

T E X A S A & M U N I V E R S I T Y

THE BATTALION

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STUDENTS SPEAK OUT

Student groups respond to fee increase proposal

By Amy Collier and Wes Swift
THE BATTALION

□ The proposal, which would more than double the general use fee, is receiving opposition from campus leaders.

Student leaders and faculty members said they are concerned about the proposed increase to the general use fee, yet support much of the motivation behind it.

Some campus leaders said the increase of \$14 per semester credit hour is too much. Others said they feared the raise would force some students out of school. But all agreed that a fee hike would drastically affect everyone on campus.

Dr. Ray Bowen, Texas A&M president, proposed June 15 to increase the general use fee from the current \$12 per semester credit hour to \$26 per semester credit hour for fiscal year 1995-96, which would add \$210 to a 15-hour semester.

The increase would be followed by a \$6 increase per semester credit hour in fiscal year 1996-97.

Earlier this summer, Bowen said the increase was necessary because the Texas Legislature did not appropriate as much money as A&M asked for, creating a \$6.7 million budget deficit.

Bowen said the fee increase is necessary to maintain 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."

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roll in school. I think that's unfortunate. "For every student it has a negative impact on, there may be enough financial aid to offset that."

Pierce Cantrell, speaker of the Faculty Senate

"The faculty is very supportive of the salary increases. It's been more than five years since we've had any increase for the faculty and staff. We're at a very crucial point."

"I think the faculty is sensitive to the fact that it's not much notice, but I think it will send a bad message to the faculty if we're not able to get at least what the University of Texas is getting."

Carl Baggett, Corps public relations officer

"Believe me, I'm not happy about it. But in relation to other schools, we're still a good buy. I think if you look at other schools in Texas, especially the University of Texas, we're on par with them."

"It's such a tough issue. I think the administration works for us, and if they could find a way around it, I'm sure they would."

Suzanne Lyons, Residence Hall Association president

"I'm not happy about it at all. That's a big burden. After 10 semesters, that's another \$2,000 for college."

"We're still a good buy. We just have to keep reminding ourselves of that when we sign the check."

Jeff Prince, Conservative Coalition vice president of liaisons

"Everyone knew funds would be tight this year. It was general knowledge that Texas A&M would get only a modest increase [in fees], if any."

"Saying that Texas A&M got its budget cut is misleading. It wasn't. Depending on how you look at it, the Legislature helped A&M out of a difficult situation."

Meredith Reaves, College Republicans acting president

"We as an organization feel that it's too much too quick. It should be more gradual."

"It's somewhat inappropriate to put those things under student fees. Student fees should be used for student things."

Patrick Conway, MSC Council president

"I think there probably needs to be an increase in the general use fee, but I don't think it needs to be more than doubled in one year. I think a lot of students feel it's too big of an increase, too fast. "I think students would like to

see the money go to underpaid staff and faculty who teach students instead of research-oriented professors."

Migali Hinojosa, International Student Association president

"The majority of international students will hate it. Most of them are on a tight budget, and by the time they pay for rent, electricity and everything else, they barely have \$100 for spending money for the rest of the month."

Chris Reed, Student Senate speaker pro tem

From a Student Senate Statement

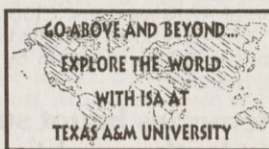
"We would agree that the faculty of Texas A&M University are the best in the world and that the University must be able to retain our current faculty as well as recruit new faculty members."

"However, the administration's proposal to increase the general use fee by \$20 in a two-year period is too severe and damaging to the students that the University serves."

Toby Boenig, student body president

"The increase in the general use fee definitely should not be as drastic as \$14."

"My belief has been all along that yes, students should share some of this burden. But this increase is too much, too fast."



Cantrell



Prince



Baggett



Conway



Carreathers

Kevin Carreathers, director of the Department of Multicultural Services

"I think that if we have a budget deficit and have a way to meet it, [the increase] may be fair."

"There still could be some students who may not be able to en-



Suzanne Lyons, Residence Hall Association president

"I'm not happy about it at all. That's a big burden. After 10 semesters, that's another \$2,000 for college."

Students react to proposed changes in teacher certification program

□ If passed, the proposals would double the length of time it takes to receive secondary education teacher certification.

By Tara Wilkinson
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students have mixed reactions to proposed changes in the teacher certification program for secondary education. The proposals would increase field experience and add three credit hours to the program.

