

Handicapped want model campus

Handicapped students are launching a statewide campaign against physical barriers on college campuses.

The Handicapped Students Association here has requested an appointment at the July 27 Board of Regents meeting in Austin. The group hopes to convince the regents of a need for a model campus for others to follow and a totally equipped campus to provide a few with quality education, said Jim Hayes, association spokesman.

"UTA could well be the best college in the north central portion of Texas for the handicapped student," Hayes said.

"Most handicapped students are commuters, but others live in rural areas where it is impossible to commute to a four-year institution, and, being students, are not financially equipped to hire someone to assist them in the everyday things that they may need help with, such as getting out of bed," said Sam Provence, chairman of the association.

The model campus would not necessarily be at UTA, Provence said, even if the plan is adopted. He did feel

that this is as likely a place as any since the request originated here.

It would take approximately \$2,000,000 to convert UTA into a model campus, Provence said. This would include elevators for the Engineering Technology Building and Ransom and Preston Halls.

Other improvements included are ramps for all building entrances, Braille identification plates in hall-

ways, warning devices on hazard areas for blind students, extensions on handrails and the elimination of lipped stairways.

"Many other little things are also included," Provence said.

There is presently a model campus at Ada, Okla., converted with federal funds.

The association has ten active members on campus and claim representa-

tion for 122, many of whom have handicaps that are not visible, such as heart problems and ambulatory difficulties. Provence, however, believes that the improvements would be more far-reaching.

"Even though only 122 students are presently on this campus, the improvements are of a lasting nature that would benefit students in general for years to come."