Changes slight in file access

By STEVE BUTTRY
Editor-in-chief

Student access to records will not be changed much at the University, due to some revisions in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).

Before it was revised, FERPA would have given any student the right to see virtually any record the University kept on him. As revised, the law will not change the present status much. However, at the University there are few records about a student that the student cannot see.

According to federal guidelines for the law, confidential letters and statements of recommendation which were placed in files prior to Jan. 1, 1975 are not affected by the law, unless they are used for purposes other than those for which they were originally intended.

Financial records of a student's parents are not available to the student either. This means a student would not be allowed to see the Parents Confidential Statement (PCS) in the office of financial aid.

However, not many students here have shown an interest in seeing such records. “Very few have ever asked to see them,” said Logan Ware, director of financial aid.

Confidential letters and recommendations received after the first of the year are available to students, but Ware said there has been little demand for them. The Office of Financial Aid asks for recommendations only when students apply for loans.

If students want to see recommendations received before 1975, the writers of the letters will be contacted, Ware said. “If they ask for letters, we’ll ask the people who wrote them. If it’s okay with them, then we’ll let the student see the letters.

“I can’t imagine many people saying no. We’ve had very few recommendations that haven’t been complimentary. Students generally know who will give them good recommendations.”

Changes slight in file access

The Placement Bureau has revised the letter it sends to faculty members asking for recommendations about students. The letter states recommendations cannot be guaranteed confidentiality from the students about whom they are written.

Recommendations received before Jan. 1 will be kept confidential, but other than that, a student may see anything in his file in the Placement Bureau.

“We’ve never had any students since I’ve been here that have asked for them,” said Walter Roach, director of the bureau, about recommendations.

The bureau will ask students to sign a waiver, which would make the recommendations confidential. FERPA allows recommendations to be made confidential by the waiver, but students are not required to sign it.

A student may see all records in the Registrar’s Office that concern him, according to Registrar Calvin Cumble. The records, which include the student’s permanent record and a current folder, have always been available to students.

The revised FERPA exempts records of any physician, psychologist, psychiatrist or “other recognized professional or para-professional acting in his professional or para-professional capacity, or assisting in that capacity, which are created, maintained or used only in connection with the provision of treatment to the student, and are not available to anyone other than persons providing such treatment.”

Dean misses classroom

Reuter leaves grad school post

Dr. Frank Reuter, dean of the Graduate School since 1971, will return to full-time teaching and research in the History Department next spring.

“I have been considering the move for several months,” said Dr. Reuter. “Because I genuinely miss the classroom and the research begun on the United States as an emerging nation, prior to my being named dean.”

Dr. Reuter started his project on the Post-Revolutionary era in the summer of 1967. However, it was in the spring of 1970 that he went on a research grant to the public and private archives of England and France and did the majority of his research.

Dr. Reuter said he hopes to have most of his research completed by the end of 1975.

After taking a four-month leave during the fall semester, Dr. Reuter plans to return to the University for the spring semester. He will teach a senior-graduate course on the American Revolutionary era over TAGER, an introductory survey course in American history and a graduate seminar in American history.

Although Dr. Reuter has taught every semester since his appointment as dean, he said, “there is a full generation of students who don’t know me.” Before serving as dean of the Graduate School Dr. Reuter taught for eight years in the History Department.

No decision has been reached regarding the appointment of a new dean of the Graduate School. Vice Chancellor Thomas Brewer will meet with the Graduate Council next Monday afternoon to discuss the situation.
Hazing action firm, lenient

The Student Organizations Committee (SOC) acted swiftly and firmly, Wednesday in its decision to throw off campus any fraternity that violates anti-hazing regulations.

SOC also acted leniently, finding all fraternities guilty of hazing, but letting them all off with a stern warning.

The action will force all fraternities to restructure their pledge programs, but it gives them all another chance. Had the committee ousted all fraternities automatically—as it could have—it would have been acting too harshly.

The Greek system is an integral part of campus life, and a significant portion of the student body would have been hit hard by any decision to ban all violators immediately. This way, all fraternities—and possibly some sororities and other groups—will have to reform and drastically alter their behavior.

It may be said reasonably that many hazing methods used were harmless. But apparently some people got carried away, and hazing grew to the point where it had to reform and drastically alter its behavior. It was totally uncivilized. There can be no excuse or rationale for some of the hazing that took place.

The action degraded the entire fraternity system and made meaningless any redeeming qualities that could be found in the less harmful hazing.

Some hazing might have been fun and tolerable, but since some students resorted to mental and physical harassment, a line had to be drawn. SOC has clearly defined hazing. Any future violators should and will be thrown off campus immediately. They have already been warned.

The College Fraternity Secretaries Association has issued a statement calling hazing "one of the most damaging instruments to the fraternity system."

Greeks frequently claim the good qualities of their organizations outweigh the bad, which they say get more publicity. It’s time for some fraternities to examine themselves and decide to start showing the good qualities they spend so much time talking about.

