



Fee increase reviewed

University Center asks Student Government to reconsider referendum

By COURTNEY WALKER
THE BATTALION

University Center directors want the Student Government to pass a referendum in December raising the University Center Complex Fee to help fund future upkeep of the facilities.

The fee, which would be increased \$2 per student each year over three years, was not approved last semester by Student Government.

Dennis Busch, assistant director for the University Center Complex, said heated debates and public hearings have made the issue negative.

"We think a lot of people just took out their frustrations on no more fees on our fee because it is the only one that has to be approved by the stu-

dent body," he said.

The fee would increase from the current \$24 to \$30 over a three-year period. The increase would begin in Fall 1997. The fee would increase by \$2 again in Fall 1998 and 1999.

The University Center Complex includes the Koldus Building, Memorial Student Center and Rudder Complex.

The fee increase would cover the cost of utilities, payroll and payroll-related expenses, supplies, equipment, maintenance and repairs.

Currently, \$4 of the \$24 fee goes into a reserve renovation account for expenses and expansion of the complex.

The account pays for replacing tables and chairs for meeting rooms and for maintenance

University Center Operating Account				
	Actual FY 95	Actual FY 96	Budgeted FY 97	Projected Budget FY 98 (w/o increase)
Revenue	\$2,849,856	\$2,929,586	\$2,900,000	\$3,000,000
Expenses	2,813,409	2,880,949	3,046,922	3,180,000
Net Income	36,447	48,637	(146,922)	(180,000)
Reserve	182,629	231,466	84,544	(95,456)

projects, such as replacing the roof of the MSC, which is expected to cost \$750,000.

Chris Williams, MSC Council president and a senior political science and speech communications major, said many people do not realize where the money goes and its importance in maintaining the buildings.

"This isn't an outrageous increase," he said. "I don't like paying fees either, but this is a sensible increase and if the fee increase doesn't pass, then student organizations may have to pay for meeting rooms, the cost of conference rooms may increase, and operating hours may be reduced."

SSFAC changes funding process

By MARIKA COOK
THE BATTALION

The Student Services Fee Allocation Committee has restructured the process to allocate funds to campus entities.

The committee, composed of 10 undergraduates, four graduate students and two faculty advisers, makes recommendations to the University on uses of Student Service Fees.

They have increased allocation efficiency by streamlining the process.

Faye Little, SSFAC chair and a junior agricultural business and finance major, said she is excited about the changes.

"It has been wonderful," Little said. "It is amazing students are given this much power and input. We are the only all-student-run SSFAC in the Big 12."

The Student Services Fee, which is \$99 per student each semester, generates \$8.2 million a year. These monies are distributed to 20 University departments and programs.

For some of these organizations, the fee is their only source of funding, while others use it to supplement their income.

This year, the new child-care center has requested a portion of the Student Services Fee.

Bill Kibler, associate vice president for Student Affairs, said the facility is a drop-in center for students with children.

"The majority of costs will be met by fees paid by the parents on a per-hour basis," Kibler said.

Previously, the committee used a liaison format to decide each allocation.

Committee members were assigned to departments or programs requesting funding.

They acted as liaisons by attending meetings and reporting back to the group on the legitimacy of the organization's needs.

Tim Sweeney, associate director of Student Activities, said the change was made to expedite the process because of inconsistencies.

"The majority of the liaisons got in-depth knowledge but some didn't," he said. "We are making it more fair across the board."

The new format requires groups to present their budget requests to the entire committee in a 30-minute proposal explaining who they are and what the funds will be used to accomplish.

"There's no way to accommodate everything everyone asks for," Sweeney said. "We are finding the most important needs."

The monies will be distributed for the 1997-98 school year with the revised process.

Student Service Fee Allocation Board	
Departmental Presentation Schedule	
Thursday, October 31	
6:00 p.m.	Aggie Band
6:30	University Art Collections and Exhibits
7:00	Student Activities
7:30	Student Organization Finance Center
8:00	Student Handbook
8:30	Bus Operations
9:00	Student Health Services
9:30	Child Care Center
At 10th floor Rudder Tower Conference Room	

Kevin Carreathers, director of the Department of Multicultural Services, is presenting his budget to the committee this week.

"The earlier liaison approach depended on how much homework each liaison accomplished," he said.

"One positive aspect of this new style is every group is required to turn in a standard budget form."

Carreathers said his department uses the funding for staff and services, which benefits many students.

"The majority of our programs are self-sufficient by design," he said.

Sweeney said Texas A&M's Student Services Fee differs from most other

Texas universities because A&M does not use the fee to support its athletic program.

"One university gives 85 percent of their fee to their athletic department," Sweeney said.

In addition to the presentation format, other changes have been implemented.

The committee is smaller and the process begins earlier. Also, the committee members were given an extensive training program to address key issues.

