



Texas A&M University at Galveston
Board of Visitors
General Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2013

The Board of Visitors general meeting called to order at 1 pm. Admiral Smith recognized Professor Schwarz for his achievement of Regents Professor. Smith thanked Terry Ray for hosting Dr. Schwartz and his colleagues at the El Suaz ranch to investigate research potential there. Dr. Tom Iliffe was recognized for receiving the Distinguished Achievement Award for Teaching and Dr. Peter Santschi for having received the Distinguished Achievement Award for Graduate Mentoring from Texas A&M University. Dr. Wursig, not present, was also recognized for having received the University Distinguished Professor award. Dr. Louchouart was introduced as interim VP and CAO.

Dennis Murphree, chair, explained the new committee system whereby the sub-committees would meet 3 times a year face to face before the general meetings in January, April, and August. Each committee chair would share a briefing of their meeting during the general BOV meeting. Committees would continue business through teleconferencing throughout the year.

Murphree briefly re-introduced four new BOV members [John Michael, Robert Sakowitz, Kelly Sullivan, and Tyson Voelkel) and called for a vote. A motion was made by Terry Ray and a second by Bob Fry to approve the members. All were in favor.

Admiral Smith introduced Kathey Walker as the newest staff member and contact person for the BOV.

Admiral Smith reported the following:

- 95% of graduates within 90 days of graduation either continued into graduate school or had jobs.
- 85% of students entering TAMU persist to graduation
- 75% of those graduating next month already have jobs
- The importance of integration of our students with the main campus but that the 150 mile distance is a hurdle
- He would like to see our yell leaders to participate with TAMU main campus yell leaders reiterating that the football team at College Station is our football team at Galveston
- We are working to improve relations with the Maritime Academy and the Coast Guard
- Our long-term growth plan is reach an enrollment of 3000 but that it will be problematic without additional student housing
- He has had good discussions with Mayor Rosen concerning issues concerning fire, health, police and other student safety issues
- A new initiative included the addition of new student athletic programs
- The property surrounding TAMUG could be used for development but that a new bridge is needed also

Major General McClain briefed the members on Legislative updates as well as the outcome of a visit by Senator Tommy Williams, Senator Kel Seliger, Senator Charles Schwertner, Senator Larry Taylor and Representative Craig

Eiland to the Sea Aggie Center which is the first place parents and students see when visiting TAMUG. McClain stated that the legislators did not like it and that we have put in for a 46 million dollar tuition revenue bond for a new academic building. He also shared that Admiral Smith has testified before to the Senate Finance Committee hearings and that feedback has been positive concerning his presentation to the House Appropriations sub-committee concerning the need for a new building. The tuition revenue bond is currently in the bill at \$30 million instead of the \$ 46 million requested. He also shared that we are waiting to hear if the Center for Texas Beaches and Shores will be funded at \$450,000 per year for the biennium which will also support the work on the Ike Dike study. Final funding decisions won't be available until very close to May 31.

Grant Shallenberger discussed the status of the outsourcing linked to Chancellor Sharp's initiatives designed to increase efficiencies on the system campuses. The transition of facility services to SSC will take place on June 1. Discussions are underway with Chartwells to handle the outsourcing of dining services slated to begin later in the summer.

Shaun Milligan provided a development update discussing the focus on providing additional scholarship opportunities. Three new scholarships have been endowed. He thanked Keith McFatridge and the Levy Foundation for having recently passed one million dollars in contributions to Texas A&M University at Galveston. The Seibel Foundation has expanded their support for funding of student services on this campus to include support for a new study center. He introduced Allan Post and his efforts to bring in new two new barges.

Allan discussed the problems as well as the opportunities before Texas A&M Galveston today. In the last year, 6500 students were out on boats in 520 trips. However, the problems include an aging fleet, inefficient engines on large boats, the need for outfitting training equipment and endowment of operations.

Admiral Smith shared that we are working with the Dutch foundation on storm surge protection. As a result of lessons learned from Hurricane Ike, and what could have happened if Ike had made landfall a bit differently, storm surge protection has become a major public policy issue. Our current option is evacuation. Money is needed from the federal level to provide the storm surge protection needed. The studies proposed by Dr. Merrell's team need to be done. The Moody Foundation would be supporting the project as well as others. Discussion continued concerning Harris County's stance on the issue and their initial desire to put dikes around industry which would result in the flooding of everyone else. He stated that bi-partisan support is needed. Bill Merrell is working to provide narratives to help people understand the issues. Phyllis Milstein stated that the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership is presenting this issue to many of the surrounding cities. Dr. Merrell continued the discussion concerning the building his coalition of support. He stated that it is going to take about \$1.5 million to complete the needed studies and that support is being received from a number of areas. FEMA is cooperating 100% and sharing their data making the study possible. It will take 2 years to complete the study which would be followed by presenting the study reports to the Corps of Engineers. Merrell also stated that the storm surge barrier could be completed in less than two years once construction started.

Bill Lyons was thanked for sharing tickets to upcoming Maroon and White game. Mr. Murphree adjourned the meeting.