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# Faculty Senate speaker seeks to improve trust

By Jan Higginbotham  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Faculty Senate will be working toward a positive faculty-administration relationship in the upcoming year under the leadership of the new Faculty Senate Speaker Mark Weichold.

Weichold, who was elected at the May meeting of the Senate, said he hopes to see better communication throughout the University.

"We need to be able to communicate better to the outside world and between ourselves," Weichold said. "It seems like we would be

ate is being seen with more respect by both the faculty and administration.

"We have made big strides in getting more input into administrative decisions. We're interacting quite often in the areas we should be."

James Morgan, 1993-94 Faculty Senate speaker, said he thinks Weichold is just the person to pursue the issue of faculty governance.

"During the last several years, we've come a long way on the issue of shared governance," Morgan said. "Mark will do a good job of keeping the ball rolling in making sure the faculty is at the table



New Faculty Senate Speaker Mark Weichold, elected in May, strives for an increase in faculty-administration communication.

**"I like to think of myself as a person who can listen to a number of viewpoints. My role as speaker is to listen to these people and consider all of their viewpoints."**

—Mark Weichold, Faculty Senate Speaker

able to avoid some of our problems if we sit down and talk about things."

Weichold is hoping to pursue the issue of faculty governance within the University.

"Faculty governance is a formal word for faculty input into administrative decisions," he said. "I'd like to see the Senate enlarge the involvement of the faculty in the decision-making process of the University. We've come a long way. As the Senate is around for a longer period of time, we have a greater opportunity to do that."

"We've matured," Weichold said. "The Senate is being taken seriously and the role of the Sen-

when major decisions are made."

Morgan said Weichold's experience should help him become an effective leader for the Senate.

"He's got the background to be speaker," he said. "He's very thoughtful about issues and is good at listening to other people's concerns."

Weichold said his ability to work with others will help him in his new position.

"I like to think of myself as a person who can listen to a number of viewpoints," he said. "My role as speaker is to listen to these people and consider all of their viewpoints."

Pierce Cantrell, newly elected

deputy speaker of the Senate, said he thinks Weichold's past experiences in the group will be a positive contribution.

"He's progressed through the Senate," Cantrell said. "It's important the speaker have that continuity."

"The Senate has been blessed over the years with excellent leadership. Mark follows in that."

Cantrell said Weichold's biggest challenge as Speaker will be dealing directly with the faculty.

"The staff morale is low and the faculty morale is also low," he said.

Cantrell said support from Dr. Ray Bowen, president of Texas A&M, will help the Senate accomplish its goals for the new year.

"I feel real positive about President Bowen," he said. "He has a real commitment to faculty governance."

Weichold said the relationship of the Senate with Bowen will be important in the upcoming year.

"The best opportunity this Sen-

ate has is to get off to a good start with the new president," he said. "I'm looking forward to working with him."

Weichold said the Senate will also concentrate on keeping the issue of bad publicity.

"We (Texas A&M) have been subject to a lot of bad publicity a lot of issues," he said. "The thing we can do is to run our own show in the most spic and span way we can."

"If we keep our nose clean, the right thing, and abide by the rules, this will all pass."

Weichold will serve as the Faculty Senate speaker. He is only the second speaker who is a graduate of Texas A&M.

This is Weichold's 4th year as a member of the Senate. Last year he served on the Executive Committee, and he acted as secretary-treasurer in the previous year.

He currently teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the Department of Electrical Engineering.

# Baptists choose Rev. Henry president

Moderate Jim Henry upsets conservative Fred Wolfe for Southern Baptist leader

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A Florida pastor was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention on Tuesday, upsetting the candidate endorsed by the conservative leadership of the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

The Rev. Jim Henry of First Baptist Church in Orlando narrowly defeated the Rev. Fred Wolfe, chairman of the convention's Executive Committee.

Henry received 9,876 votes to 8,023 for Wolfe.

The election was the first close presidential race since 1990, the last time moderate Baptists mounted a serious challenge to the conservative leadership of the convention.

This time, both candidates were theological conservatives, but Henry supported less antagonistic relations with moderates.

Henry also was supported by Russell H. Dilday Jr., whose firing in March as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, shook up many conservatives as well as moderates.

The seminary trustees said Dilday assailed individuals who believed in the literal truth of the Bible, but opponents said he was let go for criticizing the "hardball politics" of the current conservative leadership.

In his nominating speech for Henry, the Rev. Jack Graham of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas said Henry is a committed conservative who "will not polarize us."

In an Associated Press interview before the election, Henry said his presidency would focus on "healing what has been hurt and saying let's get on with the program."

The election results were seen as a setback for convention leaders who have presided over a conservative takeover of the convention since 1979, winning every presidential election until this year.

The Rev. Charles Stanley of Atlanta, a former SBC president, told convention delegates in his nominating speech for Wolfe that "I believe the wisest course for the Southern Baptists at this time is to stay the course."

"I know that my election would be a signal the conservative resurgence is going to continue in the direction it is going," Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., said in an interview before the election.

Henry, whose Orlando church has been the biggest giver to the denomination's national causes over the last three years, made one of his campaign themes the need for reconciliation.

Unlike Wolfe, who favored cutting all ties with a moderate splinter group, Henry said he would accept mission funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship if they came with no strings attached.

Baptist youths pledge chastity in 'True Love Waits' campaign

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Southern Baptist youth want a sexual revolution, though unlike their parents' generation — and the revolt's biggest volley came Tuesday in a stadium-sized display of 100,000 cards pledging chastity.

Working under the broiling sun, hundreds of Baptist teens placed the individual written vows in plastic holders that covered 50,000 square feet in front of the Orange County Convention Center, culminating a churchwide True Love Waits campaign.

"It's a way to tell the world not to have sex before marriage," said 13-year-old Katy Burns of Waxahachie, Texas. "It's really important to me. All my friends ... are getting pregnant and it hurts to see them getting hurt like that."

Since its humble beginnings little more than a year ago, when 59 teens took vows of chastity in a Nashville church, the True Love Waits campaign has inspired 102,000 youths so far in the nation's largest Protestant demonstration to pledge to abstain from sex before marriage.

At some youth rallies, more than 10,000 people at a time pledged "to God, myself, my family, those I date, my future mate and my future children to be sexually pure until the day I enter a covenant marriage relationship."

The campaign has already spread to 26 other Christian groups, including the Roman Catholic Church.

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