

## MEETING MINUTES: October 1, 2020

### OPENING

A regular meeting of the Texas A&M University at Galveston Board of Visitors was called to order on October 1, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was hosted virtually through ZOOM.

### ATTENDEES

**Members Present:** Greg Binion, Will Fraser, Pat Gamble, Leonard Hale, John Hallmark, Amy Hark, Pete Huddleston, Charlie Jenkins, Shrub Kempner, Dale Laine, Keith McFatrige, John Michael, Phyllis Milstein, Greg Mitchell, F. Muller, Brandon Neff, Chris Orth, V. Pierson, Wayne Prescott, Brian Roy, Robert Sakowitz, Mike Spiers, Todd Sullivan, Kelly Teichman, Andy Tirpak, Jim Watson, Jonathan Whitworth

**Members Absent:** *C. Cahill, M. Cokinos, T. Farmer, , R. Fry, R. Guenther, P. Hill, R. House, Will Jenkins, C. Johnson, M. Lyons, B. Massey, J. Mohn, , C. Neely, T. Ray, B. Greer, D. Varshney*

### Texas A&M Galveston Leadership, Faculty, and Staff

Ken Bailey, Carol Bunch Davis, Mike Fossum, Rick Kline, Patrick Louchouarn, Joan Mileski, Allan Post, Grant Shallenberger, Todd Sutherland, Rebecca Watts, Kathey Walker

### BUSINESS MEETING

The meeting was called to order by vice-chair, Jonathan Whitworth.

*COL Michael Fossum* welcomed Michael Hardy from the Governmental Relations Office as well as Andy Acker from the Texas A&M Foundation to the meeting.

COL Fossum provided a campus update on the following topics:

- COVID-19 counts include nine students who have come down positive and no transmissions on campus.
- TAMMA was the only academy to complete a summer sea term in 2020 allowing 47 seniors to complete their requirements
- Budget impacts - return of 5% to the state for 2019/20, refunding of campus housing and meal plans in spring when the campus closed, reduction in force decisions and early retirements
- Weather – the campus evacuated during Hurricane Laura moving students and the Command Team to College Station and issued a Tropical Shelter in Place during TS Beta
- The Texas A&M Maritime Academy was re-organized following the departure of Superintendent, RADM Michael Rodriguez to include COL Michael Fossum assuming the Superintendent’s role and addition of multiple new staff members

*Dr. Patrick Louchouarn* provided an academic briefing on the following topics:           Presentation - Appendix A]

- The Galveston campus’ focus is on increasing/offering the highest number of in-person classes to incoming students (80% of those are first generation or transfer students). The campus is intentional about the use technology to provide a sense of community. Students are feeling the strain. The spring academic planning is slightly different and increasing pure in person classes with the intent to reduce the restraints that faculty and students are feeling.

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### BUSINESS MEETING (Cont'd.)

- The Student Enrollment Services/recruiting teams quickly moved to a virtual format in the spring creating a great deal of uncertainty and concern about enrollment numbers. There is a decrease in headcount but the freshman class is larger than the previous four years, graduate students have grown by almost a 100%, and – for the first time –transfer student numbers are growing.
- Dr. Louchouart is working with the College of Engineering creating new partnerships and the campus has a number of growing graduate programs, a new PhD program and a new pre-health program, which has grown 120%. The Oceans and One Health/pre-health program creates a significant opportunity for growth.
- The campus is home to the Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas (IDRT), one of eight on the Gulf Coast, under Dr. Sam Brody and is critical to one of the new PhD programs doing research in disaster management and coastal resiliency.
- He introduced Dr. Carol Bunch Davis, Assistant VP for Academic Affairs. Her focus will be on faculty affairs.

