

Department avoids major downsizing

BY RICHARD BRAY
The Battalion

Despite a proposal to cut the required number of kinesiology credits from four to two, the Department of Health and Kinesiology does not expect to fire any employees.

Frank Thomas, the chair of the physical education activity program, said the earliest the proposal would go into effect would be Fall 2001.

Dr. Jack Wilmore, professor and head of the Department of Health and Kinesiology, said students already enrolled will have the choice of staying with the current curriculum or adopting the new requirements.

"All students that are here already will have the option of staying with the present requirement or they can go to the new requirement. We strongly suspect that there will be many students who elect to stay with the present requirements," he said.

Wilmore said he does not expect the Department of Kinesiology to be affected by the proposal for another four years.

"In the meantime we're hoping that we can build support for an elective program where there would be a seamless transition without a large drop in student credit hours," he said.

Thomas said until that time comes, they hope to decrease employment solely through attrition.

Wilmore said the department will do everything possible to keep all of the faculty employed.

"Our commitment is to maintaining our faculty and not laying off anybody," he said. "We have an excellent

faculty, and they have been very faithful to the department. Our goal is to keep these people employed."

Thomas said they would try to maintain student enrollment in kinesiology courses by offering more sections of popular classes.

"We're going to try and offer activities that will entice the students to take more than the required two," he said. "We're going to be looking at a lot of our most popular classes and try to keep the number of sections fairly large."

Thomas said that in the event of a downsizing, graduate assistants would be the first to be fired.

"We have a staff of about 30 full-time lecturers and about 27 graduate assistants," he said. "We will lower the number of graduate assistants first, and then, if we have to, reduce the faculty beyond that."

Julie Barber, a Department of Health and Kinesiology lecturer, said she received a memo from the department allaying fears about job security.

"From what we've heard, it's not going to affect people's jobs," she said.

Wilmore said other departments have faced the same challenge in the past.

"There have been other programs that have gone through this, and there's a little bit of a dip in student credit hour generations for the first three or four years, and then it starts going up again," he said.

Wilmore said the department will continue to offer quality courses.

"Our goal is to try to continue to stay on the cutting edge of what's going on," he said. "I think if you were to compare

the variety of courses we have here with any other institution, you would find that we would be far ahead. Our intent is to maintain that unique distinction between us and other programs."

Wilmore said he understands why there is a need to decrease course requirements in certain departments.

"We realize that what has happened is that with the knowledge explosion. There has been a tremendous increase in the number of courses required for students to graduate so that they can keep up with what's going on in the world. They're adding courses, but nobody wants to delete courses."

The KERRY KUJAWA Case

APRIL 7:
Kujawa left College Station to meet "Kelly" a person he met online and planned to meet in San Antonio

APRIL 19:
Kujawa's body found shot in the back of the head and left on a ranch outside of Austin

APRIL 27:
Suspect Kenny Wayne Lockwood arrested
Lockwood gives Hays County Sheriff's Department a full confession and admits to posing as "Kelly"



Lockwood

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

Murder suspect arrested

Lockwood charged in the death of Kerry Kujawa

BY MEREDITH HIGHT
The Battalion

Kenny Wayne Lockwood, a 31-year-old San Antonio man, was arrested Thursday in the death of Texas A&M student Kerry Kujawa.

Kujawa, a junior mechanical engineering major, was found dead on a ranch outside of Austin shot in the back of the head, last Wednesday, April 19 after being reported missing April 17.

Authorities said they believe Kujawa was killed shortly after he left College Station on April 7 to meet a girl named "Kelly" from San Antonio, whom he had met over the Internet.

Lockwood admitted to police that he had been posing as Kelly in Internet chatrooms and in email correspondence with Kujawa.

Kujawa told friends he would return to College Station on April 10. After days had

passed and he failed to return, Kujawa's parents received email messages purportedly from him.

The emails usually ended with: "I'll be back in a few days, everything is okay. Don't worry, I'm still taking care of Kelly."

Authorities said the emails to Kujawa's parents were sent after he was killed.

"Kelly's" email address was used to send the email messages

to Kujawa's parents and friends, officials said.

Authorities said tracing the emails from Lockwood were key in cracking the case.

Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department (UPD), said Lockwood has used the email address to correspond with at least one other A&M student.

According to the Associated Press, See LOCKWOOD on Page 2.

Pie 'R squared



Senior biomedical science major Kathryn Potter smashes a pie in the face of Ken Gassiot, the Lechner Hall Director, in front of the Memorial Student Center on Thursday. The pieing was a part of Honors Week festivities.

STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

University to improve campus safety

BY KIMBERLY OLSON
The Battalion

Hollie Scott, a sophomore environmental design major, is reluctant to walk back to her on-campus residence hall late at night.

"Certain spots of the campus are dark," she said. "I get scared after leaving the library after dark."

Texas A&M's Security Awareness Committee held a Campus Lighting Tour in order to alleviate this problem.

Gene Stewart, the Superintendent of Facility Maintenance, believes there is always room for improvement.

"There are some areas on campus that could use additional lighting, and there are some areas that do not," he said.

According to Elmer E. Schneider, chair of the security awareness committee and associate director of the Texas A&M University Police Department, the tour succeeded in identifying specific areas which need enhancement.

Schneider said lighting becomes a problem in the spring because the increase in foliage can interfere with the intensity of the brightness emitted.

"A lollipop light set in the midst of tree limbs can make the level of light too low, or a tree's canopy can lower the level of light," Schneider said.

In addition to campus lighting, the committee also discussed issues involving student safety awareness regarding the security of residence halls.

Schneider advised residents not to prop open front doors or allow people to "tailgate" them inside the hall because this defeats the purpose of the security system.

"Everyone needs to be security conscious and aware of his or her surroundings," he said.

As a result of student input, 16 additional phones will be installed around campus.

The phones will be for emergencies but will also be accessible for everyday use.

Faculty Senate, SGA support online format of rule book

BY MATT LOFTIS
The Battalion

In Fall 2000, students may be getting fewer forms at their freshman orientation. The Faculty Senate and the Student Government Association support a plan to discontinue the mass-printing of student rule books for distribution at the beginning of each year.

Texas A&M students seem apathetic about the new circulation method, though. Courtney Ferguson, a freshman biomedical science major, said that if the new plan saved money and trees then it is a good idea, she was not sure that a lot of students paid attention to the rules at all, anyway.

"I think it's a good idea," said Ferguson. "Does anybody read those things in the first place?"

The proposal would drastically reduce the amount of rule books printed each year and would focus efforts on advertising the Website where the rules can be found, said Dr. Tom Wehrly, speaker for the Faculty Senate. Rule books would still be available upon request from certain places but they would not be routinely passed out.

"Looking at something on a screen is a lot different than looking at something in your hands," said Wehrly, a professor in the statistics department.

Dr. Brent Paterson, chair of the rules and

regulations committee and dean of Student Life, said the rule books are printed through University Relations and that the idea of changing the way the books are printed has been considered for a few years. He said that

"I think being on the Web is a format that is easier and, in some cases, more accessible than going somewhere to get [student rule books]."

— Dr. Brent Paterson
Chair of the rules and regulations committee and dean of Student Life

with a Web version, students could search for the specific sections they needed and graduate and undergraduate rules could be easily separated.

"I think being on the Web is a format that is

easier and, in some cases, more accessible than going somewhere to get one," said Paterson.

Forrest Lane, student body president and a senior political science major, said that it was expensive to print enough copies for every student and that, provided the decision is implemented, there will be publicity to ensure all students are aware of the change and where they can find the rules. At the moment, Lane said information is being gathered about where books should be located on campus and how many should be there. Lane said he is in favor of the plan, as long as it is made accessible to all students.

Most students, however, seem unconcerned about the possible changes for the rules books. Freshman business major Robert Stevener said that he was in favor of the idea because of all the wasted paper and extra money it usually takes to distribute the rules.

"I think it would be a good idea because most students don't care to go through it anyway," said Stevener. "Now the students who actually care can just get them."

Other students do not care at all about how the school circulates the student rules. Freshman geography major Erin Volny said that she had never even read the rules and probably will not in the future.

"It doesn't even matter to me," said Volny. "I don't even think I ever read my school rules book. I just put it on my shelf."



BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION
(Front) Dustin Ralp, a senior applied mathematics major, takes advice from Brian Wigley, lecturer in the health and kinesiology, during a Golf class at Penberty on Tuesday.

THE BATTALION

Will publish next week on the following dates:

- Tuesday May 2, 2000
- Wednesday May 3, 2000

"Special Commission on 1999 Aggie Bonfire Collapse"

- Friday May 5, 2000

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

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Batt Radio

- Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details the cost of living in Bryan-College Station

Batt Online

- Check out The Battalion online at battalion.tamu.edu