"We are making it more manageable for all involved," Kibler said. "We appear to be on target with our calendar of completion."

The SSFAC anticipates developing a budget by Dec. 5. It will be presented to the Student Senate and the Graduate Student Council in the spring of 1997.

"These groups don't have the authority to change the budget, but they can support it by sending their endorsement to Dr. Southerland," Kibler said.

The budget is presented to Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for Student Affairs. The final stage is approval by the Board of Regents at their March meeting.

"The allocation committee has a tough job," Carreathers said. "They've been as fair as they can be."

"It is amazing students are given this much power and input."

Faye Little
SSFAC chair

Reed Arena recycling construction postponed

By ERICA ROY
THE BATTALION

The completion of the Reed Arena will be delayed until the spring of 1998 because of Tuesday's accident in which an 80-ton truss broke away from a crane, crashed into the superstructure of the arena and injured three construction workers.

Completion of the special events center was scheduled for late 1997 before Tuesday's accident.

Gen. Wesley E. Peel, vice chancellor for Facilities Planning and Construction, said in a press release that the new completion date is uncertain.

"While it is premature to speculate on a completion date for the project, it will definitely not be opened until sometime in the spring of 1998," Peel said.

One injured worker, Abel Caldera, was released from Columbia Medical Center on Wednesday.

Mary Jo Powell, associate director of public information for the University, said a wide variety of people are investigating the accident. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the University and the contractor, Huber, Hunt & Nichols Inc., are conducting investigations.

Assessments of the cause of the accident will take about two weeks.

Clean up activities will begin after the evaluations of the accident are complete.

Peel said in the press release the construction of the unaffected areas of the arena will continue during the accident investigations.

Huber, Hunt & Nichols has an excellent safety record, and more extensive damage from the accident was avoided by preventative safety procedures, he said.



Ryan Rogers, THE BATTALION

Fright Night | Roy McIntyre, a senior history major, prepares Hotard Hall for the Halloween festivities tonight. See related Halloween stories, Page 3.

See ARENA, Page 5

THE BATTALION TODAY

Aggie Spirits

Rumors of haunted campus buildings circulate during this Halloween season.
Aggielife, Page 3

A New Route

Born with a basketball player's body, Amber Woolsey chose to play volleyball at A&M.
Sports, Page 7

Rip-off Care

Goodyear: A&M will finally have a child-care center, but it will cost parents a pretty penny.
Opinion, Page 11

A&M may add three degrees

By CHRISTIE HUMPHRIES
THE BATTALION

Changes in the Table of Programs at Texas A&M could lead to the establishment of three new academic degrees.

Ronald G. Douglas, provost and executive vice president, said the potential programs are a doctorate in speech communication, a bachelor of arts degree in music and a bachelor of arts degree in maritime studies.

Mary Jo Powell, associate director of public information for the University, said adding the programs to the University's table is the first step in making the programs a reality. The Table of Programs reflects an institution's authority to offer programs and must be consistent with the University's mission statement.

The Coordinating Board

for all public colleges and universities in the state maintains each institution's Table of Programs. Each school's table is reviewed every four years.

A&M's table was reviewed by the Board at its October meeting, and the three new programs were added. The University may now continue planning the implementation of the new degrees.

However, Powell said all programs must be reviewed and approved by the Board several times before becoming a reality.

Martin Medhurst, associate department head for speech communication, said a proposal from his department will soon be submitted to the Board for final approval.

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Ogden discusses Aggie support

State representative says students play role in his success

By MELISSA NUNNERY
THE BATTALION

He was hesitant to support a bill to increase the cost of education, he said, but agreed that it would

er required money raised at institutions to stay at those institutions. In other words, he said,

engineering major, said Ogden realizes A&M is the heart of his district.

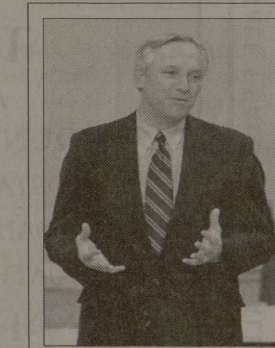
"He represents us well," Livingston said. "He likes students. He wants to address our concerns and answer questions."

Jason Glen, College Republicans vice president for publicity and a junior political science major, said he wanted Ogden to convince students to vote Republican in the upcoming election.

"He's an excellent speaker," Glen said. "He does a good job of convincing people to vote Republican."

Glen said Ogden makes the November election look positive for Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole and the Republican Party.

See OGDEN, Page 5



"I try to look at it in the context of what's best for the students."

Steve Ogden
Republican state representative

ensure the quality of public education.

Ogden is supporting the bill on the basis of two amendments. One amendment required public hearings be held on General Use Fee increases. The other

fees raised at A&M would not be transferred to another institution, like another Texas A&M University System school.

Jeff Livingston, president of the College Republicans and senior electrical