Student-Faculty Board To Select 'Texan' Editor

By BILL LIEBLICH

The Board of Regents of the University of Texas approved on Saturday, February 3, a recommendation of the administration that will give a nine-member faculty-student group the power to appoint the editor of the Daily Texan, the University's student newspaper.

For the first time in 61 years, the student body will not elect the paper's editor in the school's general election this spring.

THE CHANGE IN policy was suggested to the Regents by Dr. DeWitt Reddick, chairman of the University's School of Journalism, Chancellor Harry Ransom, President Joseph Smiley and an unidentified group of Texas newspaper editors and publishers acting as advisors to the administration.

Beginning this spring, the nine-member Texas Student Publications board of directors, which includes five students and four faculty members, will select the Texan's editor. The first appointed editor will begin his duties with the summer edition of the paper.

Reddick, in suggesting the change, said: "The Texan... demands almost full time work of both editor and managing editor. The appointive process provides a better opportunity for selection of an editor on his professional merits."

REDDICK SAID that the administration would not attempt to change the structure of the publications board, which means that the students will retain their majority on the board.

The Regents' move provoked reaction from Hoyt Purvis, the present Texan editor, and from Maurice Olian, student body president, as well as from many other University students.

An editorial in the Texan on Tuesday, February 6, said of the action: "We think it another case of the Regents showing exactly what they care for student opinion, that being nothing."

PURVIS SAID later in the week that he was especially bitter about the role played by the editors and publishers who advised the University's administration.

Olian registered fear that future publications boards which will select the future editors, will consist of non-journalism majors without knowledge of journalism. Two of the five student members of the current board are not journalism majors.