

THE BATTALION

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Bowen proposes doubling general use fee

The increase is aimed to boost A&M's budget and allow for a 3 percent raise in faculty salaries.

By Wes Swift
THE BATTALION

Dr. Ray Bowen is to propose to the Board of Regents today that hearings be held on a proposal to more than double the general use fee with a \$14 per

semester hour increase. Bowen, A&M's president, said the money generated by the higher fees will be used to recoup the \$6.7 million that the Texas Legislature cut from the school's budget during the 1995 legislative session. The money will also fund a 3 percent raise in faculty salaries and will increase need-based financial aid. Bowen said the fee increase is necessary to keep the University's high standards. "It's a question of institutional quality," Bowen said. "We need to

retain the quality we have here — the quality in the classroom and the quality of the faculty." Students currently pay \$12 per semester hour for the general use fee, with a typical 15-hour semester totaling \$180. The proposal would increase the fee to \$26 per semester hour, adding \$210 to the typical 15-hour semester. Bowen said that if the Board approves his proposal, he hopes to conduct the hearings as soon as possible. After the hearings, the increase will be taken to the Board for a decision. Bowen said he knows the increase may not be well-received by students. "I fully understand that most of the students won't be happy to hear about this," Bowen said. "But I hope they'll see the silver lining."



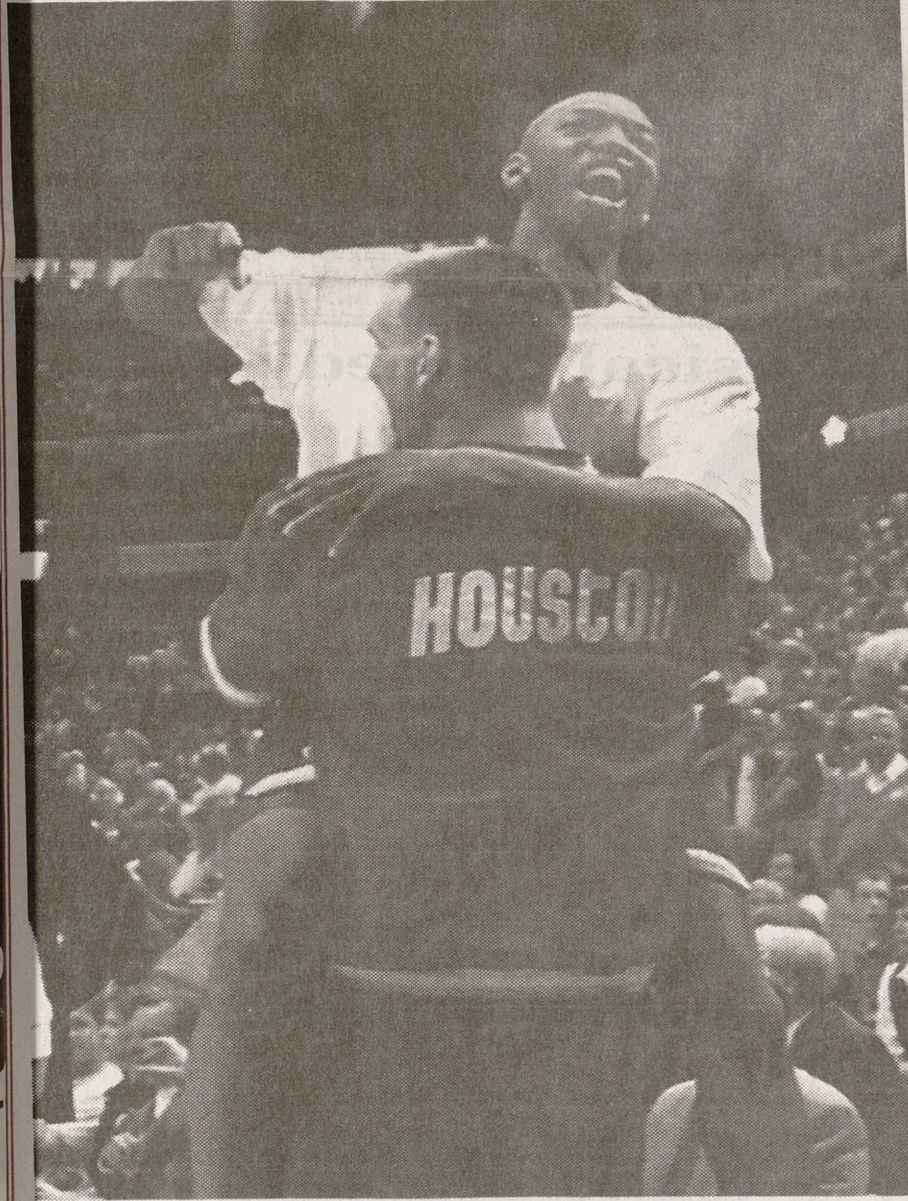
Bowen

Toby Boenig, A&M student body president, said that while he could not support the increase, he was sympathetic to the University's position. "I understand the president's situation," Boenig said. "I really put a lot of the blame for this on the Legislature." Many students expressed similar sentiments, saying they were unhappy about the increase, but supported the motivations behind it. Donna Okruhlik, a senior speech communication major,

said she sees the increases as necessary to keep the University up to the highest standards. "I think it comes down to whether I'd rather pay the higher fees or lose some of the programs here," she said. Mike Breier, a sophomore business management major, agreed. "I'm really not excited about it, but the money has to come from somewhere," Breier said. "If there's no other way to do it,

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BACK 2 BACK



Rockets guard Sam Cassell rejoices after a playoff win over Utah. Houston defeated Utah, Phoenix, San Antonio before beating Orlando in the Finals.

"DON'T EVER UNDERESTIMATE THE HEART OF A CHAMPION."
