

A&M lets professors consult at will

University places no restrictions on outside consulting by faculty

Holly Beeson

REPORTER

While many universities have policies restricting the amount of outside consultation by faculty members, Texas A&M does not designate specific limitations, Provost Donald McDonald said.

Unlike A&M, the University of Tennessee has a rule that limits outside consulting to one day a week.

"Most of the A&M faculty members don't take anywhere near that much time consulting," McDonald said.

If faculty members want to do consulting, it must be approved by the administration, McDonald said

outside consulting must be beneficial to professors in their teaching and research at the University.

"You can't let outside consulting interfere with your obligations to the University such as teaching and meeting with students," he said.

If the consulting doesn't have some kind of contribution to the University along these lines, McDonald said, then faculty members shouldn't be wasting their time doing it.

A&M faculty members are encouraged to do outside consulting, he said.

"The primary advantage is that it brings faculty members in contact with real world problems, which increases ability in the classroom,

brings real world problems to students and helps increase faculty members' skills," he said.

Dr. J. Benton Storey, professor of horticultural sciences at A&M, agrees that outside consulting enhances knowledge.

"Every time I do consulting, I come back knowing a lot more about my field," he said. "Then I'm able to make applications in the classroom. It brings the material alive."

Another positive aspect of consulting for faculty members is the salary it brings, although McDonald said consulting really doesn't account for a high percentage of faculty members' income.

Dr. Don Tomlinson, assistant professor of journalism at A&M, does

legal and production consulting for VPI Communications.

Aside from the financial value of outside consulting, he said, the advantages to him are pretty much the same as to the University.

"It allows me to 'keep my hand in,' in a professional sense, and to stay on top of current issues that have to do with my field," Tomlinson said. "It also allows me to pass that information on to my students."

He said there's a danger of stagnation in teaching, where one's professional development becomes arrested.

"Research and consulting can prevent stagnation from occurring," Tomlinson said.

As for the one-day-a-week policy at the University of Tennessee, he said that should be adequate for faculty members.

"The time I spend consulting varies," Tomlinson said, "but I don't do it anywhere near a day a week."

He said he doesn't think outside consulting takes faculty away from teaching or responsibility to the University.

"A faculty member has to perform 100 percent of the responsibility he has to the University," Tomlinson said. "The consulting has to be done over and above that."

He said many people don't realize the extent to which faculty members work on research and consulting at night and on the weekends.

"In my opinion, consulting is not only an activity that should be permitted, but it's an activity that should be encouraged," Tomlinson said.

University of Tennessee Vice Provost C.W. Minkel said he encourages as many faculty members as possible to experience the real world and have practical training. He doesn't object to them earning additional funds.

"Outside consulting can both contribute toward and take away from the faculty's teaching and responsibility to the university, depending on how much is done and the nature of it," he said.

He said his one-day-a-week policy is pretty much the national norm.

"For the most part, I think outside consulting is a desirable thing to do," Minkel said.

Rock 'n' roll music has power to reflect society, prof says

By Melissa Naumann

REPORTER

The times they are a-changin' — and music is changing right along with them.

Dr. Terry Anderson, a Texas A&M associate professor of history, has given his students a musical walk through history for nine years to illustrate music's power of reflecting society.

Thursday night, Anderson began his list of 60 significant songs with "Rock Around the Clock," the beginning of rock 'n' roll that also served as a rejection of 1940s music.

"Rock signaled a change because it was a rejection of this pablum," Anderson said. "In other words, it was music that demonstrated the restlessness."

After the Korean War, songs like "My Boyfriend's Back" reflected a desire for a return for normalcy, he said.

"Courtship and romance — that's what's normal," he said. Soon, the songs of the 1950s began to sound the same, but relief was on the way in the 1960s, Anderson said.

"If the Beatles hadn't begun to experiment with music, we would have called the exterminator," he said.

As the '60s wore on, black and, eventually, integrated bands became more popular. Consequently, songs such as Sly and the Family Stone's "Stand" began addressing the issue of civil rights, he said.

"Another genre that started to ask questions in the 1960s was folk music," Anderson said, playing "Tom Dooley" by the Kingston Trio. "This song by itself wasn't important. What was important was that folk singers sat up and said, 'Hey, we can make some money!'"

The silence of the students in the '50s, called the Silent Generation, was attacked by Simon and Garfunkel in "The Sound of Silence," but this silence ended with the '60s, Anderson said.

In fact, with the beginning of the Vietnam War, songs began to reflect more than one facet of American society. Songs like "Draft Dodgers" were countered with Barry Sadler's patriotic "The Ballad of the Green Berets," which sold 7 million copies.

"Eve of Destruction," written by a 19-year-old, showed that support for the war, especially among younger Americans, was declining.

"War was a large factor in alienating many people your age from the nation," Anderson said.

The war, however, wasn't the only thing musicians wrote songs to protest, he said.

"If you didn't revolt against the establishment, you'd revolt just for the hell of it," he said, playing "Born To Be Wild" by Steppenwolf.

The other half of American society responded with songs such as "Dawn of Correction," defending the American way, Anderson said.

The '70s brought artists such as Jimi Hendrix and the Moody Blues experimenting with music, while others such as Helen Reddy with "I Am Woman" continued to address social issues.

Although the experimentation continues with artists such as U2 and Prince, the present trend is back to normalcy, tied in with bits of social commentary and cynicism, he said.

Anderson said one song in particular served as the theme of the Reagan administration, making the most recent comment on American society: "Don't Worry — Be Happy."

Education dean says politicians renege on promises for funding

By Melissa Naumann

REPORTER

Contrary to promises made during political campaigns, funds for education have continued to decline and cannot meet student needs, Dean Corrigan, dean of the College of Education, said.

Corrigan said that although President George Bush has claimed to be the "education president," his "meager" attempts at educational reform have been less than satisfactory thus far.

"The rhetoric does not equal the action," he said. "With all the talk about 'a nation at risk,' education still appears to be more important in our political campaigns than in our appropriations."

Corrigan's view is supported by a National Education Association report that affirmed the declining number of students being served by four major education programs: Chapter 1, Pell grants, the Bilingual Education Act and the Education for All Handicapped Children Act.

The decrease in funding for Chapter 1, which is aimed at poor children in early grades, is the most ominous symbol for the future of education, Corrigan said.

According to the NEA report, during the 1980-81 school year, seven million students received aid from the Chapter 1 program. In the 1988-89 school year, however, only 5.6 million children are involved in the

program. The report also said the number of children living in poverty, which is who Chapter 1 was designed to help, is more than 12 million.

For 1989, Chapter 1 received \$4.6 billion in federal funds, but \$6.9 billion was necessary to serve all eligible students.

Corrigan said a goal of politicians in recent years has been to concentrate attention and money on younger children to save money on later remediation, but the actual funds given to education haven't backed this up.

"The farther up the education ladder you go, the less effective remediation is," he said.

Secretary of Education Lauro Cavazos, former president of Texas Tech University, has spoken about the drop-out problem, but Corrigan said the decreasing funds for Chapter 1 contradict Cavazos' promises to lower the drop-out rate.

"Children are at risk (of dropping out of school) in the first grade unless we provide opportunities for them," Corrigan said.

At the other end of the educational spectrum, the amount of money allotted to Pell grants (assistance to college students) also is not adequate for the needs of all eligible students. To serve all students, \$6.1 billion was needed, but only \$4.5 billion was allotted.

Bilingual education is also suffering, the NEA report said. To serve all eligible students, \$1.4 billion was needed. Instead, \$200 million was given to the program.

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