

Panel says drop policy too liberal

New officers also chosen at last Faculty Senate meeting

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The university's withdrawal policy is too liberal, causing some students to not take classes seriously, Faculty Senate representatives said Wednesday.

Senator Laurin Porter, English associate professor, said the policy allows students to withdraw too late into the semester — up to the 12th week of classes. She said other higher-education institutions only allow students to withdraw through midterms, or through the eighth week.

"It (the liberal policy) encourages a casual attitude in course selection and completing a course," she said, explaining that students sometimes register for more classes than they know they can complete. Students then wait until the drop date to decide which course to drop.

According to the policy, students who withdraw between the sixth and 12th weeks of class will receive a W if passing and an F if they are failing.

Faculty Senate representatives met for their last meeting this semester to elect new officers and to hear remarks by university President Robert Witt and committee reports.

On behalf of the Academic Liaison Committee, Porter reported that a recommendation had been made

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to an Undergraduate Assembly committee to evaluate the withdrawal policy.

Porter said students who register for courses with the intent of possibly dropping the course restrict other students from taking those courses because seating is limited. When students drop courses late into the semester, the registration period has already passed, leaving seats empty.

Dr. Witt updated faculty sena-

tors about progress in the Legislature. He said five members of both the House and Senate will begin deliberating differences Monday in the university's proposed budget for fiscal years 2000 and 2001. Separate budget bills in both chambers produced varying results.

The Senate allocated \$99.9 million for fiscal year 2000 and \$103 million for 2001. An additional \$1.3 million was also allocated for the Automation and Robotics Research Institute here. The House allocated \$95.2 million for fiscal year 2000 and \$96.1 million for fiscal year 2001.

Witt said he will attend the

conference committee meeting next week.

Because the Faculty Senate meeting was the last of the academic year, senators elected executives for 1999-2000. Michael Moore, political science assistant professor, will be chair-elect; English professor Hans Kellner was elected parliamentarian; Joan Rycraft, social work assistant professor, will be the senate's secretary; and psychology Professor Harriett Amster was elected as representative for the Texas Council of Faculty Senates. The senate's current chair, Brooks Ellwood, will serve as chair next year.