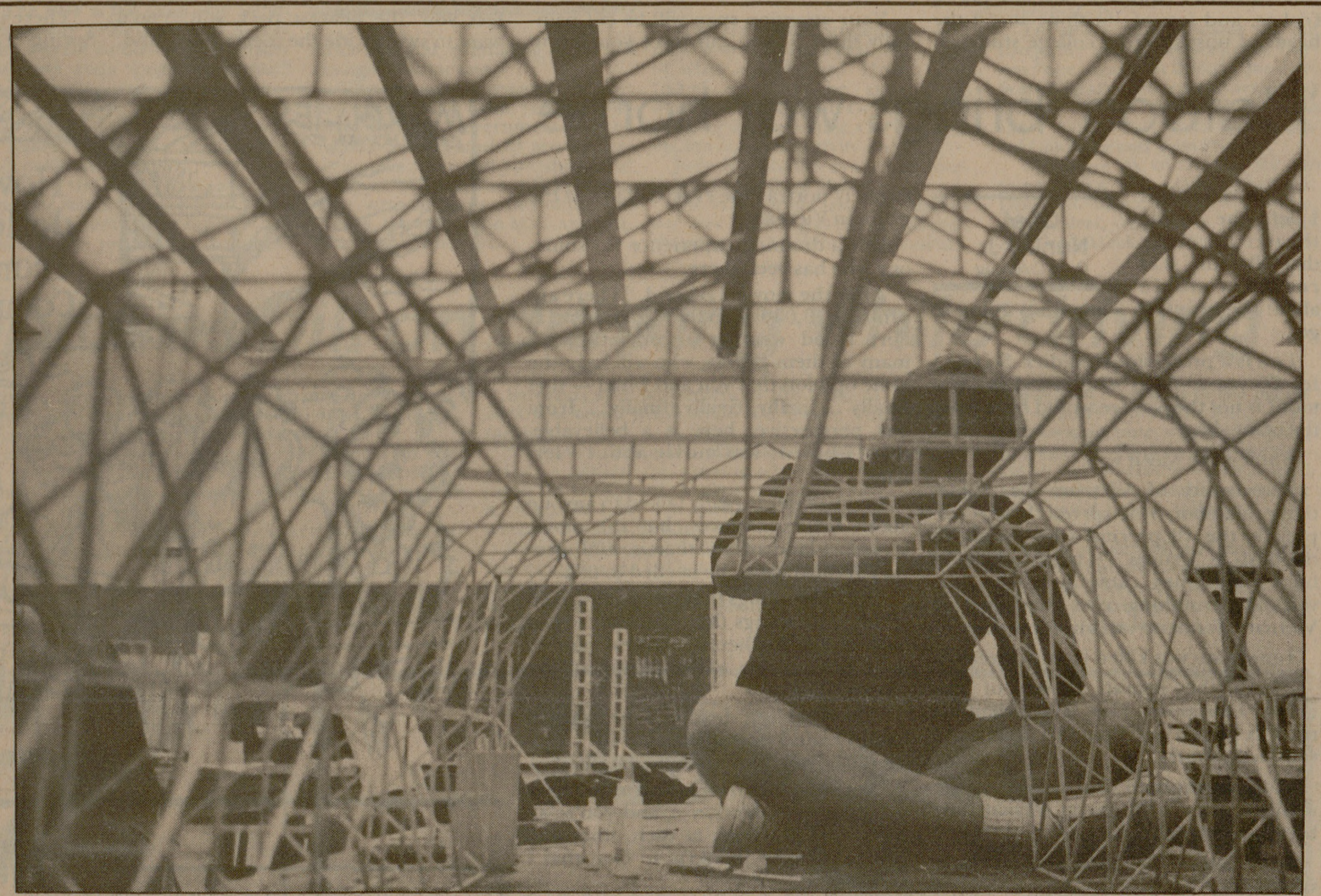


Photo by Tammy Cook

Caution — Hard Hat Area

Freshmen Mark Barnes works on a model construction of a futuristic airplane hanger for advancing rocket-type aircraft. The project is for

his Environmental Design 103 class and is on display in the Langford Architecture Center.

Board calls for changes in SMU government

DALLAS (AP) — Southern Methodist University's Board of Governors decided Monday that the school's government needs to be overhauled, saying cash payments to football players slipped through flaws in the system.

Finding ways to control the damage, which escalated last week when Texas Gov. Bill Clements revealed he was aware of payments that con-

tinued even after the football program was put on NCAA probation, also was the subject of a series of student protests.

"One thing is evident — the current system didn't work," board chairman William Hutchison said after a four-hour meeting. "It didn't work because the structure at SMU failed to provide the necessary checks and balances required to ef-

fectively govern the institution."

The resolution passed Monday included reducing the size of the boards of governors and trustees, making membership more diverse and more broadly accountable to university officials.

Clements last week triggered an investigation by the university and the Methodist Church when he said he and some other members knew of

the improper payments and intended to phase them out.

