

Professors must teach set number of hours

Rogers fights workload rule

Regulations that require state university professors to teach a certain number of hours per semester — a principle dear to the hearts of legislators, but loathed by the teachers — should be abolished, University of Texas President Lorene Rogers said today.

Presenting UT's 1977-78 budget request to the staff of the Legislative Budget Board, Rogers said she would like the legislature to do away with workload requirements it has imposed on faculties at all state colleges and universities.

The requirements were a backlash of campus activism in the late '60s and early '70s when public universities came under increasingly critical eye of state officials. But Rogers added, "The thing that really bugs us is what the Regents imposed. That's the one I'd really like to get rid of."

UT regents in 1972 approved even stiffer workloads than the legislature, compelling all UT faculty members to teach a minimum of four organized courses (usually 12 semester hours) or two courses and the "equivalent" of the other six hours teaching.

The legislature requires only nine hours or its equivalent.

Nevertheless, the equivalency workload, at least at UT, is liberally interpreted so that most professors are not actually required to teach 12 semester class hours.

Rogers said none of the institutions with which UT is in academic competition nationally have any workload requirements. The responsibility of getting the work of the university done with proper utilization of its faculty should be left to the schools' president and administrators, she said.

Abolition of workloads is "not really going to change the way we operate" but would lift the morale of faculty members who are opposed to the principle," she said.

Rogers is also asking the legislature for increased faculty — staff benefits, which she said lag behind those of other prestigious universities, as well as nearly \$1.3 million for faculty development leaves. Although the legislature has given its blessing to paid leaves or sabbaticals for faculty members, it has never authorized any money for them and UT has drawn it from other funds.

UT's 1977-78 budget request to the legislature seeks a 16 per cent increase in its operating

budget from \$119 million to \$138 million — the largest of any university in the state. But includes an increase of nearly 13 per cent for faculty salaries.

The figures don't include money UT gets from other sources, such as Available Fund oil and gas income, and the federal revenue sharing funds.

Rogers said more money is needed to hire new faculty members to teach the unexpected influx of 3,000 students who came to UT during the last two years. Rogers said most were former students who had dropped out in the '60s and were returning to complete their education and there was no way to predict the increase which boosted enrollment to approximately 43,000 students.

Rogers also said she is recommending to the UT System Administration that the university's troubled Division of Extension be dismantled. The recommendation comes in the wake of a scandal, which resulted in the indictment of the division's dean and two employees.

According to her plans, the extension night school would be abolished after September, 1977.