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# Isdale works to improve health center

By Tauma Wiggins  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students who have not visited A.P. Beutel Health Center in the past nine months may be unaware of the many recent changes that have vastly improved Beutel's health care quality and service.

Lucille B. Isdale, director of A.P. Beutel Health Center, said she has made many improvements as well as cuts in non-essential items since she became director nine months ago.

"Most of the changes are in things you can't see," Isdale said. "The biggest change is in attitude. We're trying to make it a more student-centered facility."

Isdale said when she was appointed as health care director of Beutel in August, she introduced a proposal to the Student Senate to reduce the health care deficit by \$150,000.

Bill Kibler, associate vice president for Student Affairs, said Isdale has resolved financial deficits for another university in the past and possesses the ability to do it again.

"She has a track record with the University of Illinois," Kibler said. "She found many creative ways to save money there."

Isdale said during her first year at Illinois she faced a \$750,000 deficit, balanced it, and created a sizable reserve as well.

She began her plan at A&M with eliminating unnecessary jobs, immediately saving

\$232,000, Isdale said.

"We had many positions that made no impact on the students whatsoever," Isdale said. "I refuse to do that — to hire positions that don't impact the students at all."

Isdale said she saved money with the elimination of many other unnecessary money sponges. More importantly, however, she has implemented many new changes for the benefit of A&M students.

Many improvements have been made to the health center, such as the addition of an asthma treatment facility, an eating disorder clinic, an immunization and allergy center and a women's clinic.

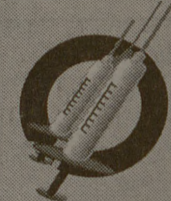
Isdale said one of the most effective changes to Beutel was the creation of appointments. The health center now makes appointments from 8 a.m. to 4:50 p.m., which virtually eliminates any waiting.

"Students used to have to wait for three or four hours," Isdale said. "We had so many people they didn't even have seats, but with the appointment availability we hope they won't have to wait at all."

Isdale said she has made a wide variety of improvements to student service. According to Isdale, all staff must now undergo professional courtesy training to improve their communication skills with students.

Student health charts have been reorganized and filed more

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  - + oral contraceptive



- ASTHMA CLINIC**
- + managing asthma
  - + basic pulmonary function testing
  - + home peak flow monitoring

efficiently and are no longer handled by student workers.

Carpeting has been placed in the front office, and railing has been installed on the stairway to prevent students from slipping — which had previously occurred several times.

Beutel's custodians have also been retrained to clean the health facility more efficiently.

Isdale included a four-dollar increase in the Student Senate-

approved proposal that has yet gone into effect.

"We took it to the student because there was no way to balance this budget without some funding," she said. "It's not the student's responsibility, but I appreciate their generosity and support."

Kibler said the four-dollar increase is expected to be added to the student health care fee for the fall semester.

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## A&M

Continued from Page 1

has recommended that the University change the weight of SAT scores and high school GPAs to alter the pool of applicants. The Board is also suggesting the University expand the pool of eligible applicants by lowering the minimum SAT scores and grades considered for admission.

The Board made its recommendations before the Supreme Court upheld *Hopwood*, and will meet again to revise its recommendations in light of the court decision.

Paul Parrish, an associate professor of English, issued a "plea" to Perry and the Board to recommend that legacy not be used in admissions decisions.

"It's a pretty lethal combination because it has nothing to do with the individual, and it disproportionately favors white applicants," Parrish said.

The Board did endorse the use of legacy in admissions, but that was before the *Hopwood* decision was upheld. Perry hinted the Board would revisit the issue of legacy because race can no longer be used.

Perry said the Board will look at tools such as targeting geographical areas, predominantly minority high schools and first-generation college students to increase diversity. He said the fundamental ques-

tion in changing admissions policies will be, "Does it move us toward the goal of a freshman class that resembles Texas?"

The issue of financial aid will be examined in the same way. Some scholarships, like the President's Achievement Award, have been reserved specifically for minorities. The University, therefore, will have to change its criteria for such awards to exclude race.

Perry said he is concerned this might keep minorities from attending A&M, because the lack of attractive financial aid packages might force some potential students to go elsewhere.

Anita McGruder-Johnson, a graduate psychology student, is satisfied with the University's response to *Hopwood*.

"The University is doing what it can do," McGruder-Johnson said.

However, she said *Hopwood* would have a negative impact on A&M. She speculates that the minority population will inevitably decrease.

"It's going to be hard for ethnic minorities to have a sense of community," McGruder-Johnson said.

Jeff Livingston, a senior electrical engineering major, said he believed *Hopwood* would not significantly affect diversity because other factors affect the minority population more.

"The biggest problem we have in recruiting minorities is a perception problem," Livingston said.

He said A&M has a false country-boy image and must eliminate it to attract more minorities.

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