

Senate

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Gates said he has spoken to Washington, D.C., about this problem to help change policy in support of education.

Gates said the A&M System Board of Regents will review the proposed tuition increase at its meeting later this month. The increase of \$19.50 would raise tuition to \$74.50 per semester credit hour.

Gates said this is a smaller percentage increase than the one that University of Texas students will experience.

A tuition policy advisory committee made up of students, former

students, parents and faculty will be formed to discuss possible tuition plans, Gates said.

Jan Swearingen, the liberal arts caucus leader and a professor of English, said Gates' speech gave good news, budget wise.

"Compared to some states we're doing much better on funding because we've been able to keep tuition rates way down compared to other universities in the state," Swearingen said.

Gunn said that, although it is a shame to have to increase the tuition, the numbers speak for themselves.

"It is a pity that Texas doesn't support education in the same way as other states like Michigan and California do," Gunn said.

New constitution approved for Iraq's new government

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Under the interim constitution approved Monday, Iraq will be a federalist state with two official languages, a prime minister who runs the country's daily affairs and a president who can launch a war — but only with the approval of parliament.

"No one has absolute power," said Entifadh Qanbar, spokesman for Governing Council member Ahmad Chalabi. "After what we've been through, we're afraid of that."

Iraq's U.S.-picked Governing Council spent two months wrestling with the interim constitution, which will become law of the land for a year or more, until an elected national

NEWS IN BRIEF

assembly writes a replacement.

"For the next 100 years this day will be mentioned as one of the most important in Iraq's history," said council member Samir Shaker Mahmoud. "This will be remembered in the annals of history as a turning point in relations between the state and citizens in this country and in the region."

The precedent-setting constitution, which is to be signed by top American administrator L. Paul Bremer and made public Wednesday, has been described as one of the most liberal in the region. Some aspects, such as the goal of a parliament with women as 25 percent of its members, were declared even more progressive than those in the United States.

Pentagon alerts soldiers to prepare for duty in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — About 18,000 National Guard soldiers from four major units have gone on alert for likely deployment to Iraq late this year or in early 2005, the Pentagon said Monday.

The announcement underscores the deepening involvement of Guard and Reserve forces in U.S.-led efforts to quell the insurgency in Iraq and stabilize the country. So far 45 Guard and Reserve members have been killed in action in Iraq and 42 more have died of nonhostile causes.

They will be mobilized over the next several months to conduct training before their new assignment, the Pentagon said.

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