

Profs oppose student panel for faculty hiring

By Wesley Poston
THE BATTALION

The Student Senate Professor Quality Assurance Bill was met with immediate faculty opposition Wednesday when it was first introduced at Wednesday's Student Senate meeting. The bill proposes creating an evaluation panel of 30 students that would represent the interests of students in the faculty hiring process. It would also evaluate each teaching professor. The student evaluations would be considered "in the decision for promotion, consideration for pay raise and monetary benefit." Currently, students are on all the hiring boards that hire administrators. The Professor

Quality Assurance Bill would involve students in faculty hiring. Jill Jackson, co-author of the bill and a senior international studies major, emphasized the bill is still in its formative stages and the details of the policy would likely change. "We'd like to be a lot more specific with each section," she said. The majority of the work on the bill, she said, will be completed by the Academic Affairs Committee in the coming weeks. Chris Williams, a junior political science major, questioned how many professors would be evaluated in the course of one semester. Dr. Lawrence Oliver, Faculty Senate liaison for the Student

Senate, said 2,500 faculty members would be reviewed. Each would be evaluated twice a semester under the current proposal. Oliver said the logistics of a 30-person panel tackling the project was "virtually impossible" and that the entire plan was "fraught with problems." "This is essentially an attack on the faculty," he said. "Do you really feel the teaching is subpar? I'm not convinced that's the case." Evaluation forms completed by students at the end of each semester, Oliver said, do not reflect satisfaction with the faculty. The five questions on the survey, including effectiveness of

teaching and amount of reading material, are rated on a scale of one to five, with five representing a response of "strongly agree." The overall faculty average, Oliver said, is consistently above four on each question. Oliver encouraged the Student Senate to "proceed very carefully" with this "complex issue." He also called the hiring process a "complex and time-consuming" process. The difficulty of the hiring process, Oliver said, filters out less-qualified applicants. "There has only been one tenured professor fired in the last five years," he said, emphasizing that it is rarely necessary to remove a faculty member once they have made it through the hiring process.



Hurricane Hortense grows stronger, moves north toward Atlantic

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — Packing 130-mph winds, Hurricane Hortense took a sharp turn northward Thursday, barreling past the Bahamas Thursday on a path that could threaten the northeastern United States over the weekend. In Puerto Rico, where at least 13 people died in the storm Tuesday, residents and cleanup crews continued their arduous cleanup from sorting through soiled clothing to repairing roads and bridges. Their misery was compounded by widespread water and power outages — about 40 percent of the island's 3.6 million people still had no power Thursday — but federal help was on the way. More than 7,600 people were sheltered at 115 shelters Thursday. At 5 p.m. EDT Thursday, Hortense was centered about 730 miles south-southeast of Cape Hatteras, N.C., or about 310 miles east of Nassau. It was moving north at 12 mph, with hurricane-force winds extending outward up to 70 miles from its center. Heavy surf from the storm could reach the eastern U.S. shores by Friday, and there is a slight chance the storm could threaten Long Island, N.Y., Rhode Island, or Cape Cod, Mass., on Sunday, forecasters said. Meanwhile, another hurricane was mentioned in the Gulf of Mexico's Pacific coast. On the lower half of Mexico's Baja California peninsula flights were canceled and ports closed to all vessels as Hurricane Fausto moved closer, with sustained winds of 70 mph, up from 90 mph on Wednesday. Thursday afternoon, Fausto was located about 115 miles south-southwest of Cabo San Lucas, on the peninsula's southern tip. Its later winds were already buffeting the peninsula. The hurricane was moving northward at 10 mph, possibly reaching the southern portion of the peninsula by Thursday night. Hortense was expected to continue north and increase speed to 20 mph on Friday, according to the National Hurricane Center

in Miami. The hurricane pounded the Turks and Caicos islands with 90-mph winds but inflicted little serious damage, and no injuries were reported. In the Bahamas, residents stowed property and boarded up windows for the second time in two weeks — Hurricane Fran narrowly missed the islands last week — only to awaken Thursday to sunny skies. "Everybody battened up and did hurricane preparations and no one was allowed to go to work yesterday, but nothing happened," said Marion Cartwright, a telephone operator on Great Inagua Island. The death toll from Hortense reached 15 with the discovery of a man's body on a beach in Patillas in southeastern Puerto Rico late Wednesday. The storm, which delivered as much as 20 inches of rain, killed 13 people in Puerto Rico and two in the Dominican Republic, most drowning victims. President Clinton declared four Puerto Rican towns disaster areas, making residents eligible for federal grants, low-interest loans and emergency housing. More towns could be added to the list as Federal Emergency Management Agency officials survey the island. Damage estimates for Puerto Rico reached \$155 million and were certain to rise, Gov. Pedro Rossello said. Agricultural losses alone reached \$128 million, with coffee and banana plantations severely damaged. Manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies were losing millions of dollars each day without power, said Hector Jimenez Juarbe of the Industrialists Association of Puerto Rico. Most of San Juan, the capital, was in darkness Wednesday night. Food spoiled in refrigerators, and those lucky enough to have water often had a mud-colored liquid emerge from the tap. Residents endured long lines in up to 90-degree heat for such essen-

