

School of Business to request raise in graduate school tuition

By JULIE MYERS
Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M Graduate School of Business will ask the Board of Regents to double its graduate tuition at the Board's regular meeting Thursday and Friday.

If approved, business graduate students will pay \$40 per semester hour in Fall 1991.

This means, for example, that a business graduate student taking 10 hours in Fall 1991 will pay \$400 instead of \$200. Other fees are not affected.

During the last three years, incoming students in the Graduate School of Business have ranked tuition costs third, fourth or fifth in order of importance to their decision to attend A&M, says the associate dean for academic programs in the Graduate School of Business and MBA program director.

"We know that tuition is not unimportant," Dr. Dan Robertson says. "But, students are more concerned about whether they can find a good job with their degree."

Robertson says graduate students consider factors like costs of living in the area or length of the program in making up their minds.

Part of the proposal to increase tuition stipulates that any increase stay within the college.

Robertson says an increase in tuition would stimulate financial support for students with special financial needs.

Dr. Larry Guseman, A&M's director of the Office of Graduate Studies, says the Higher Education Coordinating Board has been leaning on A&M officials to increase graduate tuition and get in line with other state universities.

The University of Houston increased graduate tuition from \$18 to \$36 last year and tuition at the University of Texas is twice that of A&M.

According to a HECB report, Texas ranked 50th in the amount of tuition and fees paid by resident graduate students attending four-year institutions in 1987 and 1988.

Tuition and fees paid by non-resident graduate students in Texas ranked 47th.

"One way or another someone, whether it's the students, parents or taxpayers, pays for better education," Guseman says. "The quality of education will go down if you don't start funding at a higher level."

Except for professional programs such as law, medicine and dentistry, the current statewide minimum for Texas residents — both undergraduate and graduate — is \$18 a semester hour.

However, state resident graduate students in business, engineering and architecture are paying the maximum \$36 per hour. Pharmacy students soon will be included.

A law enacted by the Legislature in 1985 will increase minimum statewide tuition from \$18 per semester hour to \$20 in Fall 1991, \$22 in 1993 and \$24 in 1995.

Then in 1987, the Legislature gave boards of regents from the state's public universities authority to double the statewide minimum graduate tuition.

University regents have no authority in setting undergraduate tuition rates.

Dr. Lee Blank, associate dean of engineering and graduate operations committee chair, distributed a questionnaire to all colleges Aug. 24 asking opinions of a proposed 100 percent increase in tuition for all graduate students.

The report from that committee is being examined by Dr. Duwayne Anderson, associate provost for research and graduate study.

Anderson says the report is not finished and would not comment about whether the report recommended an increase in graduate tuition in all colleges.

Graduate students make up about 17 percent of the A&M student population.

Mauro says economy linked to environment

By BRIDGET HARROW
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas Land Commissioner Garry Mauro said cleaning up the environment also can help the Texas economy.

"We all know how bad our air pollution problem is in this state and nation," Mauro said during a press conference at the Wisenbaker Engineering Research Center. "When we see, taste and smell the air, we know something is wrong. Texas is going to be on the cutting edge of new technology because we want to create jobs in our state, clean up our air; and we want to save money."

Mauro said one of the solutions to air pollution is substituting natural gas — specifically Texas natural gas — with gasoline and diesel used in most vehicles. Mauro said he formed a coalition, the Texans for the Environment and the Economy (TE-2) with the idea that protecting the environment will drive economic growth.

Mauro, who arrived in an electric car produced through the South Central Electric Vehicle Consortium, said electric cars give efficient

use of energy which will clean up the air much faster. He said the Consortium has a five-year plan for the commercialization of electric fleet vehicles which could serve as an example to everyone.

David Swan, director for South Central Electric Vehicle Consortium, said they are working with Houston Lighting and Power and some of the other larger utility companies in the state to try to bring electric vehicles to Texas.

John Appleby, director for the Center for Applied Electrochemistry said the idea is to try to get the utility industries interested in electric vehicles.

"If they (utility companies) do not seem to be interested, then no one else will be interested in electric vehicles," Appleby said.

Appleby said if the electricity used by an electric vehicle is traced back to the source of the fuel — burning natural gas — then compared with making electricity and using the electricity in the vehicle, the gas mileage is three times greater.

"The electric vehicle is using three times less energy, and that means it is putting three times less carbon di-

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Silver Taps service tonight will honor one

The solemn sound of buglers playing "Taps" and the sharp ring of gunfire will be heard on campus tonight as one Texas A&M student who died during the past month will be honored in a Silver Taps ceremony at 10:30 in front of the Academic Building.

