

Board of Visitors Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2018

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Texas A&M University at Galveston Board of Visitors was called to order on January 18, 2017 on the Galveston Campus at 9 a.m.

Attendees Present:

BOV Members: Chris Cahill, Tom Farmer, Robert Fry, John Hallmark, Pete Huddleston, Charlie Jenkins, Keith McFtridge, Bob Mitchell, Brandon Neff, Phyllis Milstein, Frank Muller, Chris Orth, Vic Pierson, Wayne Prescott, Brian Roy, Bob Sakowitz, Tyson Voelkel, Jonathan Whitworth

TAMUG Leadership and Staff: Michael Fossum, Richard Kline, Donna Lang, Susan Lee, Patrick Louchouarn, Bill McClain, Mike Rodriguez, Grant Shallenberger, Todd Sutherland, Macy Elms, Cari Bishop Smith, Kathey Walker.

The meeting was presided over by Chairman Robert (Bob) Fry and COL Michael E. Fossum, Chief Operating Officer (TAMUG) and Vice President (TAMU). Board Secretary, Kathey Walker was present and recorded the minutes.

Each member received a briefing document electronically in advance of the meeting and was provided a printed copy at the meeting.

Agenda Items:

The meeting was called to order by COL Michael E. Fossum.

- Changes to the Board of Visitors bylaws, committees, meeting format and frequency were presented by Mike Fossum.
 - A copy of the new bylaws document was distributed as a section in the briefing document/
 - The Galveston Campus Board of Visitors will serve in an advisory capacity to and be appointed by the COO/Vice President.
 - Members were asked if they agreed to a 3 year term beginning January 2018. All were in favor.
 - General meetings of the Board of Visitors will be scheduled two times a year (spring and fall).
 - BOV committees were established as follows:
 - Academic Advisory (TAMUG chair: Patrick Louchouarn)
 - Development and Fund Raising (TAMUG chair: Rick Kline)
 - Executive Committee (TAMUG chair: Mike Fossum who will appoint members)
 - Industrial Relations (TAMUG co-chairs: Mike Rodriguez and Ken Bailey)
 - Student Affairs (chair: Todd Sutherland)

Each committee will be jointly led by a BOV chair and a university representative chair. Committees will meet more than twice annually as appropriate.

- Task Forces will be established as needed to address specific issues or needs.

Agenda Items (cont'd.):

- Campus Visibility – the need for additional visibility for the campus was discussed.
 - Two new billboards are in development for the I-45N location.
 - A new electronic marketing campaign will be unleashed in the next few weeks. The websites are coming to life with a new format to mirror CS
- Chief Operating Officer and Vice President Leadership since March 2017

Mike Fossum briefly discussed the previous 10 months of his leadership as he has worked with the campus administration to address campus constructions, new buildings coming online, changes to fee structure impacting the budget, parking issues (on campus and creation of a mutual parking pass recognition agreement with College Station)

When asked by Tyson Voelkel what had been most challenging, he stated that the distance to College Station and the time it takes to travel, sometimes multiple times a week. Challenges with the Maritime Academy were also briefly addressed.

In response to a question about his long-term leadership plan is for the next 5-7 years, he addressed the following points:

 - Improve academics
 - Improve some labs on campus
 - To become more than a backdoor for College Station students by providing an outstanding experience, generating the same aggie spirit, and giving students the incentive to look around at what the Galveston Campus has to offer
- Victor Pierson, President of Moody Bank, was presented with an *Unsung Hero Award* in recognition and appreciation for his backing and assistance with the support program instituted for students, faculty, and staff of Texas A&M University at Galveston in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey
- Members were asked to affirm the appointment of Robert Fry as BOV chairman and Jonathan Whitworth as vice-chairman by a show of hands. All were in favor.
- Tyson Voelkel, President of the Texas A&M Foundation presented an update on the *Lead by Example* campaign. In response to a question about the % that the Foundation is receiving in greater than expected returns, he explained that any excess is reinvested for a 'rainy day'. As a 501C3, the foundation has a great deal more freedom in what they do with regards to investments and spending. The separation of the foundation from the university provides them the ability to act outside of political issues. As a side note, all employees are salaried (no commissions).
- Bob Fry addressed the members discussing his goals for the BOV to respond and better support the needs of the COO and VP, staff, faculty, students, and leadership.