*Dr. Carol Bunch Davis* provided discussed the Civic, Literacy, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (CLIDE) Committee, which provides programs and initiatives educating the campus community on the value of diversity. CLIDE is responsible for development of the annual Diversity Accountability report for the Galveston campus, which is evaluated by the TAMU – President’s Council on Climate and Diversity. The Galveston campus was awarded funding to support our efforts and initiatives on this campus. The committee provides seed grants for campus diversity initiatives and has implemented the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) on campus, which measures ones capacity to shift behavior based on cultural differences and commonalities. The 1973 Multicultural Center opened this semester providing a space for students who are members of cultural affinity groups to gather and fellowship. [Presentation - Appendix B]

*Dr. Todd Sutherland* provided a Student Affairs brief:

- Student Affairs programs began rethinking how to safely conduct activities with the return of students to campus and transitioned to an online format focused on turning students into Aggie leaders, instilling the campus culture, and helping students connect and build relationships
  - Exercise programs moved to an online format providing online counseling
  - Hosted Howdy Week which established the expectations of mask wearing and physical distancing
  - Muster and the fall Career Fair were conducted online
- Sea Aggies Learning Traditions (SALT) Camp was conducted in person in summer 2020 with smaller cohorts and maintaining physical distancing while socially connecting. The programs were run through medical staff and epidemiologist. We had no infections or spread of COVID.
- In person activities have included
  - Outside YELL Practices
  - Drive in movie night and football watch parties
  - Student organizations are meeting and engaged

Student Affairs is fighting some isolation and loneliness with the student population but overall are doing very well.

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### BUSINESS MEETING (Cont'd.)

*Jonathan Whitworth* thanked our speakers and encouraged BOV members to review the briefing book and the good information included. He provided an update on the reconstitution of the committee format with the Development and Fund-raising Committee being placed on hiatus and the implementation of a new committee, Legislative and Community Affairs. He restated the importance of all BOV members providing support for the campus rather than the few on the Development and Fund-raising Committee. He shared that questions/issues posed to each of the four committees:

- TAMUG BOV Legislative & Community Affairs Committee Question/Issue co-chaired by Pat Gamble (BOV) and Bill McClain (TAMUG)

How to best to raise \$45M from the Texas State Legislature for necessary dock improvements and campus infrastructure to support the arrival of an interim training ship at the Texas A&M @ Galveston Campus in 2023 and a permanent new vessel in 2025. The legislative outreach would work in concert with the Texas A&M Systems government relations team.

- TAMUG BOV Industry Relations Committee Question/Issue co-chaired by Brandon Neff (BOV) and Ken Bailey (TAMUG)

COVID-19 has created significant anxiety among students seeking jobs after graduation and internships while still in school. What are ways the Industry Relations Committee can improve contact and relationships with relevant businesses to enable hiring of TAMUG graduates? Items may include meetings, events, site visits, and various types of virtual sessions.

- TAMUG BOV Student Affairs Committee Question/Issue co-chaired by Jonathan Whitworth (BOV) and Todd Sutherland (TAMUG)

Establish a mentorship program similar to the one established in 2018, but this program is directly aimed at the 15 graduate students currently enrolled in the Maritime Business Administration and Logistics (MAAL) who are also License Option. These men and women are older than the undergraduates are and although they will graduate with a master's business degree, they will also obtain an unlimited Third Officers license. This group is eager to connect to industry, and we are hoping the Student Affairs Committee could come up with a program to assist.

- TAMUG BOV Emerging Trends in the Blue Economy Question/Issue co-chaired by Amy Hark (BOV) and Joan Mileski (TAMUG)

- What movements / trends / disruptors do you see affecting the Blue Economy over the next 10 years and how do you see those events affecting our graduates based on the current programs & initiatives? What do you think the university should be doing differently to prepare?
- What careers / jobs are we currently populating with graduates that you see going away in the next 10 years & what are your ideas on addressing this challenge? Alternatively, what new careers do you see coming in the next decade and what can we be doing to best position our graduates?
- The MARA program is working on two big initiatives - a minor in Cyber Security and a minor in Maritime Entrepreneurship. Do you agree this is the right direction to position our students for the future? Why / why not and what alternatives do you suggest?

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The general meeting was suspended while members broke into their respective committees.

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### BUSINESS MEETING (Cont'd.)

Jonathan Whitworth welcomed everyone back to the general meeting and asked that a representative of each committee provide a brief on what was discussed and what are the next action steps.

