

Fee recommendations announced

By Rachel Dawley
Staff writer

The Student Senate and Graduate Student Council next week will consider a recommendation from the Student Service Fee Allocation Board (SSFAB) for the allocation of \$7 million in student service and health fees for 1998-99 school year. The proposal will go to the office of the Vice President of Student Affairs &M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen. The presentation will be before the Board of its during their March meeting. The SSFAB, comprised of nine appointed members, allocated \$9.6 million in student fees and \$4.1 million in health center departments receiving these funds in the Memorial Student Center, Recreational Sports, The Battalion, the Student Selling Service, Bus Operations, Student Government and Multicultural Services. The board is appointed with direct input from the Student Government Association.

The SSFAB recommended an increase in the Student Health Services Fee from \$44 per semester to \$48 per semester. The increase will be used for state mandated salary increases, utility improvements, ambulance expenses and inflationary costs.

The MSC receives the highest amount of student service fees, totaling almost two million dollars, followed by the Student Counseling Service and Recreational Sports.

Heath Hendricks, SSFAB chair and a junior chemical engineering major, said the groups with major budgetary changes this year are The Battalion, the Child Care Center and the Aggie Band.

The board recommended a decrease to half of the normal budget for The Battalion because of the size of the paper's reserves and the large amount of mandatory salary increases around campus.

The Child Care Center, which was unable to open when planned, was not allocated funds in next year's budget because the center did not use last year's funds.

The Aggie Band's budget was almost doubled for drill field repairs, instrument replacement and mandatory salary increases.

MacGregor Stephenson, a SSFAB member and a doctoral student in educational administration, said increases in funding for most areas centered around mandated salary increases and computer upgrades.

"The University is looking towards its goal of keeping up-to-date computer systems," Stephenson said. "This requires that there be yearly funding of capital outlays for computers. This is the reason for major funding increases in different areas."

Stephenson was recently chosen as the 1998-99 SSFAB Chair.

Applications are currently being accepted for next year's SSFAB. Applications are available in the Student Government office and are due Friday.

Stephenson said the board is looking for a diverse group of students.

"We as students have an incredible opportunity to make a direct impact on the

manner in which the student fees are allocated," Stephenson said. "We're looking for people that have experience or interest in student activities and programming at A&M. We're trying to ensure the board represents the student body as a whole."

Faye Little, Vice President of Finance for the Student Government Association and a senior finance major, said student members gain valuable experience by serving on the SSFAB.

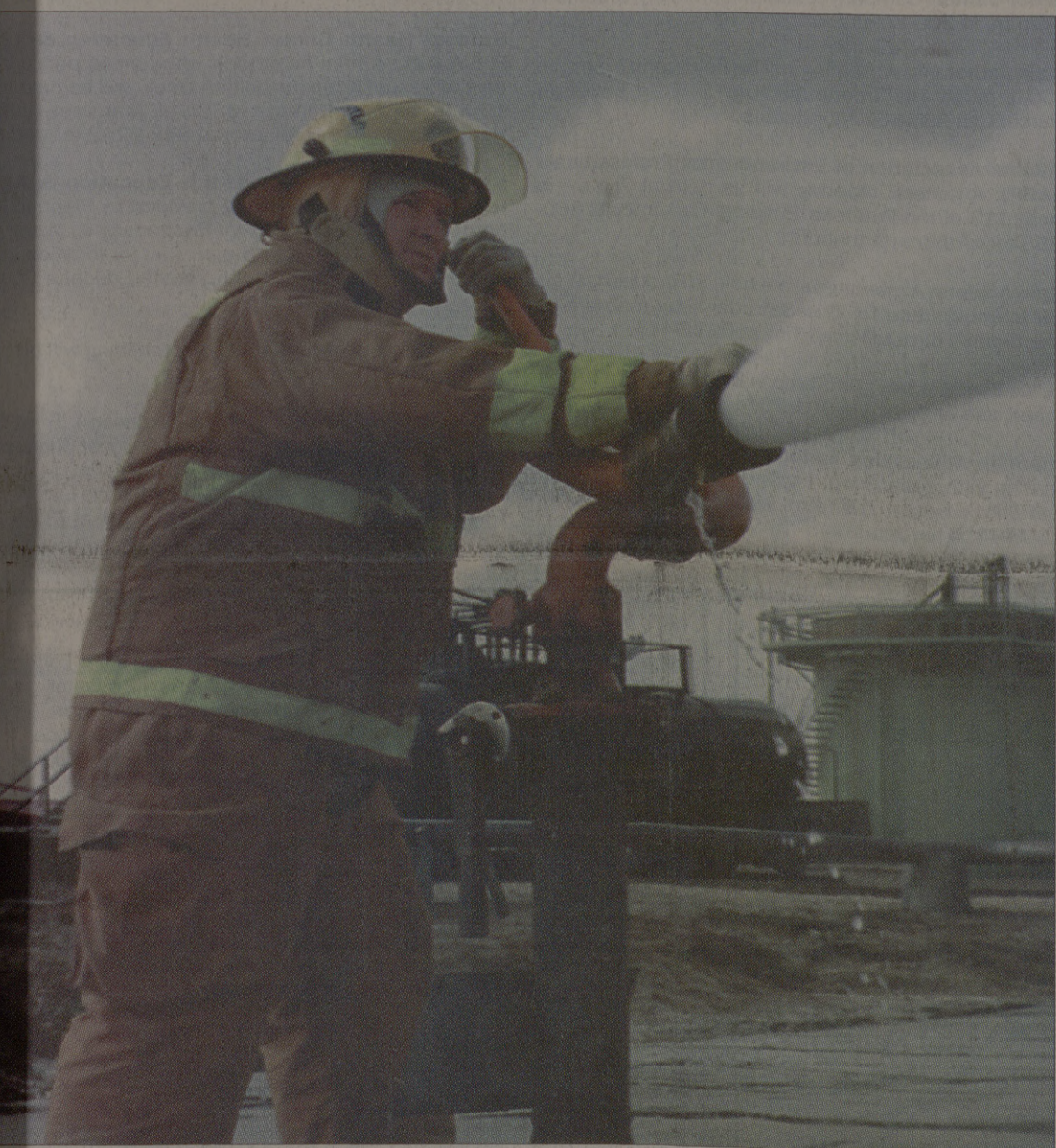
"The board provides great budgetary and business management experience," Little said. "It also gives members insight into the University and the opportunity to work with administration."

