

# MEETING MINUTES

## **BOARD OF VISITORS MEETING MINUTES**

OCTOBER 25

A networking lunch was served at 12pm.

### **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 1:15 p.m.

### **ATTENDEES PRESENT**

#### **BOV Members**

Robert Fry, Patrick Gamble, Roger Guenther, John Hallmark, Paul Hill, Charlie Jenkins, Chris Johnson, Jerry Mohn, Frank Muller, Chris Orth, Vic Pierson, Wayne Prescott, Brian Roy, Kelly Teichman, Todd Sullivan (Exec. Committee attendance only), Kelly Teichman, Andy Tirpak, Jonathan Whitworth

#### **TAMUG Leadership and Staff**

Michael Fossum, Richard Kline, Donna Lang, Antonietta Quigg, Patrick Louchouarn, Mike Rodriguez, Ken Bailey, John Kovacevich, Andres Barboza, Cori Crawford, Cari Bishop Smith, Kathey Walker

#### **Speakers Present**

Kenneth Cunningham and Emily Soltov (SAMA President and Vice-President) 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.

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

- The meeting was called to order by COL Michael E. Fossum.  
COL Fossum shared stories about his time in summer 2018 aboard the T/S Kennedy with the TAMMA cadets, staff, and faculty.
  
- Andres Barboza, president of the Maroon Delegates, provided an overview of the program and Maroon Delegate members. Each member is passionate about this campus and the desire to share that with campus visitors. Maroon Delegates are very similar to the main campus Maroon Coats. He invited everyone to the Maroon Delegates tailgate prior to the November 11 Ole Miss game.

- Two representatives from the Student Association of Maritime Administrators (SAMA) – Kenneth Cunningham and Emily Soltov spoke. SAMA is led by faculty member, John Hark. The organization's purpose is to provide professional networking opportunities for students. In spring 2016, the students worked with Dr. Mileski to resurrect SAMA at the Galveston campus. SAMA offers 3+ speakers a semester and provides volunteer opportunities. Most speakers are TAMUG graduates. The next SAMA mixer is scheduled for October 29th at 7pm. Mixers are held each semester bringing together past and present speakers, friends, and others. SAMA and the Propeller Club work together. Bob Fry and Jonathan Whitworth discussed their memories with Propeller Club and SAMA.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the January 18 meeting were presented. A motion and a second were made and all indicated approval by a voice consent.

## **COMMITTEES DISCUSSION**

COL Michael Fossum and Chairman Bob Fry stated that Board of Visitor members are expected to be involved with a committee. Committee chairs were asked to provide a brief discussing the committee's focus and mission.

### **Academic Advisory Committee**

Dr. Patrick Louchouarn spoke on the importance of increasing academic success and supporting that success through mentoring and academic advising. He discussed the importance of focusing our funds. An external areas that he is exploring and developing is 'how do we bring the Galveston Campus into south of Houston'. He is working with GEDP, peers in CS (TEES, TEEKS, Agriculture), and others on a new initiative focused on knowledge transfer centers and creation of training environments in the blue economy. He is working closely with the dean of innovation on these thoughts. Private industry, national labs, and research are pieces of the equation. The BOV can assist by identifying important emerging sectors, what needs the most attention (security, sustainability, environmental are just a few of the big ones), and share that information with the campus. He asked members to answer the question, 'If we had the resources, how could we address and support these needs?' TAMU is currently working on two poles of innovation (south Texas and College Station are two sectors). Dr. Louchouarn is seeking to add a vision for the south of Houston as a 3rd sector. The President and the Provost currently back this vision.

### **Development and Fund Raising**

Vic Pierson stated that this committee is directed at initiatives to bring in money.  
Industrial Relations (see handout)

### **Student Relations**

Jonathan Whitworth spoke. The committee is working on the connection between the students and what they see and do while they are on campus. The committee seeks to enhance the experience.

### **George P. Mitchell Society**

Wayne Prescott stated that a select group is working to reinvigorate the society.

The BOV general meeting was suspended for committee meetings.  
The Board of Visitors general meeting resumed at 4 p.m.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Student Affairs**

Student Affairs report provided by Jonathan Whitworth. They plan to tweak the Speaker Series begun in fall 2017 and have one new project to launch soon. Speakers selected will represent all majors with a wide variety of topics. An upcoming talk will cover 'how to get hired, marketing, etc.'.

The committee ask:

1) Will Dr. Louchouart encourage faculty to push their students to attend the sessions by some type of incentive. Faculty have the ability to reach the students.

2) requested an opportunity to speak with faculty about why they are doing what they are doing & why it is important. A new mentoring program will be kicked off soon utilizing the Sea Aggie Former Student Network members, starting with a small number to make sure it works. Half of the students who expressed interest were MART or MARA majors.

