

Thursday, October 5, 1989

# Association visits A&M to survey faculty concerns, improve chapter in air as small carrier, offers \$49 flight fares

By Todd Swearingen

Members of the Texas Faculty Association visited Texas A&M last week to strengthen the newly formed campus chapter and survey faculty concerns.

Dr. Charles Zucker, director of TFA in Austin, said the four staff members interviewed nearly 300 faculty members during their five-day stay.

Zucker said the main goal of the TFA is to inform and protect the rights of faculty members and to in-

tervene on their behalf when necessary.

"Basically, what we found was that there was a need for an organization like TFA at Texas A&M," Zucker said.

"There are most definitely certain hot spots on campus where faculty members are not pleased with how things are going and we're going to be working with the faculty in those areas to try to improve those situations," he continued.

"We strongly believe in the concept that faculty members should have a significant voice in the operation of the university — A&M has

been slow in that regard to catch up with other universities.

"Where we have strong chapters, they really become a factor in terms of decisions that are made on campus," Zucker said.

The TFA acts as an advocacy group and provides legal assistance for its members, Zucker said. As an example, Zucker said, an issue has arisen at A&M concerning the right of faculty members to contact their local legislator. Zucker said some faculty members have been instructed not to contact their state legislators, but as a citizen of Texas anyone has the right to do so.

"Even at the level of university professors, the level of the understanding of their rights under Texas state law and under U.S. law and under the constitutions is not all that strong," Zucker said.

Zucker said the TFA is lobbying for the passage of Proposition 21 on Nov. 7, which would establish a college savings bonds program that has been successful in other states, such as Illinois and Michigan.

In the past, the TFA has successfully lobbied for the repeal of mandatory retirement of tenured faculty at the age of 70, protected the rights of tenured faculty and defended a faculty advisor removed from a student newspaper for refusing to control criticism of the administration.

The TFA was founded nearly five years ago in Austin by 28 faculty members and has since grown to over 1,200 members. The TFA works in cooperation with the National Education Association and the Texas State Teachers Association and has chapters on more than 20 campuses.

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Braniff Airlines, looking to stay in the air as a smaller carrier, was optimistic Wednesday as more passengers paid \$49 one-way fares to begin refilling the seats on the cash-starved airline.

"We're encouraged by the number of people that are flying Braniff," Braniff spokesman Sandy Smith said.

Passengers on Braniff's 46 scheduled flights increased by about 800 people Tuesday to 2,927 passengers, or nearly 40 percent capacity, she said.

At a symposium Tuesday of about 300 aviation executives, a top official of Braniff said deregulation hurt smaller, independent airlines while favoring larger carriers.

Tom Volz, senior vice president

for marketing of the airline that last week filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, blamed Orlando-based Braniff's troubles on the government's 1978 deregulation of the airline industry.

Frequent flyer tickets are a particular source of unfair competition, Volz told those attending the Transport Aircraft Marketing Symposium here.

Although he said he doesn't favor a return to tight regulations, Volz suggested that the government should consider ordering an end to frequent-flyer programs.

Because of its smaller size, Braniff's frequent-flyer program was not started until after those of the larger airlines, Volz said, and just wasn't able to catch up.

Volz said small airlines such as Braniff also were damaged by travel agents he described as being "locked in" by the suppliers of their computerized reservations systems. Those systems, he noted, either are owned outright — or jointly — by larger airlines.

Between 1978 and 1988, he said, the number of airlines dropped from 36 to 28, while carriers' combined profit declined to \$600 million from \$1 billion, and 200 carriers filed for bankruptcy or halted operations.

Although Braniff has run out of cash, it hopes to remain aloft as a smaller airline with hubs in Orlando and Kansas City, Mo., and reduced service to "spoke" cities, Volz said.

Kansas City will remain the airline's primary hub because of its central location, Volz said, and Orlando will continue as a hub because it is one of the fastest-growing areas in the nation.

A new marketing program will start within two weeks, emphasizing "a smaller, independent airline with a lower price range," Volz said. "We'll have to be a boutique airline, offering more for less."

## A&M, Tech study leadership behavior

By Todd Connelley

Texas A&M University will join Texas Tech University in a 40-month project researching the strategic leadership behavior of senior military leaders.

Tech's College of Business Administration was awarded a \$737,610 research contract from the Army Research Institute in Washington, D.C. It is the largest grant ever for Tech's business college.

The 40-month project will employ faculty from Tech, A&M, the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, the University of Maryland and the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, N.C.

The study aims to enable the Army to equip leaders for greater roles of responsibility and adapt from peacetime to wartime.

"It is an opportunity for us to test unit effectiveness and to examine leader development on a collegiate level," Bob Phillips, associate dean of research in Tech's business college, said.

"Texas A&M is an ideal place to conduct this research because of the Corps of Cadets," he said.

The existing military organizational structure, Phillips said, is restrictive and makes it difficult for subordinate leaders to maintain their individual discretion in dealing with those under their command and to handle the stress of battle.

In the final step, researchers will recommend ways in which the Army can implement changes within its various units.

Tech faculty members submitted the competitive proposal in late April. U.S. Rep. Larry Combest's 19th Congressional District office in Lubbock announced the contract on Sept. 25.

## Program offers outstanding students opportunities, engineering experience

By Andrea Warrenburg

An undergraduate program launched this semester by the Texas A&M College of Engineering will give outstanding engineering students opportunities to have direct contact with faculty researchers, industry representatives and peers, as well as prepare them for graduate school.

"The Engineering Scholars Program is trying to expand what we already have to make it exciting for them," Mary Ann Raatz, ESP director, said. "We want to make available opportunities, money and experience."

ESP sponsors invited engineering students with a grade point-ratio of 3.6 to 4.0 and incoming freshmen with a 3.8 GPR and either a score of 1250 on the SAT or a 29 ACT score to attend the inaugural meeting Sept. 20.

"We were very excited about the response," Raatz said. "And they are such an exciting group of individuals."

This year, in order to start the group, A&M students with 29 to 90 hours could apply. In the years to come,

only freshmen in their first semester can apply.

Students entering the program as freshmen will be required to take at least 11 hours of honors courses, including two one-hour credit seminars and a three-hour credit special research project with an engineering faculty researcher.

The first seminar will include representatives from industry and the second seminar will include faculty members, both speaking on research.

"It will give A&M closer ties with industry," Raatz said. "And industries will be very interested in these students."

Leigh Ellen Key, an industrial engineering major and member of ESP said, "The industrial seminar will set up potential contacts and help us find the field we're most interested in."

Raatz said the program will supply information about summer internships and Texas Engineering Experiment Station Fellowships as well as provide research experience to prepare students for graduate school.

"The program is trying to enhance what the honors program already offers academically superior students," Raatz said.

Between 1978 and 1988, he said, the number of airlines dropped from 36 to 28, while carriers' combined profit declined to \$600 million from \$1 billion, and 200 carriers filed for bankruptcy or halted operations.

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