

Proposed corporate code of honor would affect licensing agreements

BY AMANDA SMITH
The Battalion

Texas A&M University's possible option of a corporate code of conduct would mean a change in the way the University does business with those who purchase the rights to use the Aggie logo. Texas A&M currently has more than 500 active agreements which generate \$1 million a year for the University. Sanders Letbetter, director for the office of Collegiate Licensing, said the licensing industry at the University level may find it difficult to ensure fair labor compliance with multinational corporations with production operations outside the United States. "It does appear it is going to be fairly possible for the University to license the whole world," Letbetter said. "I do not know where it is going to end up." The Nov. 13 Chronicle of

Higher Education reported universities and colleges are finding it harder than expected to enforce corporate codes of conduct in countries like Honduras and the Dominican Republic. Jonathan Coopersmith, associate professor of history, said Texas A&M University needs a corporate code of conduct to ensure the best business practices. "The code of conduct is needed to ensure the Aggie name is not dishonored," Coopersmith said. "Every person would want to know the production is done in an ethical manner, which essentially means no sweatshop labor." In its relationship with other businesses, Texas A&M licenses its names to vendors who sell products to Texas A&M in return. Coopersmith said a corporate code of conduct might encourage other universities to follow suit. "This step would enhance A&M's moral leadership," Coopersmith

said. "We are behaving responsibly and so should others. Renting out the logo should be a point of pride not a point of unconcern." The U.S. Department of Labor sponsored a forum in October to provide university licensing participants with information on implementing corporate codes of conduct to prevent universities from doing business with companies abusing labor policies to produce merchandise bearing the school logo. President Clinton issued a statement, attached to the Higher Education Act Amendments of 1998, urging universities and colleges within the United States to adopt stricter codes of conduct for the businesses producing merchandise bearing the school's logo. Suzanne Seiden of the U.S. Department of Labor said the "No Sweat" initiative is a step to ensure universities and colleges across the United States do business with companies in compliance with the law.

Regents to hold final 1998 meeting

Tenure at Bush School, new core curriculum among issues affecting A&M

BY BETH MILLER
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Board of Regents will convene at 9 this morning in MSC 292 to begin its final meeting of 1998. During today's meeting, the Board will address agenda items concerning seven of the System's campuses, System administrative and general offices, the Texas Engineering Experiment Station and the Health Science Center. Agenda items concerning the Texas A&M University main campus include the design of the Gen. Ormond R. Simpson Drill Field reviewing facility; the Hill's Pet Nutrition/Thibodeaux Student Support Quasi-Endowment; concept papers for the Institute for Sports Medicine and Human Performance, the Humanities Research Center and the Center for Environmental and Rural Health; approval of the new 48-hour core curriculum; tenure recommendations and a discussion on tenure holding at the George Bush School of Government and Public Service. Items not directly affecting the main campus include a Texas A&M University-Texasarkana request to offer a master's of science degree in accounting; a new engineering building on the campus of Texas A&M University-Kingsville; appointment of a vice president for academic affairs at Texas A&M University-Commerce and a Prairie View A&M University request for a School of Juvenile Justice. Part of the meeting today will be an open session; the other part will be open to members of the

board only. Kara Socol, senior communications specialist for the System, said Board members hear reports and presentations in closed session, but decisions must be made in open session because of the Open Meeting Act. The members of the Board of Regents, who are appointed by the governor, meets every other month and makes decisions affecting all campuses of the System. Representatives from agencies and the public are invited to attend the meetings. Kara Socol, senior communications specialist for the Texas A&M University System, said the Board deals with matters including facility, financial and legal issues. "Basically, what the Board of Regents does is make decisions that guide the system," she said. Socol said the meetings occasionally are at other System campuses, but most are in College Station because it is centrally located and is convenient for the members and guests. "While they meet on [the main] campus, they make decisions that affect the entire System," she said. Don Powell, chair of the Board of Regents, said the main duty of the Board is to ensure the institution is run as effectively as possible. Powell said the Board serves as a proxy for the people of Texas and as representatives for the taxpayers. "You have to have a servant mentality," he said. "Our job is to keep the integrity of the enterprise intact from all of its various components."

Speech to promote leadership

BY NONI SRIDHARA
The Battalion

Dr. Ben Welch, director of Student Activities, will present a speech on how to be motivated about being a leader tonight at 7 in MSC 206. The speech is part of a series of one-day workshops sponsored by the MSC Leadership and Experience and Programming committee (LEAP). Sandee Couch, chair of the LEAP committee and a sophomore business major, said LEAP is committed to teaching students to explore leadership in a variety of ways. Couch said the first-year committee is divided into subcommittees, such as Leadership and Action, which is presenting tonight's program, and Creative Leadership Development, which assists organizations such as Traditions Council and teaches them to use a variety of tools to enhance leadership within their groups. Patrick Brensinger, chair of

LEAP and a sophomore management major, said Welch was recruited for his enthusiasm and for his experience in leadership. "Welch has done many speeches," Brensinger said. "Welch has done many speeches, and he typifies what a true Aggie should be." — Patrick Brensinger, LEAP chair

lege and Graduate School of Business and his current work for the Department of Student Activities. "He has worked with many different students and always possesses a positive attitude and always has a deep passion for whatever he's doing," she said. Couch said many students have trouble keeping uplifted spirits because of the stress that goes along with a semester's conclusion. "This is one of our main reasons for this presentation," Couch said. "We want to try to help inspire people to be as fired up now as they were at the beginning of the semester and still hold a passion for what they do," she said. Couch said many students think leaders are only those who hold labeled positions. "Our definition of student leaders is someone who has or can affect people," she said. "People that hold down jobs while they are in school are student leaders, too."

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