Little said the SSFAB is unique because it makes recommendations based on student input.

"Texas A&M is very fortunate to have the SSFAB," Little said. "We are the only school in the Big 12 to have a board like this. It is very refreshing to know that students have this much input into where their fees go."

	Final Recommendation	% change
Memorial Student Center	\$ 1,923,147	6
Recreational Sports	\$ 1,479,068	6
Student Life	\$ 737,800	15
Multicultural Services	\$ 390,365	12
Student Financial Aid	\$ 329,281	3
Student Government	\$ 117,312	12
Aggie Band	\$ 92,428	85
Child Care Center	\$ 0	-100

Water, water everywhere



Tim T. Bellah shoots water from the monitor position at the Brayton Fire School Monday. Bellah was there for his annual training for Formosa Chemical Plant.

Proposed changes to 'Net may overload CIS resources

By Lyndsay Nantz
Staff writer

What used to take Texas A&M students several minutes to do will soon take only a few seconds after Compaq, Intel and Microsoft announced plans last week to increase the speed of the Internet by 30 times.

The three companies joined forces with GTE Corporation to make upgraded modems that plug into normal telephone lines without interrupting the voice line.

Richard Spiller, supervisor of open access labs, said the reason there are so many delays in downloading information is because of data-heavy graphics.

"Some pages have more images and graphics," he said. "Therefore, there is more information to download and it takes longer."

The traditional method, converting digital computer data into analog format, only reaches 53,000 bits per second. The new speed should reach 1.5 megabits per second.

Spiller said images that now would take a minute or longer to view will appear in a few seconds. If such quick access to information is available, new services will



be possible over the net. PCs will be able to show video over the Internet that are close to television quality.

David Hess, network group manager for CIS, said Universal Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Lines (ADSLs) allow connecting to the Internet and calling simultaneously over one phone line.

"ADSLs can send bits across the existing wire that run the phone," he said. "But they are two different services. One is for voice and one for data."

Hess said the major concern A&M has with the ADSLs is that to support the system the Uni-

versity and homes that log on through A&M must be wired to a central office.

"We don't have the facility to run this on our own," he said. "It is impossible for A&M to run wire throughout the entire city. Hopefully, telephone companies, specifically GTE, will get into the business and offer the system to the community soon."

Plans have been approved, and GTE will interconnect A&M and off-campus students, Hess said.

In the meantime, A&M has ordered 1,100 modems to alleviate some of the busy signals students get when they try to log on.

INSIDE

aggielife



North by Northgate scheduled to host over 30 musical talents in various local music venues.

See Page 3

sports

Softball Team begins campaign today against Northwest Texas.

