

BOV MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 21, 2019

OPENING

A regular meeting of the Texas A&M University at Galveston Board of Visitors was called to order on October 25, 2018 on the Galveston Campus at 9:45 a.m.

ATTENDEES PRESENT

BOV Members

Robert Fry, Patrick Gamble, Roger Guenther, Amy Hark, Randy House, Charlie Jenkins, Chris Johnson, Jerry Mohn, Brandon Neff, Chris Orth, Vic Pierson, Wayne Prescott, Brian Roy, Todd Sullivan, Andy Tirpak, Jonathan Whitworth, Marina Walne (for Greg Mitchell)
Absent: P. Hill, F. Muller, K. Teichman, C. Cahill, M. Cokinos, T. Farmer, W. Fraser, B. Greer, J. Hallmark, M. Lyons, B. Massey, K. McFatridge, J. Michael, P. Milstein, R. Mitchell, L. C. Neely, T. Ray, T. Voelkel, D. Varshney

Texas A&M-Galveston Leadership and Staff

Michael Fossum, Patrick Louchouart, Rick Kline, Bill McClain, Joan Mileski, Allan Post, Grant Shallenberger, Todd Sutherland, Andres Barboza, Kathey Walker.

Speakers Present

Cassia Galvao, Jessica Labonte, Heather Nighswonger

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

Each member received a briefing document electronically in advance of the meeting. Members present received a printed copy.

BUSINESS MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Fry.

Col. Michael Fossum welcomed everyone and provided the following updates:

- He and Melanie finally have a contract on a house on the west end of Galveston.
- Discussed the slow but steady enrollment growth for several years before taking a hit with a drop last year. Hurricane Harvey may have impacted enrollment but we are unable to know about those who do not apply. Last week, our admissions group held a hugely successful campus preview hosting over 500 people.
- Legislature is in session. He stated that we are about \$750 per student short. Campuses are graded on student metrics including student success, how long to graduation, retention, and diversity (ethnicity, first generation, etc.). TAMUG is expecting another budget cut. However, our budget includes an ask for \$750,000 for the EXPLORE program to provide better student support (admissions, advising, tutoring, etc.). In the category of 'dreaming big,' he also presented an ask for funding the building of Phase III of our Academic Complex.

During recent Housing Appropriations Committee testimony, requests for support of the ship and bridge initiatives were discussed. The 61-year-old bridge must be replaced and the least expensive option is for a 4-lane high span bridge passing through the Galveston campus which would be not only a safety risk but also disruptive. The campus would not be able to grow and may not be able to maintain if the bridge were to pass through. Another \$8 million is needed to take the bridge project around the campus. An independent economic study clearly documents the economic impact of our campus on the local economy exceeds \$60 million per year. When our graduates who stay and work in the area are included, this impact is over \$102 million per year. These numbers should be a strong consideration for decision makers with regards to the bridge alignment.

BRIEFING DOCUMENT DISCUSSION

- Whitworth asked about the survey mentioned in the Academic Affairs section and asked if it would be possible to get a one pager explaining the background and content. Patrick Louchouart stated that he will provide the information to him.
- Watson asked about the lack of emphasis on what our graduates bring to the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Bob Fry

Extended a kudos to the strong engagement by the current committees. For those asking how they can get involved and what they can do, his message is “Join a committee. That’s where the work takes place.” He emphasized that members can have a direct impact on students through mentoring, internships, jobs, etc.

Jonathan Whitworth

Shared that he had reached out to several members recently asking how the BOV can do better, how is it different? The response has been that we are heading up with the leadership from Col. Fossum and that the only engagement from the members will push the BOV to the crest. As a result of these conversations, a few members have dropped off and a few are being added but the desire is to keep the number manageable. There will be two meetings a year announced further in advance. He thanked everyone for their presence and engagement.

FACULTY PRESENTATION

Dr. Joan Mileski introduced Dr. Cassia Galvao, Assistant Professor of Maritime Administration, who came to campus as a Fulbright Scholar while completing her Ph.D., Galvao has experience working with a shipping line and also has training as an economist. She began as a professor in 2012 and came to TAMUG in 2014. Galvao’s applied research is interdisciplinary and focuses on ports. Utilizing content analysis, stakeholder analysis, power structures, qualitative techniques, and bibliographic studies, she examines problems with port development. Cassia defined port development from setting, expansion, specialization, and finally regionalization. Development happens through Economic, Strategic, and Political Dimensions. Recent debates include block chain (is it the next silver bullet), AIS Data (is it safe), and Green Shipping: IMO regulation. Researchers are asking if it is technically possible, economically efficient & effective, what are customers looking for, and do we have a social license to operate. The presentation ended with Q&A.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

