

# House committee urges TA limits, requirements

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New restrictions limiting the number of teaching assistants and requiring them to undergo a supervised internship before teaching a class autonomously may be imposed on state colleges and universities.

These measures were among eight recommended Monday by the appropriative matters subcommittee of the House Higher Education Committee.

The subcommittee, chaired by Rep. John Hoestenbach, D-Odessa, also advocated a stronger role for the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System, in planning the education activities of schools around the state.

Under the subcommittee's recommendations, the number of TA's in any department could not exceed the number of fulltime faculty members in that department. The number of teaching assistants employed by the institution as a whole also could not exceed the number of fulltime faculty members working there.

Additionally, TAs' teaching loads would be restricted to no more than 25 per cent that of fulltime faculty members.

## English professor testifies

This proposal, suggested in testimony to the subcommittee earlier by James Sledd, University English professor, would in effect require 75 per cent of all courses to be taught by fulltime faculty members.

"This (proposal) would give a class a chance to be exposed to a professor," Hoestenbach said.

Limiting the number of TAs and decreasing the number of class hours they teach might result in forcing institutions to limit enrollment or increase the size of classes, Rep. Don Rains, D-San Marcos, said.

"How much chaos would this (measure) cause over here on the 40 Acres?" he asked.

Hoestenbach argued that classes would be big "regardless" in freshmen courses.

To assure that teaching assistants are adequately prepared to teach, the subcommittee recommended that all TAs be required to have a minimum of one semester internship before being allowed to teach a class autonomously. The internship would be under the supervision of a fulltime faculty member in the same field in which the TA is planning to teach.

## Discipline for "phony" courses

Hoestenbach proposed that the Coordinating Board be directed to study the possibility of disciplinary action against schools using "phony" courses to get around legislative requirements.

"English 398T at The University of Texas at Austin is a phony course, in that classes don't meet, there is no course work, but people still get credit for taking it and teaching it," he said.

President Lorene Rogers testified earlier before the subcommittee that 398T, "Supervised Teaching for Graduate Students," is not a "phony" course.

## More funds for Coordinating Board

To strengthen the Coordinating Board, the subcommittee recommended it be given funding to acquire an adequate staff to "take an active role in coordinating education across the board for

the cultural and economic benefit of the state."

The motion passed unanimously after lengthy discussion on the possibilities of establishing quotas or limiting funding in programs which Gov. Dolph Briscoe has said are overcrowded. Briscoe has asked the Coordinating Board to restrict new degree programs in journalism, law and education.

In other action, the subcommittee decided no evidence justified the creation of a South Texas System, to include Texas A&I and Pan American University. Neither was a proposal made concerning the inclusion of Pan American with the University of Texas System.

Tuition equalization grants, enabling students to attend private institutions in Texas at roughly the same cost as public institutions, should be continued at the present level of funding, the subcommittee voted.

## Take a look at 'organized activities'

The subcommittee proposed that the Coordinating Board and Legislative Budget Board be instructed to take an overall view of "organized activities" and their funding. These programs are self-supporting and include everything from laboratory farms to day care facilities run by institutions.

Lacking sufficient data concerning salary supplementation of faculty and administration by business and other outside interests, the subcommittee voiced its intent to study the matter further before the next legislative session convenes in January.

These recommendations will be submitted to the House Higher Education Committee when it meets in Dallas Oct. 8.