

# tuf times

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## BUDGET CRISIS

### TWELVE HOUR TEACHING LOAD THREATENS!

UH/CL may be on the verge of the worst crisis in its twelve year history. Here is the situation in brief, from what TUF TIMES has been able to discover: although the legislated cuts to the university average about 14%, the effective cuts are more like 22%, close to the "worst case" scenario anticipated last winter. While the Chancellor has committed himself to not terminating any full-time faculty currently on contract, most additional positions will be left vacant. Faculty who have recently resigned or are on leave of absence next year will generally not be replaced. Except for Science and Technology, we will employ few if any part-time faculty during the fall and spring semesters next year. Finally, M & O budgets will be cut 20%.

For UH/CL there is a shortfall of \$848,685 between the faculty salaries the Chancellor budgeted for FY 1985 and the amount appropriated by the legislature for 1986. In addition, the legislature only appropriated 2.25% of the 3.00% raise it mandated faculty receive; thus the university must come up with another .75% of the faculty budget line, amounting to \$48,000 next year. When this total (\$6,443,283 + \$48,000) is subtracted from the \$7,144,291 appropriated by the legislature for FY 1986 faculty salaries, \$653,000 in salary money is available for part-time faculty plus summer school salaries during FY 1985.

Since \$700,000 to \$800,000 was spent on summer-school salaries for this summer, the Chancellor has taken \$550,000 of the \$653,000 and set it aside for summer 1986 salaries, the first semester of the next base year. Almost all of the remaining \$103,000 will be used to hire part-time faculty for Science and Technology, which is highly dependent on such faculty. The upshot is that there is no money for other part-time faculty during the fall and spring semesters next year.

Moreover, while the legislature claimed to have cut our funds by only about 12%, they have assumed in this reduction that we can almost triple locally-generated income. Since this is mostly made up of foreign and out-of-state tuition fees, and since these fees are doubling and then tripling in the next two years, we can realistically expect a reduction in this source of funding which will be only partially offset by other efforts we may make. Thus our actual budget cuts will probably amount to closer to 22%.

During the last base year, the university credit hours dropped about 3.8%. In addition, our graduate/undergraduate student ratio has changed from its historic 65%/35% to something like a fifty/fifty ratio. When entered into the funding formula, these two developments contributed to our major budget reduction.

The Chancellor has not announced any decisions, but apparently faculty development leaves will continue to be funded.

Other matters are less certain:

- Can money be shifted out of other budget lines and into faculty salaries? Answer? Unclear. It's unclear if the Chancellor is willing to cut any of the many new administrative positions created in the last two years. Administrative cuts already average about 20%.
- About 10 classrooms in the last several years have been lost by the faculty and are now being used for student affairs activities. It is unclear whether the Chancellor is willing to transfer some of this classroom space back to teaching so we can try to maintain and expand our enrollment.
- Bill Fannon, who replaced Jim Coomer as Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, is in the process of doing a study of credit hours generated by each program and faculty member. This information could be used to terminate programs and/or require individual faculty who fell below a specified number of credit hours generated last year to teach four courses. For example: "If you have not generated at least \_\_\_ credit hours last semester, you must teach four courses this next semester."
- The Chancellor expects to announce a series of decisions by August 1, but the Administration has not yet established a set of decisions or fully considered secondary effects.

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- The decisions to be announced about August 1 will probably take a 'multi-thrust' approach to the problem. Rather than an overall strategy, there will be a series of changes designed to have a cumulative impact.
- The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs may begin to compel faculty to teach courses that are "core" to the academic purpose and curriculum of our programs.
- If faculty teach four courses, a change in the weighting of teaching and research and service in the evaluation criteria would be needed.

TUF TIMES recognizes that these issues are complex, and that there is much confusion surrounding recent events. While we have tried to make our above reporting as accurate as possible, we may have inadvertently misrepresented some positions. If the position is yours, we apologize and will gladly print any corrections pointing it out to us.

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### EDITORIAL

Once there was a new university that was a bit different from other universities. It was friendly and open; it stressed teaching, so the Professors taught only twelve hours, leaving them time both to do advising and research. A surprisingly large quantity of research was accomplished in its earlier years.

Then came a change of administration and the announcement that UH/CL would become Harvard on the Bayou. Research would take priority over teaching; working with NASA and industry was in. Above all, administration was in, with administrative costs rising 40% over two years and classroom after classroom converted to administrative space.

And the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor stressed our graduate programs; they seemed not to notice that our students were increasingly undergraduate. When the Senate and then our Guild pointed this out to them, along with budgetary consequences; they shrugged their shoulders. Last fall both the Senate and the Guild pressed them on these very issues. The headline of the second TUF TIMES in fall, 1984, read: "FACULTY STANDARDS AFFECTED BY ENROLLMENT CRISIS?" In this issue we pointed out that "the decline in enrollment and the shift from graduate to undergraduate enrollment were apparent at least as far back as Jerry Rhodeback's enrollment report in the fall of 1983. The Senate commented on this trend in its response to Chancellor Stauffer. . . in a document published by the UHCLidian. The administration has known about the situation, yet little seems to have been done. Instead, the Chancellor is talking about 100 goals. . . and visiting the Far East, perhaps worthy things, but hardly so important as trying to shore up enrollment in a base year. We suspect that the administration has been looking at the sky and ignoring the ground crumbling under its feet. And the faculty will be the ones to pay the price."

The new administration, however, will have to bear a major share of the blame for the present crisis. A naive presumption about what the legislature would do, no planning, little apparent local fund raising, and burgeoning administrative costs have compounded our difficulties and made an adequate response all but impossible. If the faculty, or even some of us, have to teach twelve hours, the results will be harmful to quality education here, and we will be little different from a junior or community college. Despite all the hype and puffery, the administration's failure to understand this university, its constituency, and its needs will have succeeded in destroying much that was most valuable and distinctive at UH/CL.

It may not be too late to stop the decay a 12 hour teaching load would accelerate. To maintain the 9 hour load, and preserve the quality of this university, we call on the administration to make deeper cuts in their budget and more effectively raise monies independent of the state budget. The increase to 12 hours for faculty is to resort to a speed-up--more work for the same incentives--and as any good economist, manager, or historian can tell you, speed-ups have little impact on productivity. The promise of increased productivity always disappears in quality decline and a sharp decrease in employee morale and effort. And recruitment of good new people becomes all that more impossible.

Curtis C. Smith.

TUF TIMES will print any responsible replies to this editorial.

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Send to Curt Smith or Bruce Palmer, box 309 or 281.