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Mobley supports tuition increase, Gage says

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ing 25 percent.
□ increasing out-of-state tuition waiver on academic scholarships from \$200 to \$1,000 and limit from 5 percent to 2 percent.
Gage said he and A&M President William Mobley support a tuition increase, but not if the state keeps 75 percent of the net increase.

That recommendation would nullify a tuition increase since Gage's office calculated that A&M would lose \$1.5 million per year from the changes.

Even if the Legislature does not support Sharp's tuition proposals, Gage said a tuition increase is likely.

"The plan recommends the increase in Fall 1992, but I imagine it will go into effect in Spring 1992," he said.

Another area of prime interest is the TPR's interest factors, which will result in the loss of earned interest on local funds. Local funds are generated from room and board fees, Business Services, Food Services, the airport and others.

Local funds are used for items not funded by state revenue, such as maintenance, repairs, equipment, utilities upgrade, academic scholarships and faculty development leaves.

If that portion of the comptroller's plan is enacted, A&M will lose \$23.9 million in the next biennium and will be forced to hike fees for room and board, parking, snacks and other campus services.

The TPR also recommends a 50 percent reduction in funding for research and research centers. Gage said programs like the Cyclotron and Institute for Biosciences and Technology will suffer greatly since the University

uses state research monies to apply for federal and other external funding.

Another of the comptroller's recommendations is to reduce the state's matching contributions to the Optional Retirement Program (ORP).

Under the plan, the state would reduce its contribution from 8.5 percent to 5.99 percent, leaving A&M to make up the difference with its local funds.

All these budget problems

come at a time when Texas is ranked near the bottom in the nation in all important higher education categories. The following figures from 1990 show that higher education is not the highest priority in the state:

□ Texas ranked 44th out of 46 states reporting for resident undergraduate tuition and 23rd for non-residents. Texas' average was \$973 per year compared to the national average of \$1,603;

□ Texas ranked last in state appropriations per student at \$3,341 compared to the national average of \$4,388;

□ Texas ranked last in state appropriations plus tuition and fees with \$4,314. The national average was \$5,991;

□ Texas appropriated \$3,500 per student in 1985. The state now appropriates only \$2,800 per student.

Though Gage presented a doomsday set of figures for A&M, he hopes that legislators can be convinced in the coming weeks not to enact Sharp's recommendations.

"Our expectation level is that it won't be as bad as a \$53 million loss," he said. "We're hoping to enlighten some people."

Singapore principal searches for innovations

Continued from page 1

classes are more or less the same, whether they are in a public or private school, he said.

At St. Patrick's, seventh- and eighth-graders are given a curriculum of nine subjects. In the ninth- and 10th-grade, students specialize in either science, the

arts, commerce or technical studies.

After the seventh-grade, students choose their specialization and must concentrate their studies in that area. Students can go to a junior college after the 10th-grade to learn more about their chosen specialization.

Though the curriculum is the

same, Guan said the government encourages principals to discover innovative ways to teach.

"The government is very curious about each project's results," he said. "If a particular project is successful, it is shared with other principals."

Many government officials are

alumni of St. Patrick's, such as the minister of education, the acting minister of foreign affairs, the deputy commissioner of police, and the air chief of staff, as well as Guan himself.

Guan said he plans to come to Texas A&M next spring to begin his doctoral studies in curriculum and education.

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