

UH having problems hiring minorities for executive positions

Associated Press
 HOUSTON — The University of Houston, determined to hire more minorities for top jobs, has blacks or Hispanics in executive academic positions and only a handful who are full professors. UH is clearly not alone in struggling to change from an institution dominated by white men to one more reflective of society. But UH leaders acknowledge that its diversity problems put the university at risk of becoming irrelevant to two races that by 2000 will constitute two-thirds of new entrants in the work force. "We're not where we would like to be in terms of diversity," UH Chancellor Alex Schilt told the Houston Chronicle in Sunday's editions. "But we've had some success and the difficulties we've had have given us a resolve that I believe will enable us to be more successful in the future." The school can only get more successful at hiring minorities in key leadership positions. In the past few years:

- Five white men have been hired as deans.
- Schilt rejected a slate of three minority finalists vying to become the system's lawyer. He renewed the search and hired a white male.
- The board of regents bypassed the Hispanic regent chairwoman to elect a white chairwoman.

Schilt points to successes to "my hires" of former UH President Marguerite Barnett, who died in 1992, and UH-Downtown President Max Castillo. Minorities say such gains are part of a record that is mixed at best, considering that it was Schilt who changed President James Pickering's status from interim to permanent last year. The Latino Faculty Council and the Black Leadership Network said they are mostly concerned about the school's inability to lure minorities for even faculty posts. "We need black deans because UH is such a dean-driven institution," said Morris Graves, associate director of the African-American Studies program. "But we can't get deans if we don't just have more faculty members."

Hello, Easter bunny



Megan Batson gets a visit from the Easter bunny at a children's party in Hensel Park Saturday afternoon.

Roger Hsieh/The Battalion

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Los Angeles Times

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