

Faculty

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research university like Texas A&M.

A large portion of the money generated by the increase would have been designated for faculty and staff salary raises. Without the GUP increase, Cantrell said, there can be no raises next year. Faculty and staff salaries at

A&M are 8-9 percent lower than those at peer institutions, Cantrell said. If raises are not given in the next year, he predicts the University will fall behind 10-11 percent.

In addition, senators were concerned with the University's decision to halt ethnicity based scholarship distributions.

Dr. Asa Bill Childers Jr., an associate professor of veterinary medicine and anatomy, said the University has had to adjust scholarships to meet the

guidelines set by last month's Hopwood vs. State of Texas decision made in the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Under the court ruling, no scholarship may be given using race as a qualification.

Cantrell said he argued that the Hopwood decision should be interpreted more narrowly to affect only the admissions process, but University attorneys argued scholarships, endowments and fellowships must also be included.

Dr. Diane S. Kaplan, Senate

deputy speaker, said the decision to modify the financial aid and scholarship programs was both premature and distressing.

"The idea was not to get rid of affirmative action," Kaplan said. "I don't think that the playing field is even."

Childers said minority scholarships already distributed will continue to be honored, but unawarded scholarship or fellowship money will remain unawarded until the Hopwood decision is either stayed or reversed.

"I would like to hope it would be overturned, but at this point, I don't know," Cantrell said.

Since the decision, the University of Texas has lost over \$15 million in scholarships; Childers estimated A&M has lost roughly \$4 million to \$5 million.

"I don't like it, but I don't think we have any choice," he said.

Childers said the University of Texas has considered filing an appeal with the Supreme Court and that if such an appeal is filed, A&M may join the suit.

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