— COACH RUDY TOMJANOVICH

Rockets roll over Orlando

HOUSTON (AP) — The unlikeliest of shots came at the end of the unlikeliest of championship repeats. The clock was ticking down on a 113-101 Houston triumph that finished off a sweep of the Orlando Magic, and Hakeem Olajuwon was thinking he could do just about anything. But a 3-pointer? Left open on the right wing with 11.5 seconds left Wednesday night, he swished a perfect 23-footer and sprinted back down the court, arms stuck in the air and grinning broadly. It was only the fifth center had made all season and the 15th of his 11-year career. And it was only fitting, because this Rockets team has made a habit of making the unlikely and improbable look like second nature. "He's been working on it all year long," said Clyde Drexler, who savored the shot just like he savored winning an overdue championship ring with his old college teammate. Driven by the electrifying Olajuwon, who had 35 points and 15 rebounds, and sparked by the return of favorite son Drexler, the Houston Rockets earned their second straight NBA championship by beating Shaquille O'Neal and the Magic, whose joyride through the playoffs ended with a jolt. "All the stuff we heard at the start of the season about lack of respect," Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich said, "if those days aren't over, something's wrong. We beat the

number one, two, three and four seeds, and nobody's ever done that. I'm the proudest guy in the world. Every team that we beat could be the champion of this league. They're all that good." Now the Rockets, who bore the label of one-title wonders all season, are part of an elite group of NBA champions. When the buzzer sounded, Houston joined recent consecutive title winners such as the Bulls, the Lakers and the Pistons. Those teams had Michael, Magic, Kareem and Isiah. This team has Hakeem, who topped 30 points in each game of the series and in 16 of his 22 playoff games. For the second straight season, he was the Finals MVP. Unlike last year, Olajuwon shared this championship with Drexler, who after 12 seasons in the NBA finally got his ring. "I am grateful and just so happy for Clyde Drexler for winning his first championship," Olajuwon said. "I am so happy to be a part of it." Drexler, who missed winning the 1983 NCAA championship with Olajuwon at the University of Houston and made two unsuccessful trips to the NBA Finals with Portland, had 15 points, nine rebounds and eight assists for the Rockets, whom he joined after a Feb. 14 trade. "How sweet it is!" he said as the trophy was presented to the Rockets by NBA commissioner David Stern. All through the series, Olajuwon and Drexler had plenty of help, and Game 4 was

