

Committee drafts new registration policy

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON
The Battalion

If the current proposal drafted by the Academic Operations Committee's (AOC) Subcommittee on Early Registration is approved, all current Texas A&M student workers will be able to register early.

"With the new proposal, everyone who registers as a student worker this semester will maintain the privilege to register early until they graduate," said Leana Divine, vice president for academic affairs in the Student Government Association (SGA) and a senior international stud-

ies and history major. "However, in order to continue to register as a student worker, the student must register each semester as a student worker. If the student fails to register as a student worker for just one semester, they will lose that privilege permanently."

The AOC subcommittee was established to review the registration process at A&M as more student groups demand early registration privileges. The subcommittee found that the system creates an unfairness, is abused by students and is not essential to student workers in order for them to balance work and academic demands.

"With the new proposal, everyone who registered as a student worker this semester will maintain the privilege ..."

— Leana Divine
VP for academic affairs in the SGA

"When the student worker registration system was implemented six years ago, it did not put student workers at an advantage over other students, as it does now. It merely allowed student workers to get the times they needed for work," Divine said.

The subcommittee originally planned to eliminate student worker early registration entirely. After discussing the issue, the subcommittee decided to grandfather current student workers into the plan.

"The AOC decided that allowing current student workers to maintain their early registration

status would make the change less drastic," said Brent Spencer, Student Senate chair of academic affairs and a senior microbiology major. "They hope that in phasing student worker registration out slowly [it] will create less problems."

The proposal of the AOC subcommittee will be considered by the AOC in their April 19 meeting. If approved, the Faculty Senate will consider the proposal and make a recommendation. Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen will make the final decision, which would affect the student worker registration process beginning in Fall 2000.

A&M pay increase

Service depts. to see hike this fall

BY BROOKE HODGES
The Battalion

Texas A&M employees in the Custodial Services, Landscape Maintenance and Food Service Departments can look forward to a pay increase in September 2000.

Medical transcriptionists can expect to receive an average raise of \$1.06 per hour, custodial workers will receive an average

raise of 67 cents per hour and food service workers will receive an average raise of 58

cents per hour, according to Texas A&M's Human Resource Web page.

Despite this proposed pay increase, A&M's custodians, landscape and food service workers will still be paid less than workers doing the same jobs at the University of Texas-Austin.

Groundskeepers, who are in charge of keeping the University clean, will receive

\$6.79 per hour at Texas A&M, while they receive \$7.31 per hour at UT.

The pay that groundskeepers receive at UT is not sufficient to meet the cost of living in Austin, said Jerry Harrison, manager of Landscape Services for UT.

"The people that are making [\$7.31 per hour] can't even live on it," Harrison said. "If they have a family, they have two or three jobs."

Texas A&M's gardeners currently receive \$7.26 per hour while UT's gardeners receive \$7.75 per hour. Irrigation operators, who maintain the sprinkler systems, are paid \$8.58 at A&M and \$8.76 at UT.

The Landscape Maintenance Department is not the only area where UT's wages are higher than A&M's.

Food preparation workers who serve food in the cafeteria lines get paid \$7.32 per hour at UT, while people who perform the same jobs at A&M — known as food service workers — will receive \$6.15 per hour.

Cooks and bakers make \$7.90 at UT, while A&M cooks will make \$6.36.

Food service workers at A&M who were asked to comment on the difference in pay refused to comment without first obtaining consent of their managers.

Both universities provide a chance for workers to receive raises throughout the year, but when the state of Texas issues a pay increase, it usually becomes effective in the fall semester.

Merit adjustments are looked at every six months and are tied to performance evaluations, said Murray Stopher, associate director for food services at UT.

"Normally, raises are effective in September and the last few years [the raises] have been from 4 to 6 percent average," Harrison said. "But, it isn't a guaranteed thing."

Turkey dinner



Cain Cavett, a food science and technology graduate student, feeds turkeys at the Poultry Science Center Monday.

STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

SEPTEMBER 2000 PAY INCREASES

Custodial worker **Mittie Davis** mops the stairs outside the Student Recreation Center. **Davis** will be affected by the pay increase.

Medical Transcriptionists:
Medical Transcriptionists: \$8.03 to \$9.18
Senior Medical Transcriptionists: \$8.58 to \$9.81

Custodial Services:
Custodial Worker I: \$5.56 to \$6.15
Custodial Worker II: \$6.15 to \$6.79
Custodial Worker III: \$6.79 to \$7.51
Asst. Custodial Leader: \$6.36 to \$7.02
Custodial Leader: \$6.79 to \$7.51

Food Services:
Food Service Worker: \$5.56 to \$6.15
Lead Food Service Worker: \$5.75 to \$6.36
An average of 58 cents is going to be added to most food service workers pay.

STUART VILLANUEVA AND BRANDON HENDERSON/THE BATTALION

Faculty Senate reduces KINE hours

BY BRANDIE LIFFICK
The Battalion

The Faculty Senate passed a proposition Monday to reduce the kinesiology and health and fitness requirements from four to two credit hours.

Originally, the Core Curriculum Review Committee (CCRC) proposed in their annual curriculum report that the kinesiology requirement be dropped from four credits to one credit of health and fitness.

"These classes are the best way we have to influence our students to learn health and fitness now. To eliminate these [kinesiology] credits is the wrong thing to do. But two credits are better than one," said Leonard Ponder, professor in the health

and kinesiology department. "Overall, I am very disappointed in the vote."

Brian Minyard, speaker of the Student Senate and political science and microbiology major, spoke on behalf of the student body in opposition of the cut in kinesiology classes.

