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The Battalion

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College Station, Texas

"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

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Communication key element between linked campuses

By Tammy Bryson
The Battalion

Texas A&M student government leaders in Galveston and College Station do not anticipate any problems in leadership resulting from the merger of the two campuses Sept. 1.

Susan May, assistant to the student body president in College Station, said the structure of student government will not be affected by the change.

"Because the student bodies here and in Galveston are so different, it is necessary to keep two separate governments," she said. "The goal is to sim-

ply align the two governments through communication."

Communication is the key to successful relations between the two student governments, May said.

"I don't foresee any formidable problems because of this change," she said. "In the future there will be much more contact between the two groups."

Former Student Body President Ty Clevenger said at first Galveston students felt uncertain about the merger.

"The students were initially concerned that they would be lost in the numbers," he said. "But now everyone there is pleased because it (the merger)

will enhance Galveston's credibility as a university."

A&M presently has more than 40,000 students, while A&M at Galveston has only 1,100 students.

Terry Carlson, senate treasurer for A&M-Galveston, said she believes both schools will benefit from the merger.

"Galveston students will become more aware of College Station students and vice versa," she said. "It will also make our student governments stronger and more organized."

Carlson added that as a result of the merger, the campus government in

Galveston will try to get students more involved in Aggie traditions.

"We're Aggies already, but we don't really know what that means," she said.

University officials at both campuses say it is still too early to predict any possible difficulties between the two student governments.

"There are so many questions about the situation, and no one really knows how it will all work out yet," said Dr. Carolyn Adair, director of Student Activities at A&M's main campus. "Each school has such a unique environment, and with the separate locations there

will be things to work out between the two governments."

Grant Shellenberger, assistant director of Student Services at A&M-Galveston, agreed the distance will cause minor difficulties but said both student governments are prepared for it.

"The two groups have been working together during the spring semester and have already had a lot of contact," he said. "But it is still too soon for a definite answer about any problems that might occur."

Present student body presidents at both campuses were unavailable for comment.

Officials predict lower hike in tuition

By Timm Doolen
The Battalion

AUSTIN — Legislators and Texas A&M administrators say any tuition hike will probably be smaller than previously thought — in the \$4 to \$8 range instead of \$12 to \$20.

A&M President William Mobley, however, said it is too early to give a definite number on how much tuition will increase.

But Mobley and some legislators said if a tuition increase is necessary, all the money should be kept by the University. Under Comptroller John Sharp's proposal, 75 percent of the tuition increase would be offset by a decrease in general revenue appropriations to state universities.

Rep. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, said tuition will not rise this fall, adding that the earliest point students will have to pay higher tuition is in Fall 1992.

Mobley agreed, saying even in Fall 1992 there will probably at most be a \$4 to \$6 per credit hour increase, especially if there is a phase-in period. A phase-in would increase the tuition gradually over a period of years.

Susan May, assistant to the A&M student body president and one of the key students working in Austin to minimize A&M budget cuts, said the administration is hoping for only a \$4 increase for the next fiscal year.

She said A&M realistically must expect some tuition increase and that \$4 would be much better than \$12 or \$20 — the two figures quoted by supporters of Sharp's revenue plan.

She said the \$20 increase, which would bring A&M's tuition to \$40 per credit hour, has not garnered any support, and in fact many legislators want no tuition increase at all.

Jeff Lawrence, legislative aide to Sen. Eddie Lucio (D-Brownsville), said a significant number of legislators do not want a tuition hike, and some legislators would rather take A&M's interest income than raise tuition.

Interest income is interest off reserve funds built up by the University over many years.

The interest off these funds generates millions of dollars per year to cover expenses that cannot be covered by general revenue appropriations, such as residence hall maintenance, emergencies and future projects.

Mobley said, however, that if current services funding is approved, but interest income is taken away, then it amounts to no more than juggling accounts. He said no new money will be

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RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

Here's mud in your eye

Judy Binaglia of Port Neches glides toward home afternoon. Sliding practice is part of the Texas A&M plate during sliding practice at Cain Field Wednesday Softball Camp which runs through Friday.

