

DICKEY

Continued from Page 1A

changes in the air as the chancellor names the interim president, and all of us will have the opportunity and obligation to fit in with the new personality and new interpretation of policy."

Dickey also will work to create a partnership between A&M and its affiliates on paper, crafting stronger bonds between the affiliates and begin to address space issues.

"The next two years will tell us if we have crafted stronger bonds between the Scott & White institutions, the Central Veterans Health Care System and the College of Medicine," she said. "The implementation is important."

She said she hopes to increase research and teaching space. A&M has an equal amount of territory when compared to other medical schools, but space for the medical department in College Station is limited.

As dean of medicine and professor of family and community medicine, Dickey spent time setting up a residency program, which teaches graduates of medical school how to specialize in family medicine — including how to set up a practice.

"The program had to do with the procedures and skills I've been doing for 20 years," Dickey said. "While this job is a combination of being the administrative and fiscal head of a very complex institution, it is a very new job to me. My faculty is extremely supportive in terms of helping me learn the specifics of both academic medicine and the dean's job."

For the time being, A&M is not planning to increase class size in the College of Medicine, although the issue does arise periodically, Dickey said.

"Every student becomes known as an individual, and since so much of medicine is learned through mentoring, this is terribly important," Dickey said. "The chance to get to know your faculty, both basic science and medical

science, is a real positive for us."

"Our students get to know community physicians in their offices and in their classrooms over the first two years and continue that when they go to Scott & White and the other affiliates," Dickey said.

A&M has the largest university research building in the South and Southwest. It also ranks in the top 10 universities nationally in research expenditures.

The college offers degrees in medicine, philosophy and combined B.S. and M.D./Ph.D. degrees.



Dr. Nancy Wilson Dickey, editor-in-chief of Medem, a patient education company Website, was named interim dean of the College of Medicine.

"What more could you ask than to learn the art of your profession from a group of people whose peers think they're outstanding?" Dickey said.

UT staff workers stay home in planned sickout

AUSTIN (AP) — Hundreds of University of Texas-Austin staff workers stayed home Wednesday, saying they are tired of what they call unfair working conditions at the state's largest university.

"I stayed home because I've worked there 20 years and I now see a place where they run a department of it like a plantation," said Will Asay, a telecommunications worker who participated in the sickout.

The workers want wage increases, including an hourly minimum of \$9.16, as well as reinstatement of comprehensive, paid dental coverage. They also want their insurance premiums to remain unchanged.

A count of the number of UT's 17,000 non-teaching employees who stayed home would not be available for several days. Pat Clubb, vice president of employee and campus

operations, predicted the number would be about 500, while the University Staff Association said about 4,800 workers agreed to participate.

The university has said it was forced to raise premiums to offset rising insurance costs caused by higher hospital and doctor fees, and more expensive prescriptions. Workers earning \$30,000 a year or less were given a \$50-a-month raise to help offset the increases.

Most workers earn less than \$30,000 a year and about 11 percent earn less than \$20,000 annually.

The workers say the raises were not enough to keep up with the rising cost of living in Austin and the expense of health insurance premiums.

"We've complained before as individuals," Asay said from his Austin home. "But that's not a very loud voice."

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