### **Development and Fundraising**

Report provided by Victor Pierson. He presented a request from the committee to pursue a \$5 million endowment for the Center for Texas Beaches and Shores. Their first step is preparation of a proposal and timeline. By February, the committee expects to have a proposed structure for the George P. Mitchell Society. Printed materials on campus naming opportunities were distributed. The committee was asked for a vote for approval to begin work on raising the \$5 million and opened the floor to discussion. Patrick L. discussed a large grant that should open soon for another Center for Excellence. A motion and a second were all received in favor of allowing the committee to assemble a proposal for a \$5 million dollar CTBS Endowment Campaign.

### **Industrial Relations**

Report provided by Kelly Teichman. The committee reviewed and approved the mission and the vision statement presented from Brandon Neff by Ms. Teichman. The committee focuses on the Maritime portion of the university. The committee asked for assistance to expand in a global way outside of the current Maritime focus. They need buy-in and expertise from BOV, faculty, and staff who have a vision for other areas pertaining to Texas A&M since the campus is more than Maritime. Patrick offered involvement in the 10-year vision committee. Andy Tirpak, representing the sciences, is new to the committee.

### **Academic Advising Committee**

Patrick Gamble provided a report. The committee, which met for the first time almost a year ago, has had a slow start. The good news is that the committee now has a focus thanks to the earlier presentation (during the BOV general) meeting by Patrick Louchouart related to the 3 priority/ strategy foci. Committee discussion focused on research and opportunities related to business impacts connected with TAMUG academic areas reaching into applied research and technology. Related to industry and collaborations with other researchers, there is a great deal to do. Opportunities abound for UG, GR, and post docs. The committee is at a scoping level, determining focus and developing a plan to move forward. The committee ask: for assistance from additional BOV members interested in the Academic Advising Committee.

Patrick spoke briefly and thanked Paul Hill and Pat Gamble for their conversation. He asked for focus and assistance in development of the maritime business focus and for the group to meet the success of other pillars on campus (ex. coastal sustainability).

## **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 varying costs. The least expensive alternative presents significant problems for the Galveston campus as it would place the bridge through the center of campus. He reiterated that students must be considered. Summary points from recent meetings with commissioners, the mayor of Galveston, Chancellor Sharp, etc. were discussed.

### **T/S Vessel Issues / Search**

RADM Mike Rodriguez briefly discussed ongoing issues for the Texas A&M Maritime Academy due to the lack of berths on the current training vessel which impedes the ability to provide the necessary sea time hours for each cadet. He provided a status update as of recent meetings in D.C., legislative proceedings, and MARAD's stance. Administrator Buzby understands the situation and is in support of TAMMA being given the ability to provide the necessary sea time for cadets. There is a great deal of work to be done on Capitol Hill but our message has been brought to the discussion table. TAMMA is working in conjunction with CAL Maritime to coordinate use of the TS Golden Bear during summer 2019.

## **SPECIAL SPEAKERS**

### **Student Government Association**

SGA - Cameron Kent provided a report on SGA. Most of the senators are first semester as many of the experienced ones graduated. They plan to be more available to students. SGA recently worked with student and local government non biased groups bringing in individuals to assist students in registering to vote and providing non-biased information on voter issues. SGA is involved with the upcoming Women on the Water Conference and Fall Fest which creates a safe place on campus for children to celebrate Halloween. SGA is now located in more central campus location in the Seibel Center.

### **Corps of Cadets**

Commander Jack Clark spoke about the Corps of Cadets. He stated that after the 2018 summer cruise on the TS Kennedy, the cadet attitude and comradery has risen exponentially. In spite of heavy inspections and drilling hard, cadet is GOOD. The cadets are proud to be here and proud to be Aggies. Prior to the summer 2018 cruise, there wasn't a unified culture or identity. They are trying to get each of the 10 Corps of Cadet units identified as independent student organizations which would make it easier to raise money. A fund-raising goal of \$500 per unit has been set so that a sword and belt can be purchased for each.

### **Research and Graduate Studies**

Dr. Antonietta Quigg discussed accomplishments and upcoming activities. About ½ the faculty are bringing in research grants which has become a highly competitive process. Most faculty write 5-10 proposals before one is funded. Dr. Quigg discussed a recent proposal of hers focusing on educating and learning about first responders in the natural environment (like Harvey) where 1st responders are routinely getting ill because they were not adequately protected. TAMUG has received 25 new grants from a variety of agencies which directly support faculty, staff, and students. A report on the five year ADDOMEx project researching recovery following the Deep Water Horizon oil spill was provided. BP gave 5 million to the Gulf Research Initiative as part of the settlement. [See Appendix A for presentation slides]