

A&M approves joining with 2 universities,

## Houston firm to form area research center

COLLEGE STATION — Texas A&M University system regents have approved joining with the University of Houston, Rice University and Mitchell Energy and Development Corp. to form the Houston Area Research Center.

The research partnership would operate in The Woodlands area as a non-profit organization to provide contract and grant research services for private industry in the Houston area, and perhaps statewide.

University of Houston regents previously endorsed the proposal, but Rice's governing board has not yet taken up the matter.

George P. Mitchell, president of Mitchell Energy and Development Corp. and a 1949 Texas A&M graduate, said The Woodlands center is planned to be similar to the Stanford Research Institute in California and the Research Triangle in North Carolina.

Mitchell has agreed to assist in the establishment of the center with the donation by The Woodlands Development Corp. of a 100-acre land parcel having an estimated value of \$10 million. Additionally, he said he, his wife and the company will jointly contribute \$3 million to cover start-up costs.

The regents Tuesday also awarded 11 contracts totaling \$7,898,751, including \$2,866,700 to expand Texas A&M University's cyclotron facilities — allowing for installation of additional equipment that will make Texas A&M a national leader in nuclear research — and \$1,294,000 for a new building for the Texas A&M University Press.

Belco Construction Co., Inc., of Temple will build the additional facilities

for the Texas A&M Cyclotron Institute.

Marecon, Inc., of Houston was the successful bidder for the new Texas A&M University Press building, replacing a facility that burned three years ago. Texas A&M's scholarly press was founded in 1974 and published its 100th book last year.

The regents also appropriated \$338,000 to upgrade Prairie View A&M University's Data Processing Center, and \$75,000 for design work for enhancing the seating and press box area on the west side of the Prairie View football field. The present wooden bleachers, designed to seat 2,000 fans, will be replaced by new aluminum bleachers with a seating capacity of 3,000. Also included is a double-deck press box.

The board approved Dr. Frank Vandiver's request to reallocate Texas A&M funds totaling \$3 million to purchase laboratory and instructional material. Holding to his December pledge to provide greater support for equipment needs and quality teaching programs, the Texas A&M president said it was necessary to move quickly to correct shortages.

The funds were made available after Vandiver announced a belt-tightening policy that freed allocations from other budgetary categories and placed restrictions on hirings.

In other action the board:

- Established the Jeanne and John Blocker Chair in Business Administration with proceeds from a \$500,000 gift made by Regent Blocker. It was the second prestigious academic chair in business administration endowed by Blocker in the past year.

- Authorized establishment of the Center for Biological Nuclear Magnetic Resonance at Texas A&M for research and graduate studies involving nuclear magnetic resonance applications in chemistry, biology and the agricultural sciences. The use of nuclear magnetic resonance technology now makes it possible for scientists to analyze enzymes and other biological compounds at work in living cells, tissues and other organisms.

- Confirmed the appointment of Robert L. Meody of Galveston to the Texas A&M University at Galveston Board of Visitors and reappointed Mitchell of Houston and Capt. Frank X. McNeerney of New Orleans to the advisory group for the marine-oriented institution.

- Confirmed the appointments of Dr. Raymond E. Carreathers as vice president for student affairs at Prairie View A&M; Dr. Carlton Maxson as associate dean of science; and Dr. Davis A. Fahlquist as associate dean of geosciences at Texas A&M, and Valerie Nelson as assistant secretary to the Board of Regents. All of the appointees are currently employed at the respective institutions and serve in related capacities.

- Authorized Texas A&M to seek approval of the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System, to offer a curriculum leading to a bachelor of business administration degree with a major in business analysis, a doctor of philosophy degree in applied psychology with options in industrial/organizational psychology and community clinical psychology, and a bachelor of science degree in scientific nutrition.