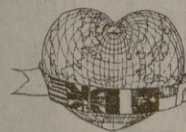


Texas A&M's Faculty Senate adopts proposal requiring students to take courses emphasizing multiculturalism



MULTICULTURALISM AT AGGIELAND?

If approved by Gage, the bill will go into effect for all new students entering the University in the fall of 1995

Senate OKs multicultural bill

Curriculum change proposal goes to Gage for final approval

By Lisa Elliott

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University's Faculty Senate adopted a proposal Monday adding courses emphasizing multiculturalism to the core curriculum.

The proposal was passed after more than two hours of debate in front of a crowd of more than 40 spectators.

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The proposal will be sent to Interim President E. Dean Gage for final approval. If Gage approves the proposal, the requirement will go into effect for all new students entering the University in the fall of 1995.

The new requirements will mean students must take three hours in a U.S. cultures course and three hours in an international course.

The U.S. cultures requirement must take into account groups such as African-Americans, American Indians, Asian-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, European-Americans and American Women. At least 33 percent of the course must pertain to minorities and/or women.

The international requirement would include courses that include an international

perspective on agriculture, business, culture, education, engineering, geography, history, science or society. At least 33 percent of this course must address international issues in the modern world.

If approved by Gage, the requirement will be phased in during a three-year period beginning with 1995-96 freshmen who will have to take a three-hour course from the international course list and the remaining three hours from either the U.S. cultures list or the international list. By fall of 1997, all students will have to select a class from each category.

The vote was conducted by a rarely used roll call method because of the nature of the issue. The vote was 45 for the proposal, 27 against. Twenty-one members did not vote.

Pierce Cantrell, an associate professor in the department of electrical engineering and faculty senator, said most students would not be affected by the addition of the courses.

According to figures of 1991-92 graduates, 67 percent of the students fulfilled the American Cultures requirement, 80 percent satisfied the International requirement and 61 percent satisfied both requirements.

The new requirements would not add any hours to the core curriculum because many of the courses can count twice,

Cantrell said.

"This proposal does not increase the number of hours in the core curriculum," he said. "It allows you to double-count courses."

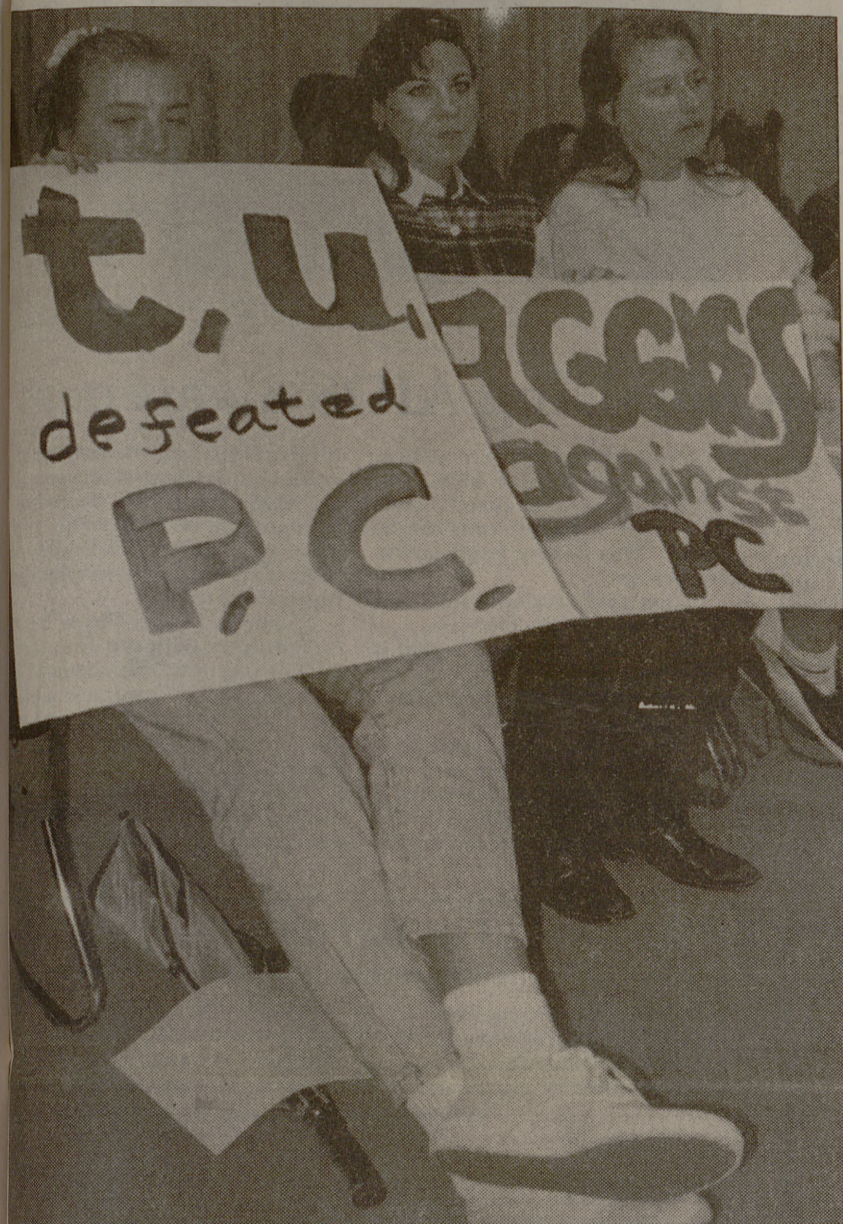
Max Stratton, faculty senator and a senior lecturer in health and kinesiology, disagreed with the results of the vote and said he wondered why the Senate passed the proposal if its proponents are saying that the requirement will not change anything. Ben Dale, academic affairs chairman of the Student Senate, tried to sway the Faculty Senate to reject the proposal in order to adopt one drawn up by the Student Senate that advocates a compromise between the two opposing views expressed by students on campus.

