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THE BATTALION

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Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Council to evaluate education program

A&M's teacher education program hopes to maintain its accreditation.

By BENJAMIN CHENG
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's teacher education program is hoping to make the grade as the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education makes a visit. Five members of the council's board of examiners will evaluate the teacher education

program. The council is the sole organization in the country that accredits teacher education programs on a national level.

Dr. Jon Denton, executive associate dean of the College of Education, said the council measures the program's progress in teacher preparation.

"It tells parents, the legislature and other teacher education programs that we've met the [national] standards," Denton said.

Dr. Bill Deaton, chair of the visiting council board and the dean of education at Auburn University in Montgomery, said about 500 of the 1,200 teacher education programs in the country are

council-accredited. Deaton said two-thirds of all new teachers are produced by accredited schools.

"Generally speaking, NCATE institutions have stronger programs than non-NCATE accredited institutions," Deaton said.

Dr. Mary Conoley, dean of education, said A&M's teaching program is one of nine among the more than 60 in Texas to be NCATE-accredited, and she hopes it will stay that way.

"We're keeping our fingers crossed," Conoley said. "It (accreditation visit) keeps you honest because you have to look at yourself."

The quality of faculty and the experience of students in the program are two of the 20 standards the council uses to measure teacher education programs.

A council board of examiners last visited A&M in 1992 to accredit the teacher education program. The purpose of the current visit is to determine if accreditation should continue for another five years.

The 1992 board reported a number of deficiencies, including a shortage of minority faculty members in the program. Since 1992, the percentage of minority faculty members has increased from 5 to 7 percent.

"It's not a big increase, but we're moving in the right direction," Conoley said.

Teachers from council-accredited schools have an easier time finding out-of-state jobs because they do not have to go through an exhaustive background check, Conoley said. "NCATE is recognized throughout the country," she said.

Conoley said the A&M program is known for being one of the best in Texas.

"I've met with superintendents from across the state and they say they (teachers from A&M) are ready to teach," she said.

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Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Stay In The Lines Lane Gillespie, a physical plant worker, paints parking spaces behind the Reed McDonald Building Tuesday afternoon.

Fee Allocation Board implements changes

A new rotation process will help ensure board membership continuity.

By MARISSA ALANIS
THE BATTALION

The Student Services Fee Allocation Board has undergone several structural changes to maintain its original purpose.

Every year, the board makes recommendations on the level of the fee and analyzes the budgets of the 20 departments that it funds. The departments range from the Memorial Student Center to the Aggie Band.

Last fall, the 16-member board implemented new guidelines to increase continuity of member-

ship and to better train members for their positions. The board consists of 12 undergraduate students and four graduate students.

To maintain board membership, eight new members and eight returning members from last fall will be selected at the beginning of April. The eight returning members will be on the board for one more year, while the new ones will serve for two years.

Eventually, the rotation process will have each representative serve a two-year membership. Members will be selected through an application and interview process.

Shelley Howell, a committee member and a senior finance and marketing major, said she thinks participants might become shortsighted if they are on the board for too long.

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Texas Aggies Making Changes

Committee increases student representation

By ERICA ROY
THE BATTALION

Texas Aggies Making Changes, a Student Government Association committee formed last semester, tries to help Texas A&M by giving all students an opportunity to be represented in Student Government.

Sarah Lewis, committee chair and a junior journalism and economics major, said the committee allows more students to be involved in the association.

"We try to enrich Student Government through service and promote Student Government through new active members," she said. "A person can gain a priceless overall awareness of the opportunities of Student Government."

Kristen Paris, vice president of programs and operations and a junior biomedical science major, said the association turns away students who want to participate each year.

"It (the committee) is a way to give more students a chance to get involved in Student Government," Paris said.

Lewis said a general committee in the government was necessary to allow for more student representation.

"Student Government needs to be more represented and TAMC helps them do that," Lewis said.

Nathan Garcia, a committee member and junior biology major, said his involvement in the committee has increased his knowledge of the association.

"It (the committee) has gotten me involved," Garcia said. "I've become more aware of the other branches of Student Government."

The committee now has about 90 members. Paris said the number of members is impressive for a new committee.

