

# Protesters, UT officials find no common ground at meeting



Brendon Maloney/DAILY TEXAN STAFF

Students rally around Plan II senior Marian Thambynayagan, calling for charges to be dropped against 10 UT students arrested Monday.

**Kimberly Gentile**  
Daily Texan Staff

UT students supporting the creation of an Asian-American Studies program walked out of a meeting with administrators Wednesday after they were told there were no guarantees charges against the 10 students arrested would be dropped.

Six students with the Asian-American Relations Group and Anti-Racist Organizing Committee met with Provost Sheldon Ekland-Olson and College of Liberal Arts interim dean Judith Langlois to negotiate their requests of the program.

When the administrators told the students they were doubtful that the charges would be dropped, students refused to negotiate. Langlois wrote a recommendation instead, requesting

# AAS

Continued from page 1

the charges to be dropped.

But students said they weren't impressed.

Linta Varghese, AARG member and anthropology graduate student, said they didn't get far with administrators on program negotiations because of discussions of the arrests.

"They told us the program and the arrests are separate things, but we can't negotiate with charges hanging over their heads," she said.

Students who were arrested said they were concerned about having criminal records hurt their chances of receiving scholarships or employment in the future.

Ekland-Olson said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status of the AAS program and to seek advice from students, but that didn't happen.

"We wanted to lay out the requests of the program and talk to students on how to go about doing that, but the issue about students being arrested came up," Ekland-Olson said. "We wanted to find out where we go from here."

Varghese noted that while administrators told the group they would minimize any effects the arrests might have on the students, the University doesn't have the power to drop the charges.

She said the students find that hard to believe.

"We don't know the procedure, but we want them to guarantee us that the charges will be dropped," Varghese said, adding that the letter promises nothing. "They should let students know that it will happen."

Students rallied Tuesday and Wednesday in support of dropping charges against the "The UT 10" who

were arrested Monday for a sit-in in the Liberal Arts Building.

The demonstrations started after Langlois appointed UT sociology professor Art Sakamoto as interim program director instead of the candidate Thomas Nakayama, a professor at Arizona State University.

AROC member Vincent Woodard said the administrators tried to dominate and prolong the meeting by asking questions instead of giving answers.

"The brief meeting represented a lack of good faith, and we demand that they talk to us, not through us or over us," Woodard said.

Student Government President Parisa Fatehi, who also attended the meeting, said Langlois wrote the letter because her name was on the affidavit of the students' arrests.

"In the letter, Langlois said an academic protest is different from other protests not in an academic setting," Fatehi said, adding that UT President Larry Faulkner will review the recommendation.

Faulkner, who will meet with students Thursday, said although the University won't impose any disciplinary penalties, the County Attorney's Office will deal with the legal ramifications of the arrests.

He added that County Attorney Ken Oden needs to be consistent in dealing with protest arrests, whether they occur on the campus or in the Austin community.

Faulkner noted that the charges won't affect the students' academic records or jeopardize their financial aid.

"There are meetings scheduled this week with students, and I'm hopeful that we can bring this community closer together," Faulkner said. "If we are going to succeed in hiring people for a program we all want, we need to be closer together."

**Work This Weekend!**  
Concession help