House passes student regent amendment

By Greg Mt. Joy
The Battalion

The success of a non-voting student regent amendment in the Texas House of Representatives Wednesday brought the possibility of student representation on university boards one step closer.

The bill, co-sponsored by Rep. Sherri Greenberg, D-Austin, and Rep. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, passed with a 66-57 vote that Ogden said should be viewed positively.

"This type of legislation has never made it out of the House before," Ogden said. "That it was able to pass in this ses-

sion is very significant."

Ogden said the amendment, as part of the education-based House Bill 2, could face stiffer opposition in the Senate.

"The amendment has a fair chance in the Senate," he said. "Sen. Carl Parker has strongly opposed the student regent idea in the past, and this should be an uphill fight."

Ogden said he believes the time has come for students to be given a greater voice in university administration.

"At a time when the state is saying students should be paying a greater share of the costs of education, students should have more to say about how schools are run," he said.

Ogden said he stressed possible tuition hikes in his closing argument to the House.

"I said students at A&M are ready to bear their fair share of the state's budget problems," he said. "A&M students are old enough to vote, old enough to fight — as many did in the Persian Gulf — and we are saying that they are also old enough to have some say in how their university is run."

Student regents would possess all the powers of a regular regent, with the exceptions of not being able to vote or sit on executive sessions. Ogden said, however, even a non-voting student regent would be a vast improvement.

Name issue remains unresolved

Former regent requests authorization to use A&M's name for corporate use

By Chris Vaughn
The Battalion

Texas A&M's Board of Regents could decide in this week's meeting whether to allow a former Board chairman to use the System's name in his private non-profit corporation.

The regents begin their meeting at 1:30 p.m. today in the Board of Regents annex in the MSC. The schedule continues at 9:30 a.m. Friday morning with formal voting late in the afternoon.

David Eller, a Houston businessman and former Board of Regents chairman, incorporated the business, named the Texas A&M University System Research Technologies Corp., in May.

Eller, chairman of Granada BioSciences Inc. and Granada Food Corp., wants to use the non-profit business to market a \$40 million bond issue to acquire more assets in his biosciences corporation.

A&M Research Technologies then proposes to contract with Texas A&M and pay it between \$10 million and \$70 million over 10 years to provide research capabilities.

Although the University or System would not be liable for the performance of the bond debt, the regents are reviewing whether a default or problem with the bonds might reflect on A&M's name and investment record.

Board Chairman Ross Margraves said earlier this month that A&M is obtaining legal opinions and is in the process of discussion with Eller's group.

The item is not on the posted agenda for today's meeting.

Regents also are expected to vote again on a controversial anti-harassment and discrimination policy.

In May, the Board approved a System-wide policy, but many groups protested the decision since no discussion took place in an open meeting.

To curtail complaints from groups who believed the Board tried to hide its decision, Margraves said regents might vote again.

The policy, which was particularly decried by gay and lesbian groups, removes mention of specific types and replaces it with a general condemnation of all types of discrimination and harassment.

Margraves met privately with several gay and lesbian students and faculty from A&M earlier this month, but no invitations were extended for gays to speak at the meeting.

Also on the regents' agenda for Friday:

Authorization to increase the general use fee from \$6 per hour to \$8 per hour beginning this fall and institute an international education fee of \$1 per semester.

Authorization to enact an undergraduate engineering equipment access fee of \$70 per lab-intensive course to maintain and upgrade the University's engineering laboratories.

Appropriation for preliminary design for the new College of Business building, and also for the recreational sports building and natatorium.

Appointment of a new president for Tarleton State University, and several appointments at the vice president and dean levels for Corpus Christi State University, Texas A&I University and West Texas State University.

"I believe that a student regent, even a nonvoting one, would be an asset to the board by providing more diversity," he said. "A student would have a perspective that other regents, who probably graduated from college decades ago, simply could not possess."

Ogden said the student regent amendment fit the efforts of the state government to make state services more responsive to their customers.

"I have always believed that government should be operated more like a business, and in business the customer is given top priority," he said. "The customers of a university are its

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