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Railroad

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between the railroads, the University and federal funds from a matching grant.

Railroad Commissioner Kent Hance met with officials from Southern Pacific and Union Pacific railroads Tuesday morning to discuss the most recent attempts to resolve a situation that has been tense at best over the last few years.

"The railroad has indicated all along that they would pick up some of the cost, but it's a question of how much," Hance said Wednesday. "They threw a general term of 10

percent out in discussion, but it's not a final commitment."

He said that although the companies seemed receptive to helping fund the project, they have not seen a proposal yet.

"They haven't seen a final proposal because the committee is not through negotiating yet," he said.

Barton said the railroads' primary concern is the high cost of the proposed renovations.

"They obviously have to remain competitive, and any time you have to go in and make an expenditure like we are talking about, that is a se-

rious matter," Barton said. "But by the same token, they have a responsibility to the community on safety issues and there is so much traffic across campus that this is not an area where you can get by with just railroad guards."

"The railroad has tried to work on this by trying to schedule their trains at certain times and have cooperated with controlling their speed through campus. It's not like Southern Pacific is stonewalling us. But there's only so much of that you can do. At some point you have to say 'OK, we'll spend X amount of dollars if you'll

spend X amount of dollars if you'll can reach a solution."

Even if the railroads agree to this strategy, guarantee that federal funds obtained.

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Funds

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due to be filed with the higher education board. According to Roger Elliott, assistant commissioner for research programs for the higher education board, more than 2,500 letters had been received for consideration and 608 of those came from Texas A&M.

"While the number of letters received is important," Elliott explained, "it only serves as an approximation of the number of proposals we will receive."

"In the end only about half of those who turn in letters will actu-

ally submit a project outline."

As a protective measure to reduce the possible dominance by A&M and the University of Texas — the two largest recipients of funding in the state — the state legislature limited the amount available to the two schools to 70 percent of the funds available in each program — up to a maximum of \$42 million.

"Instead of just giving them the money, this allows schools with smaller research departments to get funding in a competitive way," explained Feenan Jennings, director of the Office of

Research at Texas A&M. "It also helps those schools develop their research programs and boost their standings with those supplying other types of research funding."

The second stage consists of researchers writing up the specifics of their projects and submitting them by Feb. 16. After that, the submitted reports will be sent to review panels for recommendation to the coordinating board. Funding awards will be made on May 15.

Among the most promising and numerous of the projects

filed thus far deal with biomedical and biological fields, Jennings said. Projects filed range from studies to aerospace research, he said.

"The important factor in projects is that it is money directed toward the Legislature feels important to the (state's) economy," Jennings explained. "It tries to improve the base, we can get away from dependency that has been in the last few years."

News agency says 'hardened gamblers' arrested in China

BEIJING (AP) — Dozens of "hardened gamblers" have been arrested and about 2,000 of their repentant cohorts have confessed to police in east China's Jiangsu province, it was reported Tuesday. The official Xinhua News Agency

quoted Jiangsu's deputy governor, Chen Huanyou, as telling a news conference that gambling has become a serious "public pest."

"We are going to lay a heavier hand on gamblers, especially on the professional ones," it quoted him as

saying. Xinhua did not say when the arrests were made or give a specific number.

It said those who were arrested were "hardened gamblers," while the 2,000 who confessed to police

had "seen the error of their ways and were not arrested."

China's communist government outlawed gambling shortly after it came to power in 1949 but has since wavered on the issue despite periodic crackdowns.

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