"That's incredible to have that many sticking on to a new committee," she said.

The committee provides the government with the manpower to implement programs.

Last semester, committee members helped get Designate a Bus Transit started and conducted a General Use Fee poll.

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Senate passes college admissions bill

The bill would require a uniform application to be used at four-year universities.

AUSTIN (AP) — Prospective students would find it easier to apply to four-year universities under a bill passed by the Texas Senate that would require a uniform admissions form and one-stop filing at university systems. The measure by Senate Education Committee Chair Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, passed 31-0 Tuesday and now goes

to the House. "The goal ... is to increase access to higher education," Bivins said.

The bill would require the Higher Education Coordinating Board to adopt a uniform admissions application form to be used at four-year universities. The universities could require additional information from students, such as essays.

In addition, a student could apply to any or all campuses within a particular university system by submitting one form.

"With (submission of) two application forms, you could apply to every institution in the UT (University of Texas) and the A&M systems," Bivins said.

The UT System currently has centralized admissions for its medical and dental programs. UT-Austin also refers the names and addresses of applicants who aren't admitted at that campus to other UT system institutions.

Bivins said that under his bill, each campus likely would still respond to let students know whether they have been accepted.

"I originally thought the system ought to respond, but what the component schools pointed out ... is that that acceptance letter is kind of a marketing tool for them, to say, 'You've been accepted, and here are these great things about our school,'" Bivins said.

Clinton travels to Arkansas to survey tornado damage

MEN OF VALOR: Seven Aggies have won the Congressional Medal of Honor for courage on the battlefield. Aggiefife, Page 3

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. (AP) — His black cowboy boots kicking up bits of glass and wood, President Clinton surveyed the damage and comforted the victims of tornadoes that swept through his home state. "I wish there were more I could say and do," he said Tuesday.



Clinton

Surrounded by buildings reduced to kindling wood and jagged scraps of metal, Clinton said, "I've been down every one of these

streets before. I've been in every one of these stores."

Clinton has toured countless disaster sites as president, but never before has it cut this close to home: Arkadelphia, situated squarely between his two hometowns, Hope and Hot Springs, was a frequent stop for politics and policy during his 12-year tenure as governor.

"It is different when you know the people and you know the community," said Clinton, who was called "Bill" by several residents lined up amid the rubble to shake his hand.

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Kibler heads to Germany to take part in seminar

He will study academic dishonesty and integrity in Germany's higher education system.

By REBECCA TORRELLAS
THE BATTALION

Dr. Bill Kibler, associate vice president for Student Affairs, is among 50 administrators in higher education who were selected to go Germany for the 1997 Seminar for U.S. Administrators in International Education this April.

The seminar is conducted by the Fulbright Commission for three weeks in April to study Germany's system of higher education.

Kibler said Germany is well-known for its high-quality education system, and he hopes to gain ideas from the seminar to improve the current higher education system at Texas A&M.

"I want to share the information through presentations around the country," Kibler said.

His focus during the study will be academic dishonesty and integrity.

"I want to know how they (Germans) address the problem, if it is a problem there," Kibler said. Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president of Student Affairs, said he is proud of Kibler's selection for the Fulbright Educational Grant because it is a competitive process.

"This particular experience is all related to higher education," Southerland said, "so there is a direct impact on the perspective, ideas and experi-

ences of Dr. Kibler that will impact his career as a Student Affairs professional."

Southerland and Dr. Jan Winniford, associate vice president for Student Affairs, will take care of Kibler's duties at A&M while he is attending the seminar.

"We will both help, depending on what the situation is," Winniford said.

Kibler applied and submitted a proposal last September and received an acceptance letter last week.

As associate vice president for Student Affairs, Kibler oversees management of programs run by the Memorial Student Center, Student Health Services, Special Event Facilities, Student Counseling Services and the University Center Galleries.

Kibler, who joined the Texas A&M staff in 1980, is also an assistant professor of educational administration in the College of Education, where he teaches in the Student Affairs Administration in the Higher Education Program.



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Dr. Bill Kibler, associate vice president for Student Affairs, will travel to Germany to study the higher education system.

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