"Whenever you look at student opinion, you see a far right or far left view," he said. "No one group represents the entire student body."

Patrick Gendron, a senior political science major and representative of Aggie Democrats, said the Faculty Senate's decision was a step in the right direction for the University.

"We're changing with the times," he said. "That's how you compete in a global market."

The University is finally on the road to being comparable with other major universities, he said.



Tim Moog/THE BATTALION

Senior English major Nicole Harchut (left), of San Antonio, and Deanna Stewart, a junior political science major from Spring protest the Faculty

Senate's decision to adopt the proposal emphasizing required multicultural curriculum. The proposal still must be approved by E. Dean Gage.

Associate provost urges campus diversity, fair debate

By Lisa Elliott

THE BATTALION

William Perry, associate provost and dean of faculties, expressed support for the multicultural courses during his address to the Faculty Senate before their vote Monday.

Perry stressed the importance of a thorough and fair debate before a final decision is made. He told the Faculty Senate to keep the students' needs for the future in mind in making its decision.

"It is almost cliché now to say that our graduates will face an ever increasing di-

versity in the workplace and society with global competitiveness and international forces more and more a factor in their lives," he said. "Cliche or not, it is reality, and we owe our students the best possible preparation."

Faculties across the country are beginning to develop cross-cultural curricula, and A&M is on the right track in setting up the ground for that development, Perry said.

Perry also stressed the importance of diversity in the faculty at A&M.

Women and minority faculty account for 50 percent of the 58 tenure track assis-

tant professors hired after Sept. 1 of last year, he said. Twenty-one percent of all tenure track assistant professor hires were minority faculty. In addition, the University showed increases in the number of women department heads.

Perry thanked the search committees for making the goal of diversity in the faculty a priority in filling positions.

"I know we all look forward to the day when representation in faculty and administrative ranks is not an issue," he said. "That day will come because of the

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Yeltsin unveils draft of post-Soviet constitution

The Associated Press



Yeltsin

MOSCOW — Boris Yeltsin set out his design for the new post-Soviet Russia on Monday, with a draft constitution that bolsters his presidency and keeps a tight rein on Russia's restive regions.

The constitution lets Yeltsin serve out his five-year term until 1996 but sets lawmakers' terms at two years.

The shorter terms and Yeltsin's retreat from a promise to hold early presidential elections in June have fed criticism that he is strengthening his own power at the expense of the legislative branch. Since disbanding parliament and crushing resisters in early October, Yeltsin has wielded virtually absolute power.

Supporters say the president should serve out his term for stability's sake. They say parliament should turn over more rapidly to ensure a smoother transition while Russia undergoes tumultuous changes.

