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GSC resolution halts fee committee's activities due to lack of representation

□ Student Body
President Toby Boenig wants to have two more graduate student representatives on the fee allocation committee by this evening.

By Tara Wilkinson
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Graduate Student Council passed a resolution Thursday calling for the immediate halt of the Student Government Student Services Fee Allocation Committee's activities, because of bylaw violations regarding graduate student representation on the committee.

The GSC resolution called for disbandment of the fee allocation committee, annulment of all committee action taken this semester and removal of the committee chairwoman.

Fee allocation committee bylaws state that three graduate students should sit on the committee. That number is based on the proportional number of graduate students to undergraduate students at A&M.

Although only one graduate student is currently serving on the fee allocation committee, two committee business meetings have been conducted.

Amy Kardell, GSC past president, proposed the resolution and said the fee allocation committee should be re-formed because GSC representatives have been left out of committee procedures this semester.

"It has gone awry," Kardell said. "We need this committee to start fresh and right. This is supposed to be a high-integrity committee, and they just aren't acting that way."

The GSC attempted to contact Kelli Harman, fee allocation committee chairwoman, several times to find out details about committee meetings, but never received the information.

Harman said she never received messages from McKee and would have responded if she had.

"I really hope Shelly does not feel I avoided her," Harman said. "That's the last thing I would do, because I really wanted representation on the committee."

"Maybe where I went wrong is that the second I realized there weren't enough grad students, I should have gotten on the horn and stopped things."

Only two graduate students applied for membership on the

fee allocation committee.

Applications for fee committee membership were made available for one week at the beginning of the semester, but many graduate students were unaware of that because the deadline had passed before the first GSC meeting of the semester.

Kardell was the only graduate student who initially applied, and she was rejected. The fee allocation deadline was then extended, and one more graduate student applied. That student was accepted to the committee.

Harman said that when she extended the application deadline, she put a memorandum regarding the application process in GSC President Stepheni Moore's box and placed an advertisement in The Battalion.

"I felt they had every resource and outlet that every other student at A&M had to know about it," Harman said.

Kardell and Moore both said they think the application process was handled unprofessionally.

Harman wrote the application questions, reviewed the applications and made committee membership decisions herself.

"There is a University standard," Kardell said, "and I can tell you that this application procedure did not adhere to

those standards."

However, Harman said the application procedure followed committee bylines, which do not require her to discuss her decision with anyone else.

In fact, Harman said she voluntarily discussed the applications with the committee adviser, who supported her decision not to appoint Kardell.

"I felt that in her application, her answers showed that she had a personal agenda and a negative attitude," Harman said. "I felt like we needed an objective and impartial person because of the seriousness of the committee's job."

Toby Boenig, A&M student body president, said that although there have been serious communication problems, he thinks the GSC resolution is unnecessary.

"I don't think Kelli should be asked to resign," Boenig said. "I understand them wanting to stop the process, but I think we can add two more graduate students and continue from there."

Boenig said his goal is to appoint two graduate students to the committee by 5 p.m. today.

The new GSC committee members, he said, will be brought up-to-date on all fee allocation committee activities since the start of the semester.

Bush appoints Republicans to Texas Supreme Court

□ Appellate Judge James A. Baker will be sworn in immediately, and State District Judge Greg Abbott will be sworn in in January.

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. George W. Bush appointed two fellow Republicans to the Texas Supreme Court Tuesday, giving the party a 7-2 majority on the state's highest civil court.

Appellate Judge James A. Baker of Dallas was sworn in immediately to fill the vacancy left by the Sept. 1 resignation of Justice Bob Gammage. State District Judge Greg Abbott of Houston will replace Justice Jack Hightower beginning Jan. 1, 1996.

Gammage and Hightower are both Democrats.

"This is an historic day for our state. Rarely does a governor get to appoint anybody to the Supreme Court, and I get to appoint two fine Texans," Bush said.

Baker, 64, has served on the 5th District

Court of Appeals in Dallas for nine years and has earned consistently high marks in the Dallas Bar Association poll.

"This position offers opportunity, it entails responsibility and it presents a challenge," Baker said. "I accept the opportunity. I accept the responsibility. And I accept the challenge."

Abbott, 37, presides over the 129th District Court in Houston and has topped the list of outstanding state judges compiled by the Houston Bar Association every year since the election in 1992.

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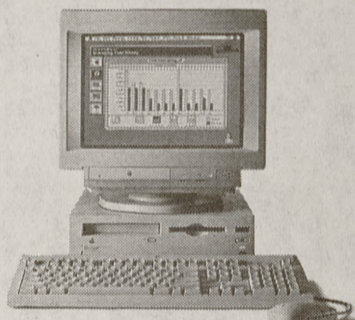
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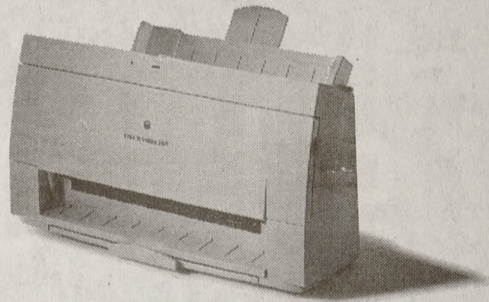
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