Hurricane Hortense

Conditions as of Thursday, 11 a.m. EDT



Source: Accu-Weather Inc. AP/Carl Fox

tials as ice and drinking water. A melee erupted Thursday among hundreds waiting in line for ice in the southern city of Ponce. Police quickly halted the fighting. A swollen river rushed Thursday through the Eureka Shrimp Co. near Toa Baja town, just outside San Juan, washing away thousands of shrimp. Traffic backed up for miles down coastal Highway 165 as people abandoned their cars to net shrimp. Health inspectors visited hundreds of grocery stores and warehouses to ensure that owners disposed of spoiled meats, milk and other foods. Officials also warned that standing water on the saturated island could produce disease-carrying mosquitoes.

What's Up?

Friday
Study Abroad Programs Office: There will be an informational meeting to promote the Italy Spring program from 3:30-4:15 in 88 Bizzell Hall West.
Badminton Club: The first practice session of the semester will be held from 6-10 p.m. at the Student Recreational Center. Everyone is welcome. For more information call Dan at 260-9471.
Puerto Rican Student Association: The first general meeting of the semester will be held at 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder Tower. There will be music and refreshments available.
Texas A&M Bridge Club: The first general meeting of the year will be held from 7-10 p.m. in 301 Bright. For details call Hank at 694-7122.
Singapore Student Association: The first general meeting of the year will begin at 6:15 p.m. in 502 Rudder Tower. For more information please contact Lynn at 693-8833.
TAMU Psychology: There will be a presentation on "The Evolution of

the Psyche" from 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. in 206 MSC.
ATM Roadrunners: There will be a 2-to-4-mile run from the Rec Center at 6 a.m. Also, a 3- to 4-mile run will begin at G. Rollie White Coliseum at 6 p.m. Different levels of runners are welcome. For more information call Dao at 260-2441.
Catholic Students Association: Graduate Student's Group will meet at St. Mary's Student Center at 6 p.m. for dinner gathering at local restaurant. For more information contact Bob at 779-6713 or Tim at 822-5248.
Men's Lacrosse Club: Practice will be held from 4-6 p.m. at the Zachry Fields. Everyone is welcome and no experience is required. Call Todd Hendreks at 764-8561 for information.
United Campus Ministry: There will be a bible study at 5:30 p.m. at the A&M Presbyterian Church behind the Dixie Chicken. For details call Frank Yates at 846-1221.
Saturday
Audubon Field Trip: There will be

an overnight camping and rafting trip to the Guadalupe River. For information call Mike Manson at 845-5158 or 693-9548.
Aggie Speleological Society: There will be a beginner's trip to Whirlpool Cave. For information call Dennis at 696-4101.
TAMU Psychology: There will be a presentation on "The Evolution of the Psyche" from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. in 206 MSC.
TAMU Sailing Club: There will be an all-day sail including novice instruction and free lunch. Meet at 9 a.m. at the MSC Circle to caravan to Lake Bryan. For details call Paul at 846-2271 or Ellen at 846-8577.
Sunday
Aggie Speleological Society: There will be vertical practice in Waco. For details call Tina at 775-7266.
TAMU Bowling Club: Try-outs for the Fightin' Texas Aggie Bowling teams will be held at 8 a.m. at Triangle Bowl. For details call Kevin Allen 694-5214.
Rotoract: The first general meeting

will be held at 7 p.m. in 401 Rudder. For more information call Neslie Cook at 847-1924.
Catholic Students Association: Jail ministry will be held at 8 a.m. at the Brazos County Jail. Activities will include communion services and fellowship. Meet at St. Mary's for a ride. Call Bee Lee at 764-1824 or St. Mary's at 846-5717 for details.
Catholic Students Association: Mary's Aggie Rosary Group will be held at 10 p.m. at the upstairs chapel of St. Mary's. For details call Derek at 693-4058.
Roadrunners: There will be an evening run of 6 to 8-miles. Meet at 6 p.m. in front of G. Rollie White. For details call Dao at 260-2441.
What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit student and faculty events and activities. Items should be submitted no later than three days in advance of the desired run date. Application deadlines and notices are not events and will not be run in What's Up. If you have any questions, please call the newsroom at 845-3313.

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