The deceased student being honored is:

• Gregory Allan Lewis, 21, a senior physics major from Dallas, who died Sept. 19.

Dating back almost a century, the stately tradition of Silver Taps is practiced on the first Tuesday of each month from September through April, when necessary. The names of the deceased students are posted at the base of the flag pole in front of the Academic Building, and the flag is flown at half-staff the day of the ceremony.

Lights will be extinguished and the campus hushed as Aggies pay final tribute to fellow Aggies.

The Ross Volunteer Firing Squad begins the ceremony, marching in slow cadence toward the statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross. Shortly after, three volleys are fired in a 21-gun salute and six buglers play a special arrangement of "Taps" three times.

Supreme Court lets ruling stand

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court refused to reinstate the murder conviction and death sentence of an Odessa man who has spent more than seven years on death row.

The justices, without comment, let stand a ruling Monday that threw out John Skelton's conviction "because the evidence does not exclude every other reasonable hypothesis."

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, the state's highest, overturned Skelton's conviction in 1989 and ordered him acquitted. Skelton remained behind bars pending review of the case by the Supreme Court.

Skelton was convicted by a jury and in July 1983 sentenced to death in the murder of Joe Neal, who died when a bomb blew up his pickup truck on April 24, 1982, in Odessa.

Prosecutors said Skelton had vowed to kill Neal because the victim had stolen tanks from Skelton's steam cleaning business.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals said the evidence against Skelton did not prove his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

"Although this court does not relish the thought of reversing the conviction in this heinous case and ordering an acquittal, because the evidence does not exclude every other reasonable hypothesis, we are compelled to do so," the state court said.

Follow the yell leader



Senior Yell Leader Brant Ince leads more than 50 A&M Japanese students from the Koriyama campus around the College Station campus after a yell practice on the steps of the YMCA

Building. The Japanese students arrived here Sunday for a week-long orientation to what it's like to be an Aggie. The Koriyama campus opened in temporary quarters on May 28.

Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

John Mobley

Regent assists state Legislature, serves family-owned companies

Editor's note: The Battalion will focus on members of the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents during the upcoming week to better acquaint students and faculty members with the System's leaders.

By BILL HETHCOCK
Of The Battalion Staff

Since 1951, Regent John Mobley has been active in the management and development of a group of family-owned companies with headquarters in Kilgore and Austin.

The companies provide specialized environmental services to industry and government.

Mobley was born in Houston and attended public schools in Kilgore. He lived in Kilgore until 1967 when he moved to Austin.

The regent, Class of '51, graduated with a bachelor of business administration.

He now serves as a director of Johnston Pump/General Valve Company in Brookshire and is a member of Austin Area Research Organization Inc.

Mobley represented Gregg and Smith counties in the Texas Legislature in 1965 and 1966. He was an executive assistant to Gov. John Connally from 1967 to 1969.

In 1970, Mobley served as chairman for Sen. Lloyd Bentsen's first Senate campaign. He was administrative assistant to Bentsen in 1971.

Gov. Mark White appointed Mobley to the Board in 1985. He is chairman of the Audit Committee, and a member of the Executive Committee, the Committee for Service Units and several ad hoc committees.



John Mobley

Wildlife refuge survives proposed bill for reservoir

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Appropriations Committee on Monday rebuffed an attempt by Texas congressmen to flood nearly 3,800 acres of protected woodland near Tyler for a new reservoir.

The committee in a 26-17 vote refused to amend the interior appropriations bill to take the Little Sandy Wildlife Refuge from control of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"I think this vote sounds the death knell for efforts to remove Little Sandy from refuge status," said Robert Dewey of Defenders of Wildlife.

Rep. Ralph Hall, D-Rockwall, is pushing to take away the protection. The land is part of 40,000 acres the Sabine River Authority wants to flood to create the Waters Bluff Reservoir.

A Hall-sponsored bill stripping the protection was approved by the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee in August. Without the protection, the river authority would take control of the land by eminent domain.

A Hall aide said the matter was sent to the Appropriations Committee because it stood a better chance of passage attached to the spending bill. The aide said Hall hopes to get the bill on the House calendar for non-controversial legislation in the next two weeks.

But environmentalists say the bill is very controversial. They say the land is prime animal habitat and contains some of the best hardwood forest in Texas.

A hunting club in 1986 gave the land the Fish and Wildlife Service.