See Page 7

opinion

Children: Allowing children to use Internet unsupervised potential for danger.

See Page 11

online

http://battalion.tamu.edu

Link up with state and national news through The AP's 24-hour online news service.

Lecture series illustrates planning of Bush Library

By Lyndsay Nantz
Staff writer

Students and the general public will get an insider's view to the planning and design phases of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum during the Rowlett Lecture Series today.

The program consists of morning and afternoon sessions with speakers from Texas A&M, including Don W. Wilson, executive director of the Bush Library.

Wilson said the program is an opportunity to understand everything involved in the development of a building.

"Our goal in the development of the George Bush Library Center has been to create a living institution," Wilson said. "The program centers on how the library came to be and how it came to A&M."

The morning series will focus on the political side of planning the library, which occurred when Bush was still in office. The afternoon will focus on the design of the library and will include a time-lapse video of the construction process. Students can attend the entire program or just the series that interest them.

Bobby Bernshausen, communi-

cation specialist with the College of Architecture, said the program is open to everyone.

"Anybody who wants to come is more than welcome and it is free of charge," Bernshausen said. "It should be a lot of interest to construction science majors, and any

"A&M captured a major prize when we got the Bush Library."

Don W. Wilson
Executive Director of the Bush Library

student in the College of Architecture is excused from classes to go."

The program will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Presidential Conference Center and charter busses will pick up students at the MSC and Langford Architecture Center. "A&M captured a major prize when we got the Bush Library," Wilson said. "Everyone should go so they can see how much is involved in the planning and building of a presidential library."

Student research program offered

By Susan E. Atchison
Staff writer

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies at Texas A&M University will sponsor Summer Research Opportunity Programs (SROP) to offer outstanding undergraduate students the opportunity to work closely with faculty and graduate students on research projects in all academic disciplines.

The ten week program, scheduled for May 31 to August 7, 1998, is offered on a competitive basis to students entering their junior or senior college years during the 1998-99 academic year.

SROP coordinator Fidel Fernandez said that workshops and activities are offered in a collaborative, university-wide effort to prepare students for graduate school.

A seminar is planned to help prepare students to take the Graduate Records Examination, which is a major part of the process of applying to graduate school.

Students will be trained on Power Point, a software program used in professional presentations. The software training is provided by the College of Engineering.

Students will be taught how to construct academic research posters, which is another component of graduate school.

Annette Hardin, assistant director in the Office of Graduate Studies, said participants enroll in classes and work one-on-one with a professor doing research they would not necessarily have the opportunity to do on their home campus.

"[The students] establish connections with professors, and maybe in the long run they will be work-

ing with those professors," Hardin said. "It really helps the transition."

Participants may receive a maximum \$2,500 stipend that pays for housing, tuition, meals and fees during the summer.

Darlene Espinosa, a senior nutrition major, participated in the 1997 research program. She said the experience encouraged her to go to graduate school, despite her previous disinterest.

Espinosa said her summer was spent conducting breast cancer research.

"It was good experience to be able to work with other graduate students," Espinosa said.

Hardin said that all academic disciplines are represented in the programs.

"What we look to do is coordinate summer research activities for many of the programs," Hardin said.

Similar programs are in place across the campus, including programs in the College of Agriculture, the College of Engineering and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Participants must maintain at least a 2.75 GPR during the academic year, be enrolled as a student at Texas A&M during the program and be a U.S. citizen and a permanent resident of Texas.

Application packets must include a completed SROP application, a complete official copy of undergraduate transcripts that include Fall 1997 grades and one letter of recommendation on departmental letterhead from a faculty member.

The application deadline is March 2, 1998. Students interested may contact Fidel Fernandez at (409) 845-3631 or by e-mail at fidel@tamu.edu.

Enrollment figures show 900 more students at UT this spring

AUSTIN (AP) — Preliminary spring enrollment figures at the University of Texas at Austin show an overall increase from last spring but the number of black students has remained the same and the number of Hispanics has declined slightly.

Enrollment of 46,364 is an increase of 890 students from spring 1997, UT said Monday. Fi-

nal enrollment figures will be available in March.

Preliminary figures show 30,307 white students, compared with 29,718 in spring 1997. Black students total 1,660, the same as last spring, while the number of Hispanic students has dipped from 5,872 last spring to 5,828.

The number of Asian Ameri-

can students, meanwhile, has increased from 4,722 in spring 1997 to 5,084. The number of American Indian students also has risen, from 201 to 217.

Ethnicity was unknown for 30 students.

The figures include 34,825 undergraduates, 10,111 graduate students and 1,428 law students.