"When this was addressed in the Student Senate, most of our members were confused as to why this was being brought up. Many didn't even see why getting rid of [kinesiology] credits was even an issue," said Minyard. "According to surveys done at our request, students think the kinesiology credits should be left alone."

Students under the 2001-2002 catalog will be required to take a health and fitness course and a KINE 199 course of their choice, for pass or fail only.

"By requiring that the 199 course be pass or fail, we are making sure that the students' academic standing is not being affected by a physical fitness class," said Dr. Richard Stadelmann, a faculty senator and an associate professor of philosophy.

In other business, the Faculty Senate passed a motion proposed by psychology department head Dr. Paul Wellman to award a posthumous degree to Jeremy Frampton.

Frampton, a senior psychology major, was killed in the 1999 Aggie Bonfire Collapse.

"I request that the case of Jeremy Frampton ... be submitted through University channels so that his parents might receive this posthumous B.A. degree in the summer graduation."

Frampton would have graduated in August.

SGA to create student group to oversee fees

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON
The Battalion

In Fall 2000, the Student Government Association (SGA) will create an informal committee to serve as a liaison between students and administrators concerning student fees.

"The purpose of the Student Fee Committee (SFC) is to formalize the acquisition of fee information and to structure the student input process," said Caton Brown, vice-president for student services and a senior civil engineering major.

Brown said the committee will have four roles in serving students.

"It will provide student-to-administrator input [and] student-to-student input. It will also take a holistic review of fees, and will be in charge of maintaining records concerning fee issues."

The SFC, to be created within SGA, will provide a forum for administrators and students to gather input from the student body so that student concerns about fees can be heard before the Board of Regents considers a fee increase.

Along with working to improve two-way communication between administrators and students, the SFC will collect input from student organizations regarding fees in an organized manner.

"In collecting information this way, the SFC will ensure that all concerns of the entire student body are collected," Brown said.

See SGA on Page 2.

Wood appointed head yell leader

BY MAUREEN KANE
The Battalion

Aggie fans will see two familiar faces leading the crowd next year.

Bubba Moser and Ricky Wood will be returning to don the white, starched uniforms for the 2000-2001 academic year, this time as senior yell leaders.

Wood, a junior theater arts major, was named head yell leader Monday.

"It is an absolute honor to be

chosen for this position," he said. "I'm pretty much speechless right now."

"I love Texas A&M University. The position of yell leader is something that I believe in," Wood said. "It's an amazing honor, and one of the most amazing things I've ever had the opportunity to do. It's something I definitely wanted to do again this year."

The head yell leader is chosen by the Head Yell Leader Selection Board, composed of

eight students and eight faculty members. The board nominates the candidate and then sends it to Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southerland.

"Being a yell leader is important to me because I love Texas A&M University, and I want to give back some of what it's given me and my family," said Moser, a junior agricultural economics major. "Through the years, it's been a part of my life. This is the best opportunity I've ever been given to serve, and I'm

very thankful to have the opportunity again."

Both Wood and Moser served as junior yell leaders this year, and say that there was no question about jumping at the chance to serve a second time.

The returning yell leaders will be joined by senior yell leader elect, Ben Cholick, a junior construction science major. Cholick won the position after a hard-fought run-off election with John McFate, a junior

biomedical engineering major.

"Anyone in a run-off finds it more stressful. You have to find it within yourself to keep going. You go an extra week of campaigning. You have to dig down deep to find the motivation to continue campaigning," Cholick said. "This is something I've always dreamed of doing — it's such an influential position."

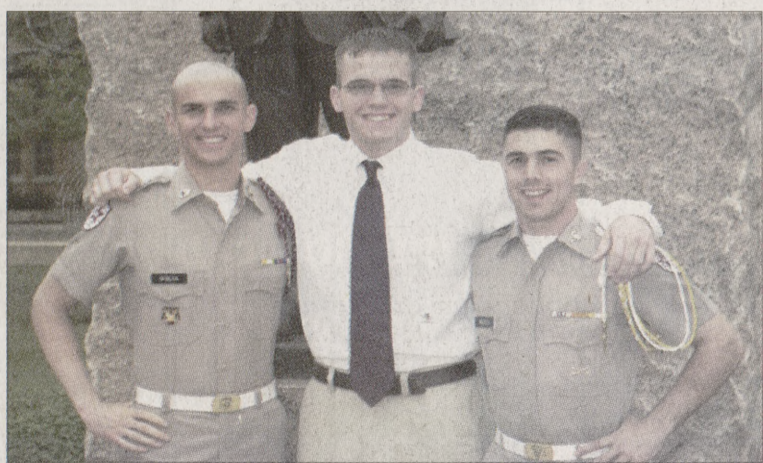
For Moser, one of the advantages of running for re-election was being familiar with the campaign process.

"I knew the routine, the schedule of days, speaking events. Last year was a blur, but this year I had time to think about what was going on," he said. "This year I could breathe easier."

Wood expressed the same feeling about being re-elected.

"Last year [campaigning] was about breaking through, getting my name known. I was fortunate enough to have a little name recognition this year," Wood said. "I could focus on more personal relationships, and be more focused on making a positive impact. Last year we did that too, but this year we didn't have to start from ground zero

See LEADERS on Page 2.



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

(L to R): Ben Cholick, a junior construction science major, Ricky Wood, a junior theater arts major, and Bubba Moser, a junior agricultural economics major, are the new senior yell leaders. Wood was named head yell leader.

INSIDE

AggieLife

• Annie
MSC OPAS brings Broadway classic to A&M

Page 3

Sports

• Aggie football team preparing for final scrimmage of spring

Page 13

Opinion

• Block the vote
Pro/Con discussing the 'Corps block'



Page 17

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