

**Board of Visitors
Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2017**

Members present:

Members absent:

Mike Fossum called the meet to order with a welcome, introduction of RADM Mike Rodriguez, and thank you to Roger Guenther, Executive Director of Port Houston, for hosting today's meeting. Roger opened with an introduction of Texas A&M University at Galveston graduates in attendance employed at the Port Houston – Bayport Terminal. He provided an overview of Port Houston; the busiest waterway in the western hemisphere with 8,000 vessels in and out each year. The port is 6th in the nation in containers. Roger discussed the many initiatives and investments made to increase port efficiencies aimed at making Port Houston America's port. He was asked to discuss port security concerns and strategies to ensure port and channel security and disruptions to port operations as a result of natural influences (fog, storms, etc.). Discussion concerning potential uses for the 1,000 acres owed by Port Houston on Pelican Island. Roger was asked to address Port Houston's stance on the coastal protection initiative (aka. Ike Dike). He stated that they have not currently chosen sides but that support of the coastal support study will go before the Board of Directors at the next meeting.

Over lunch, Macy Elms spoke about The Big Event. Macy is a senior Maritime Administration major graduating in December 2017. She served as director of the Galveston campus Big Event in spring 2017.

Committee reports were presented by:

- Bob Fry discussed Industry Relations.
- Dennis Murphree the Board Development discussion concerning the move to
 - Combine Scholarship and ...to a Student Affairs Committee which will be charged with finding interships for students. Students will serve on the committee as well.
 - Bridge Task Force has been instituted to address the idea of a bridge coming straight through campus. Dennis Murphree, Tom Farmer, Babe Schwartz
 - Phyllis Milstein spoke about small group receptions being planned to introduce Col. Fossum and Mike Rodriguez to the community.
 - Marie Robb to host a home event at the West end
 - Event on the top floor of ANICO providing an opportunity meet people in the Galveston community
 - Donna Lang to host an event to introduce to the Academic community
 - Bob Sakowitz has offered to host an event in Houston.
 - Event for Melanie to introduce her to influential women.

A motion and second were made to accept the January 27, 2017 minutes. All were in favor.

Grant Shallenberger spoke about campus changes including the soon to open Academic Complex- Phase I building and the Waterfront Pavilion. Both are scheduled to open this summer. Work on the Phase 2 building has begun. Phase 2 will hold the library, student gathering spaces, and large multipurpose space. Kelly Teichman asked that the lack of speed limit signs on campus be re-evaluated. It appears that many signs are missing.

Superintendent, Michael Rodriguez, discussed TAMMA initiatives. At the forefront is finding partners and support for the acquisition of a new training ship. A potential opportunity to fit the need, to provide sea time, for 500+ cadets each year is available. The Western Trident ship, owned by Schlumberger, is docked in Norway. With a \$50 million conversation, she could carry 238 cadets plus staff, instructors, and crew. Currently, to meet the sea time needs, TAMMA cadets are placed in billets on other maritime academy ships and/or commercial cruises. This creates an expense in sending our staff out on these ships alongside the cadets. Additionally, TAMUG loses income through lost fees, the creation of affinity with our campus, and low morale. RADM Rodriguez asked BOV members for engagement with this process using their expertise.

Rick Kline, Senior Development Officer, spoke about naming opportunities, the fall 2017 Endowed Scholarship Reception on November 1. In addition, plaques from the fall 2016 Endowed Scholarship Reception were presented to Kelly Teichman and Jonathan Whitworth. Rick shared that development of conversation with The Moody Foundation concerning a proposed Moody Family Student Life Center on the Galveston campus. Conversations between Allan Matthews and TAMUG continue. Endorsements from across a wide spectrum of the Community for this project. BOV members were asked to assist with influence on Ross Moody to get behind this project. Phyllis Milstein offered to contact Ross and Francie Moody to persuade them to visit campus. Kelly suggested that the dedication wall to Mary Moody Northen be refreshed and placed in a more prominent location given the connection to the Moody family.

Kelly Teichman provided a brief update on Mardi Gras 2017. Approximately \$75,000 was raised which will go to support students through the endowment of a third scholarship. She encouraged everyone to participate in the event in 2018.

Bill McClain spoke about the ongoing Pelican Island bridge project. The current shift is for the 4 lane elevated bridge to go along the current trajectory running directly through campus. It would take a start of \$30 million to go around the campus along a longer route. The longer bridge to go around campus doubles the cost. Anyone with questions should contact Bill McClain. BOB members are asked to engage through

Mike Fossum reviewed the needs and specific asks related to the Bridge Project(Kelly T., Tom F., Dennis M.) and the initiative to work on the ship acquisition (Jonathan Whitworth, Jim Watson). Announced that the General Land Commissioner, George P. Bush, has endorsed the Ike Dike Project. This is huge. Emphasized the importance of bringing to reality a Student Life Center. He committed to engage better with the BOV and to utilize the Ad Hoc committees. Mentioned the possibility of development of aqua culture and ETO courses.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.