

Resolution sets policies on faculty, TA workloads

By **CHRISTY HOPPE**

Texan Staff Writer

The General Faculty indicated its willingness to cooperate with the Legislature to improve and clarify teaching workloads without stringent requirements in a resolution passed at a specially called meeting Thursday.

Lack of a quorum at last week's meeting forced the General Faculty to pass the resolution with a straw vote. Approximately 260 faculty members were present Thursday, 35 more than necessary to pass formally with an overwhelming voice vote the resolution written by English Prof. Neill Megaw.

The resolution is in reply to House Bill 833, which would impose mandatory faculty and teaching assistant (TA) workloads, possibly limiting the time and effort devoted to University research.

ACCORDING TO THE RESOLUTION, faculty members wish to eliminate any fraudulent, misleading or vague reporting of courses, establish guidelines and

policy for a responsible workload and increase faculty performance and student contact without endangering University research.

The General Faculty also urged that TAs not be overused and that they undergo thorough training before teaching an appropriate course.

"This does concede to us that we're guilty of some abuses," Megaw told fellow faculty members while discussing the resolution.

"IT ADMITS THAT WE HAVE given less than full justice to lower-division students. But it also says that we really intend to turn these things around," he explained.

Although it has "no teeth" because it lacks any penalties for noncompliance, the resolution admits the right of the Legislature to intervene when it feels the public good is not being served at the University, Megaw added.

Although favoring most of the resolution, Dr. Ira Iscoe, director of University Counseling and Psychological Services,

warned against granting the Legislature such blanket intervention control.

"IF THE LEGISLATURE CAN intervene when things are going wrong, the next step could be control of what is to be taught for the public good," Iscoe said.

"For better or worse, the regents must set policy. If there are internal problems, it is up to the administration to resolve them," he added.

English Prof. James Sledd, an outspoken proponent of HB 833, also spoke in favor of the resolution.

"I SUPPORT THIS 'toothless resolution' because it is an improvement over other faculty responses which have reflected ignorance, inaccuracy and political ineptitude," he said.

In other action taken by the General Faculty, a second resolution written by Asst. History Prof. Tom Philpott passed, commending the state Senate subcommittee on nominations for holding "the most searching inquiry" in its investigations of three new regental appointments.