The redesigned certification program is the product of three years of collaboration between the faculty and administrators of several A&M departments and Bryan-College Station public schools.

The program was recommended by the Faculty Senate July 10, and was approved by the Texas Commission on Teaching Standards last Thursday.

Proposals now must be reviewed by Dr. Ray Bowen, Texas A&M president, and if approved will go to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Education Agency for final review.

A&M's education department is confident the proposals will survive the state approval process

and will clear all hurdles by the end of the fall semester.

John C. Stansell, professor of educational curriculum and instruction, said many of the lecture-based courses of the existing program would be replaced with classroom experiences.

"The students will be learning the things they need to know and seeing those things at work in schools at the same time," Stansell said.

Abbey Beasley, a senior journalism major, said students need more practical experience provided by interaction in public schools.

"It would be better to get into the classrooms earlier because,

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Two professors receive grants

□ Dr. Gerry Keim and Dr. Clarissa Kimber were awarded Fulbright grants to work abroad.

By Wes Swift
THE BATTALION

Two Texas A&M professors will join a select group of University faculty who received Fulbright grants and will work abroad.

Dr. Gerry Keim, management professor, and Dr. Clarissa Kimber, geography professor, received research and teaching grants to teach abroad during the 1995-1996 school year.

Kimber will travel to Taipei, Taiwan in September to conduct geography related research, and Keim will begin teaching at the University of Linz in Linz, Austria.

Keim taught in Austria in 1990 with a previous Fulbright grant. Keim described his earlier stint in Austria as "a treat" and said he is anxious to return.

"I'm extremely excited," he said. "It's really an honor. It's a great opportunity. It basically changes your life."

Keim will teach a course comparing the business-

es in Europe and the United States. He said students in Austria often are quite interested in the American style of teaching.

"A lot of the teaching [in Austria] is one-way," Keim said. "Professors come in and lecture, and the students listen."

"At the Western institutions, teaching is more interactive. Students like that because they get to participate more."

Dr. Richard Woodman, head of the Department of Management, said the experience Keim gains from his trip will help the A&M business school tremendously.

"We've got a definite international thrust in our business school," Woodman said. "The knowledge he'll get from this experience can only help his teaching. It can only enhance what he has already done and improve his credibility, especially when teaching international business classes."

Keim, who has taught at Texas A&M since 1974, will also research the differences between political and social institutions in the Western world and in Eastern Europe. He will stay in Austria until June 1996.

Kimber and Keim join a group of 75-80 Fulbright scholars who teach at A&M.

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Mike Friend, THE BATTALION

DRIVING TOWARD PERFECTION

Toshihiko Adachi, sophomore environmental design major, practices his golf swing at Penberthy driving range on Tuesday afternoon as Yasuharu Yokoo, junior political science major, looks on.

Correction:

A brief in The Battalion Monday misstated the Q-drop dates. July 18 was the last day to Q-drop classes for the 10-week summer semester, and July 25 is the last day to Q-drop classes for the second 5-week summer term.

Researchers study effects of alcohol on fetuses

□ The research, performed at the College of Medicine, has found that minimal alcohol consumption can damage an unborn child.

By Javier Hinojosa
THE BATTALION

Research performed at Texas A&M's

College of Medicine has shown that small amounts of alcohol can have serious effects on the unborn child in pregnant women.

Dr. James West, medicine professor and head of the College of Medicine, said binge drinking is one of several factors that worsen the effects of alcohol.

"We have found in animals that exposure to less alcohol can have more damage, provided that it is consumed in a manner that produces higher blood-alcohol levels," West said.

Humans can become drunk on less alcohol if they drink it faster, because the liver does not have a chance to metabolize.

When this happens, the blood-alcohol level is higher, West said, and that level is a good indicator of the effects alcohol can have on a fetus.

"We have found that one exposure to high blood alcohol level can produce great damage," West said. "This was an interesting and important finding. Based on that evidence, we can say that if a woman drinks until she is intoxicated, she is

putting herself at great risk."

West's research, which he began at the University of Iowa in 1978, shows there are some genetic factors that influence a child's development of fetal alcohol syndrome.

"Some women can get drunk on alcohol faster than others," he said. "For them, the safe level of alcohol consumption would be a lot less."

Fetal alcohol syndrome can result in low birth weights and heights, abnormal

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