

# The Battalion

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## NCAA to change I-A certification

By JULI PHILLIPS

The Battalion

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) said Wednesday that a new certification program for class I-A athletic departments, such as Texas A&M University, will be in place by the beginning of next fall.

The program emphasizes two general areas for certification: governance and commitment to rules compliance. Under these broad topics are many specific areas, which include:

- institutional controls for NCAA compliance,
- academic support provided for student-athletes,
- graduation rates among student-athletes,
- budget integrity,

## Texas A&M to face program review; plan to be installed by fall semester

• booster controls and  
• commitment to race, gender, religious and ethnic equality.

David Knopp, NCAA compliance staff official, said the program would work in the same way universities are accredited. The universities will perform a year-long institutional analysis. Some universities will begin an internal analysis this fall.

At the end of the year, an outside team, composed of other university athletic staff and members of the academia, will review and verify the internal analysis and make appropriate recommendations to the NCAA.

Knopp said some universities are already conducting these reports voluntarily, but concern has surfaced that the universities' athletic departments need a more impartial review component.

"The certification program is a way to enhance the rules that are already in place," he said. "The basic process is not new to the academia. It is basically the same accreditation process that the rest of the university goes through."

According to the office of the NCAA president, Richard Schultz, the implementation of this plan came through efforts started by Schultz in 1989.

"The program is not to point out the institutions as being guilty of something," Knopp said. "This program will make the institutions identify itself what it is doing and lay out a plan to fix it."

The first group of class I-A colleges and universities will begin their year-long self study this fall with the compliance staff beginning its evaluation in the fall of 1994.

Knopp warned that the program still may not catch everything that needs to be changed.

"Although the basic framework is in place, a lot is still in the planning stages," he said.

The Texas A&M athletic department will find out before the fall semester when the evaluation process for it will begin.

## Female pilots to fly in combat missions

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Female pilots could be flying Navy and Air Force warplanes within months and Army combat helicopters within a year under a new directive set to be signed Thursday by Defense Secretary Les Aspin, Pentagon officials say.

The directive also will tell the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps to provide justification if they want to put any battlefield role, including ground combat units, off limits to women.

"It's big, it's a very big move for Aspin to be making," said one senior official, who like the others spoke Tuesday night only on condition of anonymity.

White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers did not confirm the report today, but said Clinton supports allowing women in combat. "I would point out that it something the president did support during the campaign," she said.

The action means Air Force and Navy women could be in fighter cockpits within months, but female pilots in the Army will have to undergo special training before flying front-line Apache attack helicopters, officials said.

## Texas Senate approves bill for faculty liaison

By GINA HOWARD

The Battalion

A bill placing a non-voting faculty liaison position on state university boards of regents faces approval in the Texas House of Representatives after passing in the Senate last week.

Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr., D-Brownsville, said in a prepared release the purpose of Senate Bill 491 is to increase communication between regents and faculty.

"Faculty members play a critical role in carrying out the mission of our universities," said Lucio, who sponsored the bill. "Giving them a voice on governing boards will help provide valuable information to board members when they are making important decisions affecting faculty and students."

Dr. John Quarles, Texas A&M University Faculty Senate speaker and professor of medicine, said even though it is a non-voting position, it is a big step forward for University faculty.

"If we can help provide better information to make their (Board of Regents) decisions, then that would be important," Quarles said.

Multi-school university systems, like the Texas A&M system, would create a council of faculty senators, with one from each school. The council would then nominate three candidates to the governor, who would pick the liaison.

The bill would allow the faculty senates of single-school university systems to submit three names to the governor. A single faculty liaison would be selected and meet with the Faculty Senate at least twice a year to discuss concerns.

Faculty liaisons would serve two-year terms, but they would not be allowed to vote or attend executive meetings unless invited by the board.

The bill must first go through House committee before it will reach the House of Representatives for approval.

## Sittin' in the shade



ALICIA POUNDS/Special to The Battalion

Catherine Yuill, a senior accounting major, enjoys the sun on Wednesday while studying for her Corporate Tax Test.

## Battalion to offer voter's guide

The Battalion will publish a special voter's guide in Friday's edition. The guide will feature information on local and U.S. senatorial candidates running in the May 1 elections.

## Health care reform concerns rural areas

Communities must combine resources, expert says

By ELIZABETH LOWE

The Battalion

With less than a month until President Clinton's task force announces its recommendations on health reform, speculation is increasing about whether the medical needs of rural areas will be met.

Donald Sweeney, associate professor in the Texas A&M University Department of Urban and Regional Planning, said he fears the plan may make the situation worse rather than better.

