

Fee gives student lobby

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He said workers will keep various university student governments up to date on events in Austin.

The headquarters, which Clevenger called the State Student Association, will be paid for by the new fee.

He said university fees to fund the Student Association headquarters will vary among institutions.

The maximum fee is \$1 a semester per student. Clevenger said Texas A&M's fee probably will be 25 cents a semester.

For "about half the price of a Coke," A&M students will gain permanent representation in Austin, he said.

Clevenger, who has a history of pushing higher education interest bills through the House, said the bill likely will be approved by the Legislature.

"It's not controversial," he said. "I don't see any serious opposition to it."

Clevenger said Texas ranks low among states in student lobbying, and most states already have student lobby headquarters.

Research facility planned

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headed by Dr. Robert Wells.

The location will enable the 200 researchers to share knowledge with their counterparts at other institutions.

The IBT will coordinate research from different scientific disciplines. Scientists will unite medical, biological and bioengineering research with work in agriculture and nutrition, among other subjects.

In addition to studying AIDS, researchers also will

contribute to the human genome project, the complete mapping of the human genetic structure. This undertaking involves institutions and scientists from throughout the world.

The IBT also will study animal DNA structures, viruses and molecular parasitology. The information on animal and human diseases will be important to health care in developing countries, officials said.

A&M provosts, deans consider committee

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Clevenger said the plan also will help when book publishers print new editions of books.

"Sometimes a book publisher will put in a new introduction, or move a chapter around, then market the book as a new edition," he said. "If the University has an organized group that decides which books are chosen for the courses, we could demand continued printing of certain editions."

Clevenger said that when new editions are printed, older editions aren't always obsolete.

"In BANA 217, there was a new edition published that wasn't fundamentally different, so they published a syllabus with the readings listed for both the old and new books," he said. "This is what we want to do with all the departments: use supplements and handouts to update the older editions that are still usable."

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Economists discuss corporate tax

Continued from page 1

only a small effect on Texas' economy and attractiveness to out-of-state businesses," he said. "These businesses would have the same tax anywhere else they go anyway."

Other ways the state could raise revenue would be to boost the state sales tax or expand the tax to include services, he said. However, Saving said he believes these changes are not likely to be considered. "Texas already has one of the

highest sales taxes in the country, so I doubt they'll try to raise it further," Savings said. "Florida and Massachusetts both tried to tax the service industries, but it didn't work because the professions are politically powerful. Both states have since rescinded these taxes."

Saving said Texas discussed the latter option in legislative committee, but the measure was voted down.

The politics involved in raising taxes have changed somewhat

over the last few years, and lawmakers have recently begun to discuss the possibility of higher taxes.

"One would think that it's political suicide for a politician to endorse a tax," said Dr. Kim Hill, a political science professor. Hill said momentum presently exists for raising some type of taxes during this session or the next.

"Looking at the current state deficit," Hill said. "There's just no practical alternative."

Pesticide research studied by A&M

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Integrated pest management uses several methods to fight crop-destroying insects such as pests' natural enemies, pest-resistant and genetically-engineered plants, different varieties of crops, delayed planting and harvesting, and pesticides as a last resort.

Frisbie said before IPM programs began in the 1960s, farmers used more than 19 million pounds of insecticides to protect cotton crops. Today, farmers use less than 2.5 million pounds of insecticides.

Young said activists are not aware of the potential of biotechnology research. He says genetically engineered herbicide-resistant plants enable farmers to use low-risk herbicides rather than high-risk ones.

Harris said molecular and cellular biology also contribute to sustainable agriculture. He said genetically engineered plants resistant to insects and drought reduce the need for fertilizers and pesticides.

A&M scientists also have developed a new strain of genetically engineered cotton that makes its own pesticide, Harris

said. TAEX researchers took a toxin-producing gene from a bacteria and inserted it in cotton plants.

The resulting hybrid called BT cotton is poisonous to bollworms, a species of cotton-eating insect.

Using microbes to control pests is another aspect of biotechnology, Frisbie said. Engineering bacteria and viruses to attack specific insect species decreases reliance on pesticides.

Biotechnology still is in its developmental stages, but the science has much to offer, Frisbie said. Companies in the biotechnology industry are working on herbicide-resistant as well as insect-resistant plants, he said.

Young said, however, much work has to be done before genetic engineering becomes commonplace. Until then, scientists must continue with old methods.

Harris said sustainable agriculture encourages soil and water conservation, improves the environment and promotes food safety.

Less reliance on chemical pesticides and commercial fertilizers helps prevent some chemicals from entering ground water re-

serves and promotes chemical conservation.

Young said worldwide sustainable agriculture will not be possible for a number of years. As the planet's population increases, agricultural production will have to keep up with whatever means possible, he said.

Diversification is the key to sustainable agriculture, Harris said. Crop rotation, alternative crops, planting more than one crop at a time, and raising livestock as well as crops are methods of diversification that decrease reliance on chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

Livestock manure, crop residue and legumes are all natural fertilizers, Harris said. They all provide nutrients in the soil.

Legumes, a type of bean plant, are nitrogen fixers. They replace nitrogen taken out of the soil and reduce the need for commercial fertilizer, Harris said.

Another way to control weeds is bio-control, Harris said. Farmers keep sheep or goats to eat weeds. The livestock then eat certain plants farmers consider undesirable.

Fire also could be used as a weapon against weeds, Harris said.

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Signing has joint plan close

Continued from page 1

ours is, the experience the Center for Executive Development can offer us is important."

Samkov said an offer had been extended for a faculty exchange involving Dr. Abigail McWilliams of the Department of Management.

The offer is still under negotiation and has not yet been accepted by McWilliams.

An offer involving an A&M student was accepted, however, and Kathryn Bui, a senior Russian major, will travel to Moscow for three months.

The last minute offer caught Bui by surprise.

"The offer just came about last night," she said. "I've studied in Moscow twice before and have really wanted to find a way to go back. I figured this was the only chance I might ever get, so I accepted, even though it was offered on the spur of the moment."

Soviets proposed the foreign internship after spending a week visiting retail stores and other businesses in College Station and Houston.

Hobbs said the delegation was impressed with their tour of Compaq Computer's facilities in Houston.

"They got a thorough tour of the place," Hobbs said. "They spent a lot of time studying Compaq's fully-automated distribution system. Distribution is a huge problem in the Soviet Union, and Compaq's system left quite an impression on them."

Friday,



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