

State and Local

Faculty Senate OKs resolution aimed at salary discrimination

By Amy Couvillon
Staff Writer

After more than two hours of bitter debate, the Texas A&M Faculty Senate on Monday approved a resolution intended to identify and remedy salary discrimination against female faculty members at A&M.

The resolution mentions "statistical evidence of a measurable disparity between female salary levels and those of men for the 1985-86 academic year." It suggests that A&M should set aside sufficient funds to correct salary discrimination wherever it is found.

"An immediate, case-by-case evaluation (should) be conducted by departments, with the oversight and guidance by the offices of the dean of faculties and provost, and immediate raises (should) be granted to those women found to be victims of discriminatory salary treatment," the resolution said.

The final version of the resolution — emerging from a tedious tangle of amendments, motions, and resolutions — differed substantially from the original resolution introduced by Dr. Katherine O'Keeffe from the Committee on the Status of Women. The original proposal had advocated an across-the-board pay increase for all A&M female faculty members.

All resolutions coming from the Faculty Senate must be approved by President Frank E. Vandiver to become policy.

O'Keeffe was emotional and often sarcastic as she defended the committee's proposal to give female faculty the raise, which she said would remedy a "collective discriminatory burden of \$180,905.76" found in a study done by the Office of Planning and Institutional Analysis.

The approved resolution, which also includes suggestions for a yearly salary study and an oversight committee to be established by Vandiver, was passed in an overwhelming voice vote dominated by male voices. The

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— Dr. Katherine O'Keeffe of the Committee on the Status of Women

few voices voting against the final proposal were female.

O'Keeffe presented survey results showing that most women perceive sex discrimination, while many males do not believe it exists. She pointed out a fact obvious in the crowded room — that there are very few women in the Faculty Senate, which reflects the fact that women comprise only 8.2 percent of the A&M faculty.

"I am looking at all of you," O'Keeffe said, "and I am acutely

aware of the fact that I wear a skirt. Most of you do not.

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Several senators, especially Dr. Omer Jenkins of the statistics department, objected to the statistical methods used to point out discrimination. Jenkins said he was uncomfortable with several technical aspects of the study.

"Our society does discriminate against women," Jenkins said. "But I hate to see a statistical analysis such as this one go on the record."

Dr. Don Hellriegel, interim dean, introduced a presentation from Dr. William H. Bassichis, who was not present at the meeting.

Included in Hellriegel's presentation of blurry overhead transparencies was a list of the number of women per department. The list showed that 24 departments have no women faculty members at all.

"I allege," Hellriegel said, "that

for the next 14 departments of the list (that have one woman per department), and probably for the next seven departments also (that have two women per department), the number of women in each department is too small to determine if anything beyond individual characteristics is affecting salary."

Hellriegel suggested that a study of female salaries should include only those departments that include more than two women.

O'Keeffe responded sarcastically, saying Bassichis' evidence was anecdotal rather than statistical.

"Twenty-four departments," she said, "who have no women at all, are so 'pure' that they are beyond any accusation of discrimination against women?"

Dr. Chester Dunning, who sided with O'Keeffe on many of the argued issues, urged senators to stop arguing technical statistics and get on with the spirit of the resolution.

"I've heard many critics, particularly statisticians, say they don't really question the results, just the method," Dunning said, "and they don't want us to be associated with dirty data, or dirty manipulation of data, even though the bottom line is we have a history of discrimination."

Engineering professor Don Russell, who proposed the resolution that ultimately was accepted, worried that across-the-board raises

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State legislators hear committee testimony on abortion proposal

AUSTIN (AP) — A state lawmaker urged colleagues Monday to ban late-pregnancy abortions and require unmarried minors to get parental consent to end pregnancies.

A San Antonio obstetrician said the bill could drive young women to illegal, unsafe abortions.

The testimony came on Rep. Mike Millsap's bill that would ban abortion of fetuses that have reached "viability" and would be capable of surviving outside the womb. A similar bill was heard Monday in a Senate committee with its sponsor, Sen. Ted Lyon, making changes to increase its chance of passing.

"The legislation I have laid out before you today will not totally satisfy people on either side of this issue," Millsap, D-Fort Worth, told the House State Affairs Committee, which heard several hours of testimony but planned to take no action Monday.

Millsap on Monday changed the bill to allow pregnant minors to have abortions with the consent of one parent. The bill previously required approval of both parents.

"To deny a parent the right to

give consent to surgery on their minor daughter that could scar them physically or emotionally for the rest of their lives is simply destructive of the family unit," Millsap said. "It goes against every principle regarding the sanctity of the family. No one should have the right to do this to my daughter or to the daughters of any Texan."

His bill would allow pregnant minors to seek court approval for an abortion, a process that committee member Lena Guerrero, D-Austin, called impractical.

"If a judge finds a young woman mature he will grant her an abortion," Guerrero said. "If he finds her immature, will he make her a mother?"

Lyon, D-Rockwall, dropped from his bill the provision requiring minors to have parental consent.

"I'm a political realist and I realize that with that provision in the bill I do not believe I have a chance of passing that out of this committee," Lyon said.

The bill also was attacked by Sarah Weddington, an Austin lawyer who successfully argued the Roe vs. Wade case that led to the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down state laws against abortion.

Sculpture sent back to artist to have damages repaired

Students walking by the art exhibits between the Academic Building and Harrington Classroom Building may have been doing a double take this week, not because a new sculpture has been added, but because one is missing.

"The Howl," a multi-colored, fiberglass sculpture of a wolf howling at the sky, had graced

the walkway between the classroom building and Harrington Tower since February, along with several other pieces of art, but a University Art Exhibit spokesman said the wolf sculpture was removed Friday at the request of the artist.

Cathy Hastedt said some damage had been done to the artwork before it came to the campus.

Prof gets bomb threat about 2 A&M buildings

By Christi Daugherty
Staff Writer

An engineering professor in Zachry Engineering Center received an anonymous call Monday afternoon in which the caller threatened to blow up both Fermier and Thompson halls.

Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, said the professor, who asked not to be identified, received the call on his private office line at approximately 2 p.m., and at that time notified the police department.

Building proctors chose to evacuate faculty and students in the buildings at that time, against the advice of the police, Wiatt said, and they re-

mained outside for about 30 minutes.

Wiatt said evacuating the building is not a good idea in all circumstances because it often leads to more calls of that type.

Instead, the police prefer to quietly check the building in question before upsetting classes.

"We have to make a decision in the case of an anonymous phone call as to whether it's legitimate or a prank before we evacuate," Wiatt said. "In this situation we considered it a prank, but the proctors made an individual decision to empty the building."

A sweep of Fermier and Thompson yielded nothing unusual, he said.

Since the professor received the threatening call on his private, unpublished office line, it's possible the caller knows him, Wiatt said.

But this sort of occurrence is not unusual, he added, and there was a rash of similar calls last spring.

Also, although about half the calls are placed to the police department, the other half are received by a variety of people, including secretaries, professors and students.

"It seems like it always happens toward the end of the semester during exams," Wiatt said, "which makes us think someone didn't study and wanted a long, lazy afternoon out in the sunshine."

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