SOC must believe the fraternities have redeeming qualities, or there would have been no reason to let them off with just a warning.

"I still think they're valuable," said Don Mills, director of Programs and Services, after reciting a long list of hazing examples.

The fraternities have been given an opportunity to prove their value. They will have to eliminate any cruel behavior and will be under severe scrutiny. They should be grateful they have another chance along with a strong mandate to make the most of it.

—THE EDITORS

READER FEEDBACK

Editor: I was appalled and discouraged to read the enclosed article in today's Honolulu Star Bulletin and Advertiser, 1-12-75. It is hard to believe that college-educated people could behave in such a manner.

When my husband was stationed in Biloxi, Mississippi, in 1968-69 with the Air Force, we saw many examples of whites treating Blacks disrespectfully. We were glad to get orders to come to Hawaii and leave the South.

Several years ago we adopted a Korean child and when the Air Force was going to send us back to the South, my husband resigned his commission rather than subject our daughter to any degrading situations.

Since that time many people I have met from the South, including Texas, have told us that we over-exaggerated the problems and that prejudice was now "out of style." Apparently they were wrong if this article is true.

I certainly hope these were the actions of an uncivilized few that make up a small proportion of the TCU student body. Certainly their conduct has caused no great Aloha for Texas among the people of Hawaii.

Mrs. Michael Hanna
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Rules change has little effect

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given copies of the test results. The tests measure interests and personality traits. A counselor at the center explains the results upon releasing them.

Students who go to the center for other tests will have the scores explained the same way. Students who go to the center for counseling or psychological help will have contents of files shared with them by the therapist.

Nothing will be withheld from students, Dr. Hege said, but results and reports will not be released without explanation.

Everything that is on file in the Student Life Office regarding a student is available for the student to see, according to Elizabeth Proffer, dean of students.

According to Proffer, the law now gives parents of dependents the right to see a student's grades. The University will not automatically send grades home, Proffer said, but when a student's parents write, the student will be contacted and asked for permission to release the grades to his or her parent.

Proffer said there was only one case she knows of when it was illegal to release grades without a student's permission that the student refused to release the grades.

Proffer has written a policy statement regarding student records, but it has not yet been approved.

FERPA also protects students from having records released without their permission. "Director information"—name, address, telephone number, etc.—is excluded from this provision of the law. FERPA guidelines are out for a public reading until March 7. Shortly after that, the guidelines will probably become law with little more revision likely.
It's early in the basketball season but the Horned Frogs face an important game this Saturday in College Station against Texas A&M.

The Frogs won their conference opener over Baylor while the Aggies outlasted the Rice Owls. For the season Texas A&M is 9-4 while the Purtles are 6-6.

If they are to win this game, the Frogs need to improve their shooting while reducing their number of costly turnovers. The Purtles registered only a 43 percent field goal shooting average against Baylor while throwing the ball away numerous times.

Head coach Johnny Swaim hopes Thomas "Blood" Bledsoe continues to sport his hot hand and aggressive rebounding. For the last three games "Blood" has pulled down a total of 32 rebounds and scored 68 points. He is averaging 13.3 points a game for the season.

"They're (A&M) real tough. Playing at College Station is a hard place for a visiting team to win. Their fans have great spirit," Swaim said.

The Aggies are relying on leading scorer Sonny Parker, a 6'6" forward, to supply their offensive punch. A&M uses an offense which utilizes one "real" guard. This poses a problem for the Frogs because Swaim uses two guards, thus one of them will be guarding a much taller forward.

Swaim hasn't decided on a starting lineup but he noted that no matter who starts, the Frogs will "definitely have to improve their play over the Baylor game in order to beat the Aggies."

**JV, women lose**

The Purple junior varsity and women's basketball teams didn't fare quite as well as the "big fellas" did against the Baylor Bears, but the JV got another chance last night against Richland College in Dallas.

Press deadlines prevented the results from appearing in this issue, but they will be reported later.

Tuesday evening, the Wogs fell to Hill County Junior College by a 90-83 tally. Sophomore guard Kevin Crowe canned 21 points in the loss.

The ladies were trounced by Texas Wesleyan, dropping a 58-28 decision. Terrie Adanson led Froggette scorers with 14 points in the game played on the TWC campus.

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**Intramural sign-up dates announced**

The intramural office in the Ricket Center has announced some meetings and sign-up dates for indoor sports.

On Monday, Jan. 27, two meetings will be held for women's intramural basketball leagues. At 4 p.m., all sorority intramural representatives will meet to discuss plans for the spring semester and draw for basketball schedules. Plans stand now for a Monday league and a Wednesday league.

Anyone desiring to enter a team for the independent women's intramural basketball tournament should attend a meeting at 4:45 p.m. that same day. If enough entries are received, again two leagues will be formed. Team representatives must be present to enter the leagues.

Throughout the semester, the intramural office will announce registration dates for singles and doubles racquetball, tennis, softball, track, swimming and diving.