

# State and Local

## A&M budget up \$40 million, 5.9 percent

## Tenneco gets several offers for operations

By Loyd Brumfield  
Senior Staff Writer

Texas A&M University System administrators are generally pleased with the newly-approved record budget, even though government-funded appropriations were minimal.

The \$794,840,723 budget, a 5.9 percent and \$40 million increase from 1987-88, was approved by the A&M Board of Regents late last month.

The College Station campus budget increased \$20 million dollars over last year's budget to \$473,968,433 — nearly 60 percent of the system's total budget.

All parts of the University System received increases with the exception of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, whose budget went down about one percent from \$50,982,522 to 50,289,963.

W.C. Lancaster, Vice Chancellor for Budgets and Human Resources, said most budgetary increases came in the form of local research contracts.

"There weren't any significant increases in state appropriations," he said. "In fact there was hardly any increase at all. Most increases came about through revenues from contracts and that sort of thing."

Lancaster said general academic areas also received more money.

"Most University services didn't receive increases with the exception of the 2 percent across-the-board increases in salaries for all non-faculty members."

Ronnie Jackson, fiscal officer for the Agricultural Extension Service, said although the service received cuts, they were minimal at best.

"Most (cuts) came in our grants and contracts, which are mainly used

for educational purposes," he said. "Our government-appropriated funds haven't changed much."

Jackson said the funding should be adequate to meet the service's needs.

"You never have enough money, but we came out of the last biennium in pretty good shape," he said. "We need to keep pace with inflation and the needs of consumers. If we do that, we should be all right."

The services within the College of Engineering received the greatest budget increase, with the Texas Engineering Experiment Station getting the largest boost. The station's budget went up 25 percent, from \$27,649,495 to \$34,621,921.

The Texas Engineering Extension Service was given an additional \$3 million for a total budget of \$19,471,815. An increase of 16 percent over last year.

The increases for these services were given because of the type of work involved, Lancaster said.

"Both engineering stations do a lot of contract research," he said. "The extension service does a lot of training programs for fees and that's a matter of more work, primarily."

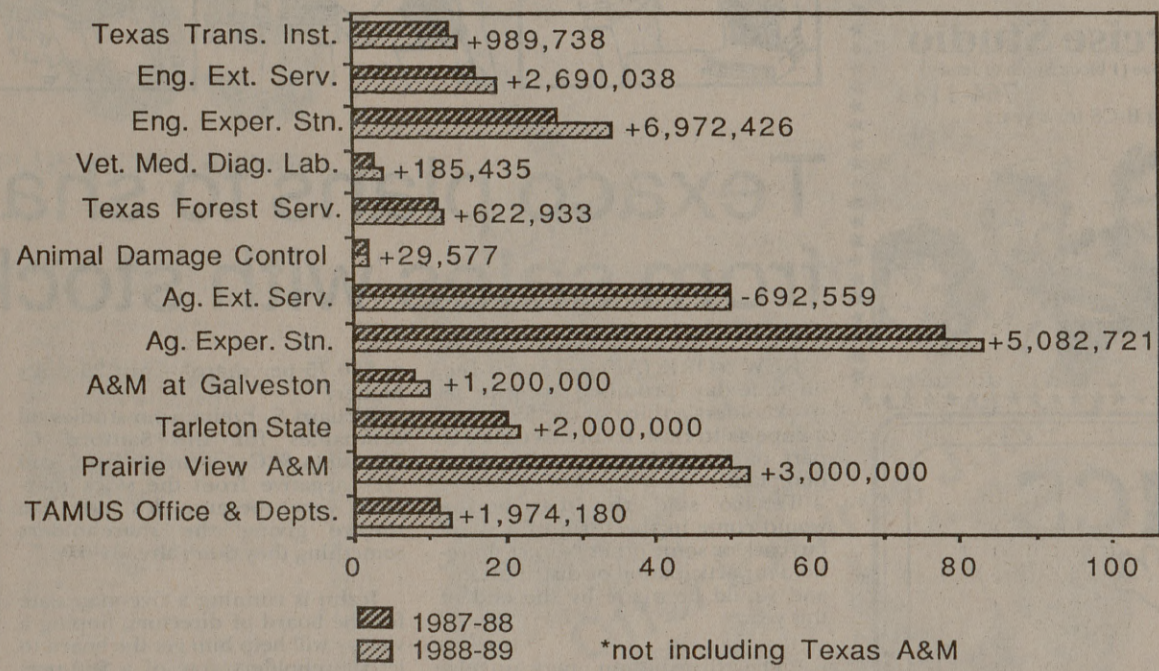
Carol Justus-Cantrell, assistant director of business affairs for the extension station, said the service's increases are the result of increases in sponsor research.

"Our government funds are pretty much fixed," she said. "We're anticipating more research dollars and we have more projects coming in."

Justus-Cantrell said although the budget is adequate, the station can use more money for personnel services.

