

Thursday, March 23, 1989

## Student Senate OKs bill urging revision of syllabi guidelines

By Kelly S. Brown

STAFF WRITER

The 1988-89 Student Senate, in its final meeting of the semester, approved a bill asking the Texas A&M administration to implement new directives pertaining to syllabi content and distribution.

Mark Williams, a graduate student in land development and co-author of the bill, said many professors already have effective syllabi and the bill won't affect them.

Beth Ammons, a sophomore environmental design major and co-author of the bill, said it is aimed at the few professors whose syllabi do not adequately explain course content, course prerequisites, attendance policies or grading policies, or do not adequately list text and materials required for successful completion of course work and projects.

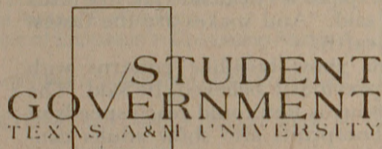
Ammons said a professor doesn't always make it clear that later in the semester a student will have to buy a new book or more supplies, and this lack of communication sometimes results in financial hardship for the student.

The stipulations for the syllabi directives include:

- Mandatory class-wide distribution of syllabi on the first class meeting date and thereafter.
- Syllabi should include a complete outline of the instructor's grading policy pertaining to the specific course.
- Syllabi should include any specific attendance policy of the course.
- Syllabi should include the specific prerequisites necessary to successfully complete the course.
- Syllabi should include a complete disclosure of all course texts and materials that will be required for successful completion of the course.

In other action, a resolution that would have approved a 10-week session for all courses offered during the summer was tabled.

Williams said he tabled the resolution (indefinitely postponed a vote) because he wants "to check with the student body and see what they think about it."



The Faculty Senate passed the resolution for 10-week sessions during their last meeting March 6.

Academic Affairs Chairman Kerrie Neck, a sophomore business administration major, introduced the bill to the Student Senate. He urged Senators to evaluate the purpose of being in school.

"(The purpose) is to get an education," she said. "And the quality of academics in the summer is weakened in two five-week sessions, while many professors are frustrated because they don't feel they can cram what they teach during a normal semester into a (five-week) summer session."

Neck said one of the positive aspects of the resolution was that the 10th week would be devoted to final examinations and graduation, which would give students and faculty time for processing final grades, clearing students for graduation and conducting graduation exercises.

The Faculty Senate's resolution has been sent to President William Mobley and the Board of Regents for approval.

## A&M financiers earn 10th place in AT&T Investment Challenge

By Sharon Maberry

STAFF WRITER

Texas A&M students who tested their financial skills in a four-month stock market game invested well enough to rank A&M in the top 10 of 864 colleges and universities participating, including 58 Texas schools.

The First Annual AT&T Collegiate Investment Challenge allowed more than 11,000 students nationwide to choose from a portfolio of stocks listed on the New York, American and Over-the-Counter exchanges. The game, which was developed by Wall Street Games, Inc., started Nov. 1 and ended Feb. 28.

Each student paid \$50 to participate in the game. Students started with \$500,000 and had the option of borrowing another \$500,000 from a bank. They spent four months buying and selling stocks as if the money were real.

The game included a separate division for professors. The top winner in the professor category closed with \$866,694.

The Financial Management Association sponsored the game at A&M, President Jay Cook said.

"We were approached by Wall Street Games, Inc., to market the game at A&M," Cook said. "As this was the first year for the game, we didn't have much time to market it."

"First, we had to determine what the game was all about. Then we began marketing it to the students. We sold games to about half of the A&M participants while the other half sent off for it on their own."

"The game is a good experience tool. It's close to actual market simulation and gives you an opportunity to make early perceptions of the market. It gives you experience without actual losses or gains."

The \$50 fee provided students with the game, monthly account summaries and status and a toll-free phone number to call stock brokers for information or advice, Cook said.

Students used four-letter passwords to conduct transactions with the stock brokers, most of whom were college students. They also were provided a phone number for a direct line to Dow Jones & Co. for additional information.

"The only limitation of the game was that you could only trade in stocks and not bonds or stock options," Cook said.

Cook said he expects more A&M participation in next year's AT&T Collegiate Investment Challenge because the Financial Management Association will have more time to advertise and market the game.

Changes in next year's game will include a "Most Improved Portfolio" category for the student with the greatest percentage increase from the first year to the second year.

Also, the student with the highest combined portfolio value for both years will win the "Two Year Champion" category.

A&M ranked 10th in the competition with an average closing value of \$510,250.

A&M was awarded one year of the Dow Jones News/Retrieval Service from Dow Jones & Co. for placing in the top 10 universities. The computer service allows students to ac-

cess any company by industry or company name. The system gives summaries of all articles written about the companies in the past five years, including articles written as early as the previous day.

Sterling C. Evans Library has the service available this year and A&M's success in the investment will enable the service to continue next year.

Prizes for the top 10 individuals out of the 11,000 participants included a week in New York City and

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## Lewis says 'bookkeeping' measures would give extra funds to schools

AUSTIN (AP) — House Speaker Gib Lewis unveiled his 1990-91 budget proposal Wednesday, saying it would pump an additional \$1.9 billion into public schools, colleges, state employee pay raises, welfare and AIDS programs.

The money would be on top of a \$43.7 billion, two-year budget previously designed to stay within expected state income.

The extra money would come from a variety of "bookkeeping" measures and other changes made by lawmakers in recent weeks to free up funds from the state's "rainy day" accounts, Lewis said.

"We feel that this is realistic. We have worked very hard in the last 30 days... to free up additional funds," said Lewis of Fort Worth. "And I would say, at this point, that we have accomplished that."

Lewis said he had worked with Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and Gov. Bill Clements to prepare the plan.

Hobby said the proposal had merit. "There will be differences, obviously, between what the Senate passes out, but I think this is a very

progressive, forward-looking plan," Hobby said.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rep. Jim Rudd said the Lewis plan was "rather conservative, I thought... But it's where we should be, in the light of some things, which may not come to pass."

Rudd, Brownfield, said Lewis' proposals for spending the extra money were "pretty much" in line with the committee's thinking.

Sen. Kent Caperton, Bryan, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said Lewis' proposal was "a good starting point." But said he'd like to see still more money for education, health and criminal justice.

Lewis' proposal calls for \$600 million to improve equity of public school financing, which became a court issue when a poor school district sued the state last year. A state district judge ruled the state's financing system unconstitutional, but an appeals court overturned that judgment.

Lewis' plan also calls for \$10 million in dropout prevention programs.

In higher education, Lewis' bud-

get would restore across-the-board cuts with a \$315 million additional appropriation.

Criminal justice programs would receive another \$100 million.

State employees, including judges, would receive a 5 percent to 6 percent pay raise under a extra \$254 million appropriation.

Welfare and nursing home reform programs would receive \$540 million more in funding, with AIDS prevention and treatment getting an additional \$45.8 million.

Lewis said he felt good about this proposal, coming after repeated sessions of budget cutting.

"This is the first time since I've been speaker that I have a surplus, and let me tell you, I've been here when we've had deficits," he said. "This is a nice feeling. You can address some of the very critical needs of the state."

### Easter class schedule

Good Friday will not affect class schedules. Classes will proceed as usual the entire day.

# Spring Bash at Parthenon's

Open Bar  
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