Current board members flatly deny they knew anything of the payments and have called for a Methodist bishop-appointed committee to verify their statements.

Hutchison said the Monday resolution will be forwarded to a committee already appointed to study the structure of the board of trustees. The board of governors serves as an executive committee to the 75-member board of trustees.

The resolution asked the committee to speed up its action and submit its recommendations to the board of trustees within two weeks.

Senior finals could be reality next year

New finals guidelines cause conflict

By Christi Daugherty
Staff Writer

Seniors taking finals at Texas A&M is no longer an illusory nightmare for future students, but instead is an impending reality for this year's juniors.

Yet, as a permanent plan is formulated in the offices of A&M's president and administrators, ques-

Senior finals
Part one of a two-part series

tions that still hang in the air leave the viability of that plan in doubt.

The questions deal not with the academic aspect of finals, but with lingering accusations of bureaucratic indifference on the part of the A&M administration, power plays by the Faculty Senate and the futility and frustration of the Student Government.

From the time of the A&M Faculty Senate's inception about three years ago, senators had expressed their disapproval with the lack of senior finals. Faculty members insisted a school that didn't thoroughly test its students before granting them a diploma never would be taken se-

riously as a world university.

Senate members considered it a matter of academic freedom to be able to test their own students as they saw fit and belittled tradition as a reason for a lack of final exams.

The Senate issued resolutions calling for senior finals to be taken at the same time as undergraduate finals, and graduation to be delayed a week to allow time for grades to be processed and sent in.

In a 1984 letter to Dr. Murray Milford, then speaker of the Faculty Senate, President Frank Vandiver accepted the idea of senior finals on the condition that they be given early enough to continue commencement in its present form.

In 1985, Vandiver assigned the idea to a subcommittee of the Academic Operations Committee — a University committee — to study and offer workable suggestions. The Calendar Subcommittee, under the leadership of its chairman, Dr. Robert Chenoweth, dean of engineering, studied the idea for almost two years, eventually issuing its findings in Fall 1986 in a 15-page document.

At the same time, the Faculty Sen-

ate continued discussing the issue and assigned the idea to a committee to devise an acceptable plan not only to the Senate, but also to Vandiver.

Meanwhile, the Student Senate issued a resolution in response to the Faculty Senate resolution, rejecting senior finals as unworkable, but offering hints that it was beginning to accept them as inevitable.

The Calendar Subcommittee findings rejected the Faculty Senate suggestions of common finals outright because the plan delayed commencement, which could be a particular problem in December since it would result in graduation ceremonies occurring during Christmas break.

The subcommittee also rejected the idea of keeping dorms open later, and pointed out the fact that an overlap would exist in August between the start of the fall semester and commencement. Its choice instead was staggered finals between dead week and finals week, with seniors taking their finals during dead week and at the discretion of their professors. This, the report said, would allow commencement and Final Review to continue to take place

on an active campus and would keep student attendance at graduation high.

However, the subcommittee admitted the plan was not without problems. The faculty would have to create and schedule two sets of finals, and they still would have two grade sheets to turn in.

Yet when the subcommittee voted on the plans, staggered finals were their first choice, with the current policy second, and common finals third.

The Student Senate issued a resolution stating that it still rejected senior finals as unnecessary, but it considered staggered finals its second choice.

In August, the Academic Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate voted in favor of common finals, rejecting the Calendar Subcommittee's findings as unacceptable.

An alternative plan suggested by the Academic Affairs Committee eventually would form a basis for the president's finals plan.

Subcommittee members say they

heard nothing from Vandiver until he announced in January he had chosen a plan of common finals following certain guidelines:

- Exams will start on Friday of Dead Week.

- Exams will be given Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday.

- Grades for degree candidates are due at 5 p.m. Tuesday.

- Commencement will be held on Friday and Saturday of that week with commissioning on Saturday.

Some changes inherent in this plan are that dead week is shortened by one weekday and a weekend, which means that finals for Friday labs will have to be given a week early. Seniors will have four hours to clear any graduation blocks instead of the current one-and-a-half days.

On the other hand, the plan leaves some things as they are. Professors will be available to their students in the early part of the week and commencement will be held at approximately the same time — although most of the campus will be empty.

Chrysler Corp. plans to buy AMC shares

DETROIT (AP) — Chrysler Corp. announced Monday it has agreed to buy out Renault's interest in ailing American Motors Corp. and to buy all outstanding AMC shares for a total of \$757 million in cash and stock.

The No. 3 automaker also would assume \$767 million in AMC debt, Chrysler spokesman John Guiniven said.

The deal must be approved by the U.S., French and Canadian governments, the three corporations' boards and AMC stockholders, but analysts saw few obstacles to approval.

"For Chrysler, the attractions are Jeep, the best-known automotive brand name in the world; a new, world-class assembly plant at Bramalea, Canada, and a third distribution system giving us access to a larger market," Chrysler Chairman Lee Iacocca said.