

Texas A&M University at Galveston

Board of Visitors Minutes

January 23, 2014

Chairman Murphree called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Wade Battles, Greg Binion, Chris Cahill, James Card, Michael Cokinos, Robb Erickson, Tom Farmer, Damon Gowan, Pete Huddleston, Keith McFatridge, Phyllis Milstein, Dennis Murphree, Brandon Neff, Chris Orth, Vic Pierson, Brian Roy, Bob Sakowitz, Albert Shannon, Kelly Teichman, Kris Anne Vogelpohl

TAMUG Attendees: RADM Robert Smith, MG Bill McClain, Patrick Louchouart, Donna Lang, Susan Lee, Grant Shallenberger, John Kovacevich, Allan Post, Col. Rick Mallahan, Bob Wright, Peter Van Hengstum, JoAnn DiGeorgio-Lutz, Ron Eytan, Parul Mathur, Cari Bishop, Kathey Walker

The August 22, 2013 Board of Visitor meeting minutes were presented for approval. A correction to add Brian Roy to the list of those in attendance was requested. A motion was made and seconded to approve with this correction. All were in favor.

Committee reports were presented as follows:

Industry Relations by Greg Binion – Topics discussed focused on how can industry help A&M Galveston with the 40 commercial cruise slots needed for summer 2014, how the group can help with relationships between US Coast Guard, Galveston and TAMUG – and ABS ...action have enough spots for commercial cruises for cadets.

Alumni and Scholarship by Keith McFatridge – discussed how to communicate better with Galveston alumni and the possibility of hosting Bentz here on the Galveston campus to meet with graduates.

Board Development by Chairman Murphree – the committee is moving toward petitioning for 55 members on the Galveston BOV from the current 45 at the January Board of Regents meeting. A motion and second were made to approve this petition. All were in favor.

Chairman Murphree requested approval of re-appointments on Greg Binion, Randy House, Chaz Neely, and Bruce Nichols to be submitted to the Board of Regents. A motion and second were received. All were in favor. Chairman Murphree discussed the importance of addressing members who are not really engaged as the board moves forward. Chris Orth stated that it is always good to bring in new blood to re-excite the old members.

A video developed for Texas A&M University at Galveston's 50th anniversary narrated by Dr. Stephen Curley was shown.

The CEO's report provided by RADM Robert Smith discussing the following topics:

1. A number of new programs will be offered at TAMUG starting in Fall 2014.
 - New degree entitled Ocean and One Health is offered to prepare students for a career in health sciences.
 - TAMUG will offer its new Master degree in Maritime Administration and Logistics fully online.
 - TAMUG will be one of only a handful of universities in the nation that will offer a diving minor.
2. The Maritime Systems Engineering Department has changed the name of its baccalaureate degree program to Bachelor of Science in Offshore and Coastal Systems Engineering (OCSE) to be more descriptive of the curriculum of the department.
3. TAMUG continues its campaign of Faculty rejuvenation started in 2010. Faculty openings being filled are:
 - Department Heads in Engineering and Marine Sciences
 - Associate Professor in Management
 - Professor of practice in Maritime Transportation
 - Assistant Professor in Environmental/Marine Toxicology
 - Assistant Professor in Structural Engineering.
4. Enrollment continues to rise. This spring is another record enrollment at 2,030 which is up 9% from last year.

5. The General Rudder will be departing soon for Florida and will return later this spring with a new “Aggie” paint job and other improvements. That Merchant Marine blue will be replaced with a maroon, white and black.
6. We are proud to host several events on campus
 - Board of Regents on January 29-30
 - Several STEM related events will bring more than 1,000 students and their parents to our campus during the next couple of months.
 - NOAA/Sea Grant Ocean Bowl - February 1
 - Galveston County Science and Engineering Fair - February 8
 - Science Olympiad - February 2
 - Texas Academy of Math and Science - March 7

Dr. Patrick Louchouart stated that it is an exciting time for A&M Galveston. There is a faculty recruiting campaign underway. In his eight years at TAMUG, there has not been a single faculty that left for another job. He introduced new faculty; Peter Van Hengstum, JoAnn DiGeorgio-Lutz, Ron Eytan, Parul Mathur, of whom shared their background. In the coming year there will be new faculty positions created and filled.

Grant Shallenberger discussed the university master plan which includes 3 new major projects, a dorm, an academic bldg., and a central plant building. A rendering of the planned six-story Maritime Academy Resident Hall to be built through a public / private partnership (P3) was presented. It is hoped that groundbreaking will happen in early summer 13. A P3 partnership is also sought for the new 211,000 sf academic building under discussion since no TRBs were funded. This building will replace the Sea Aggie Center; add a classroom auditorium, student center, student center space. The new central plant building will be necessary in order to provide growth in electrical capacity, cooling, etc. Shannon asked about our interaction with the Pelican Island Bridge people. Admiral Smith responded that we are involved in those conversations and that that TX DOT is working on plans. Admiral Smith also stated that help from the A&M governance and others for support is necessary to get the buildings needed for growth.

Bob Wright discussed the new marketing plans underway designed to support the desired increase in enrollment, faculty, and facilities. The goal is to increase enrollment through increasing applications received to raise numbers while maintaining the ability to be selective. Though growth has been steady, it has not been dramatic and we need to gain another 1,000 students in the next five years. He discussed the results of his marketing research completed through interviews with high school students, existing students, graduating TAMUG students, and counselors at nearby high schools. The new logo more strongly emphasizing that we are Texas A&M University at Galveston was discussed. He shared that new billboards will be placed around Houston, other areas of the state, and beyond. A new marketing website is being developed to reinforce the message to prospective students. Planned ads will drive people to the website for more information.

Wade Battles spoke about the new program with maritime academy being embedded in HISD beginning in the 9th grade to plant interest early. Pete Huddleston stated that he would be happy to contact students we are trying to recruit. Orth discussed importance of personal contact during the recruiting process by alumni and people in industry.

Colonel Mallahan provided an overview from the Texas A&M Maritime Academy. He shared that academy highlights; enrollment is at 505, the student body president is in the Corp. of Cadets, the high GPA significance of the gold and silver stars worn by Corp. of Cadet students, we are adding a dynamic positioning simulator in summer 2014 (we are second after Kings Point to have this), and we are partnering with TEES to provide a world class program in Maritime Safety Program. He stated that the plan is to grow the program, be the best maritime academy out there, and have a competitive edge. The requirement changes in International Maritime Organization (IMO). will necessitate more training. Mallahan invited industry partners to come on Tues. afternoon to spend time talking with the cadets. He stated that more partnering with brown water operations (Gulf of Mexico) and more professional training to meet industry standards is needed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.