LUNCH SERVED AT 11:45 A.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FACULTY PRESENTATION

Dr. Jessica Labonte' was introduced by Dr. Patrick Louchouart. Dr. Labonte presented on the "Impact of Hurricane Harvey on Galveston Bay Microbial Communities." The study found that it took weeks for the microbial communities to return to normal as the water temperature and salinity levels were significantly reduced and the microbial community does not like cold water or fresh water. As a result, there was a significant drop in the oxygen. The research sampling was conducted over a number of weeks following Hurricane Harvey at select sites and found there was a shift in the viruses present. A team of students and faculty worked on the project with some continuing the work today. Labonte noted that her testing methods were not sensitive enough to identify human viruses. The presentation was followed by Q&A.

STUDENT PRESENTATION

Heather Nighswonger discussed the upcoming Big Event giving back program scheduled for March 23. The committee meets weekly. Their goal is 400 volunteers with 25 work sites. Though they partner with a variety of groups, including The Tree Conservancy, there is a shortage of residential sites for the teams. She shared with the BOV that there are opportunities to sponsor breaks, breakfast, or lunch if anyone is interested. Todd Sullivan offered to sponsor breakfast.

COMMITTEES REPORTS

Academic Advising Committee

Patrick Gamble provided a report. The committee has met twice and had two very different meetings. With Joan Mileski onboard, they are discussing the technical aspirational needs which leads into the need to innovate in a big way.

How do we get the word out about the resource of logistics and transportation students to fill internships? We need to find a way to identify the companies who will take these students on. Our reputation can be built with our students in these companies and the community.

Patrick L. discussed his mission to break the idea that the University, as an institution, is an ivory tower disconnected from the real world. He agrees that the A&M brand is well known but is less confident that what we do here on the Galveston campus is as well understood. He would like to see a closer relationship with the workforce. Too many of our students do not have access to internships. Participation in an internship came out as the 2nd most important in a recent study as being needed to prepare students for successful. While 50% of our students have internships, **50% do not**. We need help creating these pipelines with the community.

Development and Fundraising

Vic Pierson stated that this committee is directed at initiatives to bring in money particularly for the \$5 million CTBS endowment campaign. Everyone willing to write a check today was asked to raise their hand. With regards to the George P. Mitchell Society, Pierson stated that

the committee had made the decision to utilize the 2019 MARDI GRAS proceeds to add \$25K to add to scholarship established in 2015 bringing it up to a \$1K per semester payout and add \$1,000 to the payouts of the other three scholarships for the next academic year. Pierson made a motion to approve this decision, Sakowitz made a 2nd and the motion carried by a voice vote. Campus naming opportunities materials were made available by Rick Kline.

Industrial Relations

Report provided by Brandon Neff. Neff stated that RADM Rodriguez discussed insight on the need for diesel engine parts to make a lab operational as well as the need for additional simulator software. The committee will support items in kind. The remainder of the meeting was spent working on a memorandum from the committee to the community/business community with regards to the need from a larger training vessel. The memo will be turned over to the campus leadership for edits and approval. Once he receives it back, WITHIN 30 DAYS, they will circulate it for signature from any business that is connected to maritime for their use in legislative efforts.

Student Affairs

Report provided by Jonathan Whitworth. The committee is working on the connection between the students and what they see and do while they are on campus. The committee continues to work toward assisting students' gain insight into the field in which they are studying so that by graduation, they better understand the environment. Students are looking to connect with mentors who are not only graduates but experienced (10+ years) in their field. Ken Bailey has been huge assistance in pushing this program. He and Todd Sutherland have matched the students and mentors. The program is starting small and, after feedback is received and adjustments made, they will take it to the next level.

Leadership Speaker Series

The goal is two per semester, but support is needed to fill the rooms so that the students have the opportunity to learn about industry. He asked Patrick L. to help spread the word among department heads, faculty, and students that these high level speakers are coming to campus. With no one in the audience, they will not keep coming. It's an embarrassment.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

- Pelican Island Bridge Project: Update provided at the start of the meeting.
- Training Ship: Mike Fossum spoke briefly to the continued need for a new training ship. The campus needs assistance bringing together the right message and wording to raise awareness and gain support.

NEW BUSINESS

Rick Kline reminded everyone about the Sea Aggie Former Student Network golf tournament on April 5. Everyone is encouraged to support this event.

ADJOURNMENT

BOV ONLY SESSION