"My fear is that the reform package is going to try to patch up a system that is systematically flawed," he said. "We've patched it up and patched it up and patched it up. It's the biggest patched up mess you've ever seen. I don't sense that we're going to see a real systemic overhaul."

Molly Hurst, administrator of Navasota Regional Hospital, said her concern lies in the lack of representation of rural hospitals on the task force. She said if any hospitals' interests are considered, it will be those of metropolitan hospitals, not rural hospitals.

Clinton has supported, the managed competition model, in which health plans compete for enrollment in each community under a set of rules requiring fair competition. Hurst said this plan is not feasible for rural areas because it forces rural hospitals and physicians to compete with those in urban areas.

Yvonne McKay, director of nursing at Madison County Hospital, said she is nervous because she isn't sure if the special problems of rural areas will be adequately addressed.

Rural communities comprise 38 percent of the country's poor, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges. Rural economies are often too unstable to support a hospital. Patients with inadequate insurance

and a heavy dependence on Medicaid often force rural hospitals into debt.

Texas leads the nation with 59 rural hospital closings since 1982, according to the Texas Center for Rural Health Initiatives. Twelve hospitals, half of them rural, closed in 1991, the highest number of closings for the state since 1986. Of the 205 rural counties in Texas, 57 have no hospitals, and 25 have no physicians.

"Many of the hospitals that remain open should close," Sweeney said. "They were built to solve the problems of 30 to 40 years ago, but today they are unable to meet the needs of their community."

Several factors contribute to the problem, he said. The people are older, sicker and poorer, and rural areas have more severe accidents. Farmers get pinned under their tractors or harmed by bulls, and tourists have mowing accidents, he said.

Further, chemicals used on farms pose

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## MSC operations committee to reword 'hats off' signs

By CHERYL HELLER

The Battalion

The MSC entrance signs requesting that visitors remove their hats will be changed to try to accommodate the changing attitudes at Texas A&M University, MSC Council President Heather Hartman said Wednesday.

"They'll probably be replaced during the summer, and they should definitely be changed by the beginning of the fall semester," she said.

The building operations committee has already met to work on changing the signs, Hartman said.

At its dedication in 1951, the MSC was dedicated to Aggies who gave their lives in World Wars I and II. The building underwent expansion and renovation in 1975 and was rededicated to "all Aggies who have given their lives in the defense of the country in any war, past or future."

The MSC entrance signs, however, were not changed to reflect the 1975 rededication.

A recent Battalion story reported that some minority students do not participate in the Aggie tradition.

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## Liberal arts dean to resign from A&M, move to Maryland

By JULI PHILLIPS

The Battalion

Dean Daniel Fallon will leave Texas A&M's College of Liberal Arts to take a new position with the University of Maryland (UM).

Fallon, whose academic background is colored by many positions in liberal arts colleges around the country, will become the vice president for academic affairs and provost for UM when he assumes the position in July.

"There are stages of development in a person's life when you are going to consider new prospects," Fallon said. "The opportunity offered to me by the University of Maryland is quite appealing, and... I look forward

to assisting them in the kinds of programs they are organizing."

Fallon joined A&M in 1984 as the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and a professor of psychology.

"He has provided a vision and leadership for our College of Liberal Arts that has been exemplary."

- E. Dean Gage, senior vice president

College of Liberal Arts and the University.

"He has provided a vision and leadership for our College of Liberal Arts that has been exemplary."

Fallon said he is confident that Texas A&M will put the appropriate energy into finding a replacement for him, which will be aided by the solid reputation of the college.

"The College of Liberal Arts is in very good shape," he said.

"Over the past decade, we have

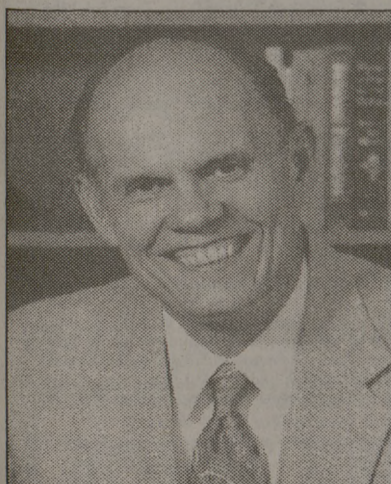
seen considerable growth in shape, size and diversity.

"The college is in a position to attract excellent people whether they are from inside the university or outside," he said.

Fallon is past president of the Council of College Liberal Arts and Sciences, and is a founding member of the Council of Arts and Sciences in Urban Universities.

He also is a former member of the board of directors of the American Conference of Academic Deans.

With the assistance of a Carnegie Corporation grant, he is currently leading a national effort to redesign the way prospective teachers are educated at the nation's colleges and universities.



Dean Fallon

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