

Seekers of financial aid handicapped by rulings

For some UTA students, financial aid from the university is enabling them to stay in school. But for a small group of these students, a "tragic situation" exists, according to Marion Jacob, director of the Financial Aid Office.

The problem is twofold.

On one hand, there is the specialty student who may obtain aid only for the period he is registered here, even though he or she is doing appointed work off campus toward a UTA degree. On the other hand there is the part-time commuter who attends two area schools but is a fulltime student at neither.

Hike for HOPE date reslated

Phi Mu sorority has rescheduled its "Hike for HOPE" for Dec. 3, due to a conflict with a TARS (Teens Aid the Retarded) hike.

"We hadn't been informed of the TARS march until this week," said Cheri Stearns, general chairman of HOPE here. "Since the two routes are basically the same, we thought it best for both groups if we set our march for a later date."

For example, a medical technologist may attend UTA for three years and then put in one year at a hospital, returning to UTA for the degree. In that off-campus year, he or she is dropped from the rolls.

Jacob said his office attempts to warn students caught in this situation, and often a student will change his major rather than lose financial aid.

Jacob said any relief to such students will have to come from the UT Board of Regents. One remedy, he suggested, might be a "consortium agreement" which would enable all UT System schools to work together and not rule such students ineligible for aid. Thus a student working at UT medical school, for example, could receive aid from UTA.

A preventive measure, Jacob said, might be to have developers meet with the Financial Aid Office to investigate the impact in each new program. "In the development of past programs, the academic people are thinking of academics, not economics," he said.

The problem of part-time students who take full-time hours at different schools has no easy answer, Jacob said. A remedy would require cooperation between area schools and the federal government.