Olajuwon named Finals MVP for second time

HOUSTON (AP) — Like so many other teams this season, the Orlando Magic simply had no answer to Hakeem Olajuwon. "If I knew how to solve him, I wouldn't be sitting here 0-4," Magic coach Brian Hill said. Olajuwon — controlling the boards, powering through the lane, even hitting a 3-pointer dominated the playoffs and carried the Rockets to a second straight title Wednesday night and a four-game sweep of the Magic. "I don't know of a player who ever has played as great as Hakeem Olajuwon in the playoffs," Houston coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "It's his basic character. He's a winner. The cream always rises to the top." It was the second consecutive year Olajuwon was honored as the Finals MVP, and the vote was unanimous. This time, he averaged 32.8 points, 11.5 rebounds and shot 48 percent. He put an exclamation point on the 113-101 victory with a 3-pointer in the closing seconds. "I'm surprised," an elated Olajuwon deadpanned when asked his reaction to the honor. "That's a big accomplishment being voted MVP. I think it's a special award. I'm grateful."



Olajuwon

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Exploring career fields

Office of Minority Student Services hosts 20 students at annual Explore conference.

By Michael Simmons
THE BATTALION

Minority high school students explored teaching career opportunities and A&M's College of Education this week. Explore, a conference sponsored by A&M's Office of Minority Student Services, offered 20 students insight into teaching careers. Myrna Dartson, assistant director of minority student services, said the conference's mission is to recruit and retain minority students in the College of Education. About 50 students applied to attend the annual conference, and 20 were selected based on recommendations, essays and their willingness to enter the teaching profession, Dartson said.

"They participate in various workshops related to education, which are designed to give students a look at a wide array of teaching opportunities," she said. The students participate in a teaching workshop, which enables each student to plan and present an actual lesson to their peers, Dartson said. "The students also go to area schools and spend the morning working side-by-side with actual teachers," she said. Dr. Gwen Webb-Johnson, professor of educational curriculum and instruction, said she believes the conference opens doors for culturally diverse students. "The Explore conference benefits both A&M and the students who participate amidst a growing, culturally diverse campus," Webb-Johnson said. "This conference gives these diverse students the opportunity to get to a school like A&M." The conference is the major recruiting tool for Office of Minority Student Services, Dartson said. The high school seniors spend a week at A&M, becoming better acquainted with what to expect when they get to college.

Liberal Arts forum aims for excellence

Organized this spring, the group is composed of endowed professors.

By Katherine Arnold
THE BATTALION

Professors from the College of Liberal Arts formed a group this spring to promote, enhance and define academic excellence, said Dr. Alex Mintz, chairman of the Forum of Endowed Professors. Mintz, also the holder of the Cullen/McFadden Professorship in political science, said the forum was formed this spring, and in April began holding meetings every other week. The forum is composed of 20 professors who hold endowed chairs and professorships in the College of Liberal Arts. "Our mission is to capture the intellectual spirit on campus," Mintz said. "We want to place an emphasis on long-term strategic planning." The forum is working on a docu-

ment to outline the college's goals for achieving academic excellence that will be presented to Dr. Charles Lee, interim vice president and provost, and Dr. Ray Bowen, A&M president, Mintz said. Some of the forum's goals are to improve the endowment policy of the University, increase faculty members' pay and create more fellowships and scholarships for graduates and undergraduates, Mintz said. Dr. Bryan Jones, holder of the Charles Puryear Professorship in liberal arts, said the most interesting aspect of the forum is that all the departments in the College of Liberal Arts are represented. The diversity in the forum makes it more objective in working toward its goals, Jones said. "This is a huge campus with a tremendous amount of faculty members," Jones said. "The forum gives me a chance to sit down with faculty from other departments and learn what is going on in their arenas." Another purpose of the forum is to focus on the broad goals of the Col-

lege of Liberal Arts itself, Jones said. "A lot of times professors get caught up in the day-to-day button pushing of teaching and researching," Jones said. "We forget the broad aims of transmitting excellence to our students." The College of Liberal Arts has often found itself in the shadow of other colleges, Mintz said. "We operate under difficult budgetary conditions," Mintz said. "We want to ensure that resources are well-allocated and quality is not sacrificed." The forum is still in the experimental stages, and all of its capabilities are not yet known.

Correction:

A Page 1 story in The Battalion Wednesday should have stated that the Security Awareness Committee is considering 26 campus areas for additional lighting.