"We're expecting a good year, but we were hoping to get more for staff raises," she said. "We're limited by system guidelines. We try to make sure it's a system that's equitable."

TAMUS Budget Comparisons \*



Graphic by Taani Baier

James Bradley, director of the extension service, said the increases within the service come mainly because of technological advances.

"If you don't keep up with technology in this business, you're dead," he said. "If you fall even two or three years behind, you're in trouble."

The quality of the service had a lot to do with the budgetary increase, Bradley said.

"We stay right on technology," he said. "We're one of the few institutions that has the faculty and staff to stay abreast of technology."

"We're attuned to today's market.

If you want to survive, you have to keep up with modern technology."

Both Prairie View A&M University and Tarleton State University received budget increases. Prairie View A&M's budget jumped about \$3 million or about five percent to \$59,917,965, and Tarleton State received more than a \$2 million increase for a total budget of \$22,973,546. About 10 percent more than last year.

Jerry Graham, director of business services for Tarleton State, said the additional funds were split between educational services and local services.

"About \$1 million went to general educational applications, while the other million went in for room and board fees and things of that nature," he said.

Tarleton State received just about what it needs to prosper, Graham said.

"You never have exactly what you need, but basically we have a good budget," he said. "Our growth rate is very high since last semester and we should have a good summer, too."

"It'll be a challenge, but I think we can live with it."

HOUSTON (AP) — Tenneco Inc., the nation's 10th-largest oil company, said Tuesday it has received several offers for its oil and gas operations since putting them up for sale two weeks ago.

A spokesman declined to discuss details of any of the offers, but financial analysts have estimated the units could fetch between \$5 billion to \$7 billion.

Joseph M. Macrum, the Tenneco spokesman, also would not identify any of the bidders, except to confirm that an offer had been received from Gulf Financial Resources Inc., a private Houston-based investment firm financed by European interests.

Gulf Financial said Monday that it had sent Tenneco Chairman James L. Ketelsen a letter asking for a meeting to discuss details of its undisclosed cash offer.

Tenneco announced on May 25 that it wanted to get out of the oil and gas business to concentrate on its shipbuilding, farm equipment, auto parts and chemicals operations. It said it would use the proceeds to reduce its \$8.5 billion debt.

Henri A. Soussan, a principal in Gulf Financial, would not reveal the offered price or other details concerning the proposal, which was made to Tenneco in a letter last Wednesday.

Macrum said Gulf Financial was one of "many" firms that had expressed an interest in acquiring the oil and gas units.

"We have received more than anticipated," Macrum said. He said he did not have a definite number, but said "it's a lot, very extensive."

The sale is being handled by the investment banking firms Morgan Stanley Corp. and First Boston Corp.

## Guest professor: Research needed for multicultural education in U.S.

By Janet Goode  
Senior Staff Writer

Multicultural education is something all good Americans need to be good Americans, said Dr. Martin Haberman, a professor of education from the University of Wisconsin Tuesday to a group of about 50 graduate students and faculty members.

Haberman, a guest speaker in part of a week-long seminar on intercultural education, said he hoped to interest education graduate stu-

dents in the importance of multicultural education in America and to present them with research ideas for possible dissertations.

Haberman said he envisions the different cultures in America in having changed from being a "melting pot" only tolerant of each other, to a society where each group maintains its own ethnicity and integrity while accepting other cultures.

"The vision I have of America is all the circles being open-ended," he said, "where everybody has standard

English, can do well in school and know what is needed to make it in the larger society, but without losing their cultural roots."

Haberman said to accomplish this type of society it takes three kinds of learning: how to function in society as a whole, in cultural subgroups and as individuals.

One question that has to be answered before studying cultural America, Haberman said, is what

makes people American.

Haberman says sociologist Robin

Williams' model shows that being an American is difficult since American values often come in conflict with each other. For example, he said, Williams says we value freedom, but Americans also want activity and work and cherish moral orientation. Americans want democracy, but also value efficiency, progress, science rationality, and on the negative side, racism, Haberman said. "Being an

American is a daily challenge," he said.

Haberman said another reason to study multicultural education is that Americans don't know much about their own minorities.

After emphasizing the importance of multicultural education, Haberman presented ideas for research.

He said he would like to see studies on how teachers resolve value conflicts with children. He asked

what a teacher should do when an assignment conflicts with a families' cultural or religious beliefs?

He said studies could also be done in the area of the "short-changed child of suburbia." How much do they really know about minorities?

Haberman said he would also like to know how a teacher can be taught enthusiasm and commitment, rather than just be accepted with high grades.

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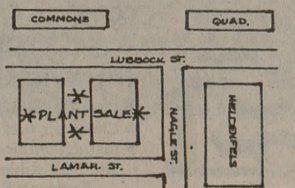
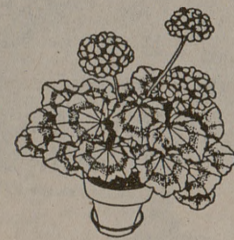
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