Committee Meetings

The general meeting was suspended while members broke into committees.

Lunch was served at 12pm.

Agenda Items (cont'd.):

The general meeting of the Board of Visitors resumed following lunch.

- Danielle Thompson, President of Student Government Association, spoke about the role of SGA as well as the many events, programming support, and leadership opportunities hosted through SGA.
- Dr. Sam Brody spoke on behalf of the Center for Texas Beaches and Shores (CTBS). CTBS takes an interdisciplinary approach to problem solving. Support is provided through the center for faculty and students' research and educational experiences. They are benefitting from an NSF grant to further their research programs. He is involved in a national study on urban flooding, the General Land Office, and the Ike Dike among other programs. With the Harvey event, he was charged with participating in a study of what happened with Hurricane Harvey and develop a report under the Center to Rebuild Texas (CRT) chaired by Chancellor Sharp.
- Cole Farine, Corps Commander, shared information about the Corps of Cadets involvement in various activities on campus and in the community. Cole shared his experience on a commercial cruise that he debarked from just 2 days earlier.

Committee Reports

- **Industrial Relations** – provided by Mike Rodriguez. The committee discussed partnerships with industry, academia and the Maritime Academy. A monthly call for follow up and progress reports is planned. The committee needs additional members and will reach out to R. Sakowitz, C. Jenkins, to name a couple.
- **Student Affairs**, report provided by Jonathan Whitworth. The committee discussed the set-up of 1:1 mentoring between the BOV members and students. Additional details will be forthcoming. The committee would also like to follow up and recreate panels that were offered a few years ago. Supporting “lunch & learn” events where the campus will be responsible for filling the room and the committee providing the speaker are planned. A list was assembled of individuals whom they will ask to participate.
- **Development and Fund-raising** – report provided by Chris Cahill. He read a draft mission statement that the committee prepared. Vic Pierson volunteered to serve as the chair. Quarterly meetings are planned and a schedule is set for the remainder of the year. Members will work to reengage former students bringing them back to campus.
- **Academic Advising Committee** – Patrick Gamble spoke for the committee. It will be co-chaired by Pat Gamble and Tom Farmer. As a newly established committee, they discussed the transfer of practical skills to students in addition to the theoretical.
- **Executive Committee** – Mike Fossum discussed plans for the executive committee to meet face to face at least one per quarter with additional teleconference meetings as need. The newly formed committee recently met and addressed the change to the BOV structure and bylaws changes.

Task Force Reports

- **Pelican Island Bridge Project** - Bill McClain provided a briefing on the status of the Pelican Island Bridge Project. Several proposals are under consideration at different costs. The least expensive alternative presents significant problems for our campus and students that must be considered. Summary points from recent meetings with commissioners, the mayor of Galveston, Chancellor Sharp, etc. were discussed.
- **T/S Vessel Issues / Search** – Mike Rodriguez briefly discussed the ongoing issues for the Texas A&M Maritime Academy related to a lack of berths on the current training vessel.

New Business Update

Mike Fossum and Rick Kline discussed a proposed gift of a Galveston home to the Galveston Campus by Ellis and Beverly Rudy. Acceptance of the gift, which has been discussed and examined at great length, creates a multitude of additional needs. The immediate goal is to create a Task Force on the Rudy House to generate support for an immediate use fund as well as an endowment to support the ongoing costs to operate the home should the gift be accepted. The Rudy House is a federally registered historic home but not a state registered historic home. It was suggested that the **Galveston Historical Foundation** be contacted regarding a grant to help with the project. Chris Cahill, T. Farmer, and P. Milstein offer to serve on the task force.

Adjournment

Chairman Fry tabled the old and new business discussion due to time constraints. The meeting was adjourned.