Blaze consumes College Station apartment

By Carrie Miura

THE BATTALION

A fire destroyed a College Station apartment on Monday, leaving a mother and her three children homeless.

Lori Foley, resident of the apartment located on Potomac Place, returned to find her home in flames after receiving a telephone call at work from her mother.

Foley said her children, Terance, 6; Cherell, 5; and Sheenicka, 3, were at school and day care. She and her children will stay with her parents until things get settled.

Lt. Steve Smith, from the College Station fire marshal's office and fire investigator, said it looked as if the initial source of the fire was the water heater, but the investigation is still in progress.

"At the present time, we are assuming that the cause of the fire is from the improper storage of flammable liquid containers of gas that were located too close to the gas hot water heater," Smith said. "The fire was a hot and fast-moving fire that spread to the upstairs and downstairs of the apartment, but the walls of the apartment held

up pretty well."

The College Station Police and Fire Departments were dispatched at 10:32 a.m. and arrived at the scene of the fire within minutes.

Phanuel Mugabe, who lives near Foley in the same four-plex, said he was asleep when the fire started and he woke up to someone pounding on his door warning him about the fire.

Mugabe, a graduate student at Texas A&M University from Zimbabwe, Africa, said that since all of the electricity was out in the four-plex, he ran across the street to call 911 for help.

Bart Humphreys, battalion chief for the College Station fire department, said it took the firefighters 25 minutes to get the fire under control.

Smith said people should be careful about possible fire hazards, especially around the holidays.

"As the time comes closer for us to use fireplaces and heaters, one thing everyone can do to prevent a firing from occurring is to check all of their appliances and heaters. It just takes a little bit of common sense," he said.



The fire that destroyed a College Station apartment Monday morning left a mother and her three children homeless.

Holly Organ/THE BATTALION

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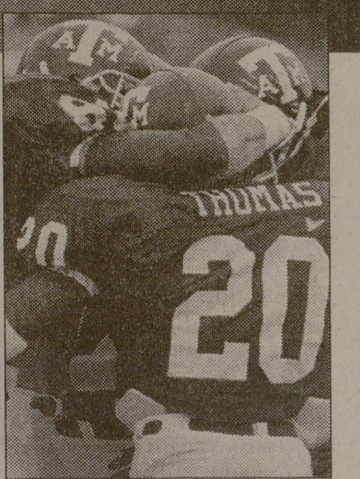
•Rodney Thomas still on his feet in Aggie backfield

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Breast cancer: College students not immune from disease

By Jan Higginbotham

THE BATTALION

An estimated 46,000 women will die early this year.

According to the American Cancer Society, these women will lose their lives due to the effects of the most common form of cancer found in American women—breast cancer.

Approximately one in every nine American women will develop this deadly disease before the age of 85.

The risk of developing the disease increases as women get over the age of 40, but a personal and family history of the disease can signal the possibility of future de-

velopment. Women who have never given birth or who had a long menstrual history also have an increased risk.

Breast cancer is also a problem for men. According to the American Cancer Society, about 300 men die annually from this disease, which has traditionally been believed to cause problems only in women.

Unfortunately, breast cancer is a disease that many college students ignore because they think they are too young to be affected.

Sherry Curtsinger, a local nurse who works with breast cancer patients, said that college-age women should be concerned about the disease.

"The biggest thing young peo-

ple can do is self-exam because mammograms are not really effective on younger women," Curtsinger said.

Curtsinger also said women with a family history of the disease, especially on their mother's side, should make their doctor aware of that risk.

The American Cancer Society recommends that women between the age of 20 and 40 examine their breasts once a month and have an exam performed by a professional every three years. Women over 40 should have a professional exam yearly.

For women who are diagnosed with breast cancer, several treatment options are available.

Curtsinger said women can

choose from the possibility of the traditional mastectomy, which includes the removal of the tumor and a portion of the breast tissue, or a lumpectomy.

A lumpectomy involves the removal of the lump and some of the surrounding tissue. This process also calls for taking out a few of the lymph nodes in the armpit, and is followed by radiation therapy.

Hormonal therapy, radiation treatment and chemotherapy are other options available to breast cancer patients.

Curtsinger said the type of treatment recommended usually depends on the type of breast cancer

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