#### Committee Reports

##### Emerging Trends in the Blue Economy Committee – report provided by Amy Hark

The committee had good engagement but needs to follow-up by phone and email with the missing committee members to obtain feedback on their question/issue. The committee will need additional meetings before they have an action step.

##### Industry Relations Committee – report provided by Ken Bailey

The committee engaged discussed how to engage students in industry and career opportunities where COVID has taken away traditional vehicles. The committee also discussed re-introducing themselves through a virtual information session and to create virtual mock interviews and information sessions to engage students as they prepare for interviews. The committee also discussed avenues to combat student apathy and improving engagement and enthusiasm. Wayne Prescott asked if there are metrics, by which the committee could gauge their efforts.

##### Student Affairs Committee – report provided by Jonathan Whitworth

The committee was asked to take the mentoring program rolled out to UG's and develop a targeted program for specific Graduate students who are older and pursuing a business logistics degree. The committee discussed:

1. Set up of a small team comprised of staff and a few industry members (likely from this committee) to conduct one on one conversations with each student to learn what they want, and are they ready and prepared to be in a mentor program.
2. The group will also conduct one on one conversations with a select group of mentors who can be matched, based on the qualifications of what the student is looking for and who we know in the industry that would be good potential mentors for them.
3. The committee will articulate a clear set of expectations so as not set them off on failure,
4. A key component, different from the prior mentoring program, is that one is one of the team members would sit in and facilitate the first meeting between the student and the mentor to articulate the rules of engagement, setting them up for success.

##### Legislative and Community Affairs Committee – report provided by Pat Gamble.

Shared the committee's request for assistance & guidance in how best to raise \$45M from the Texas State Legislature for necessary dock improvements and campus infrastructure to support the arrival of an interim training ship at the Texas A&M @ Galveston Campus in 2023 and a permanent new vessel in 2025. The committee report stated:

- There are a number of subjects bringing up additional questions to which we may not have answers.
- They need to be brought up to date on the work that has already been done
- They need to understand the University's plans regarding the application of the funds raised – with regards to use of the funds and the arrival of the ships?
- It's important that they committee stay up to day on a week by week or day by day basis.

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### Legislative and Community Affairs Committee – report (Cont'd.)

- They need to clarify the dividing line between TAMMA using the ship and someone else using the ship.
- They need to determine what we need to know that we do not already know.
- There will be difficulties in the face of the current budget situation as well as political problems from the state level all the way to the national level. He stated that working with Mike Hardy in the Governmental Relations office would be very important.

In summary, the committee must quickly access information on past work, clarify their mission, break it down into understandable components, and establish lead times because their work will need to begin very quickly. They need to have answers – elevator speeches – answering the questions that will come, make an impact and be smart about it. The committee must meet on a more frequent basis, determine who will go after which pieces, and be willing to form those relationships with those they need to go after – eyeball to eyeball.

### **CLOSING DISCUSSION**

Col. Michael Fossum discussed the storms that have hit campus with the global pandemic followed by a fiscal storm, the racial storm and two hurricanes followed by an expression of thanks to the BOV members who have reached out in support. He provided an update on Pelican Island Bridge project and the importance of maintaining a 1,000 ft. safety barrier between the hazardous material route and the campus residence halls.

Members of the George Mitchell Society were thanked for their financial generosity.

Col. Fossum was asked about the certainty of the University's \$10 million contribution for the bridge to which he responded that more details are pending on the justification of the cost of a bike lane addition, discussions with the Port of Houston, and the appraisal of the roadway through campus but the University (TAMU) understands the importance of ensuring safety and that the commitment is solid.

Dr. Patrick Louchouart discussed plans underway with the TAMU College of Engineering to expand their 4-year programs onto our campus, which would bring additional tenure track faculty doing research in those areas. From his perspective, this would allow the Engineering Technology degree to be changed to a Marine Engineering bachelor degree, which will need to be justified through the Coordinating Board. Another benefit of the expansion of the Engineering programs is an increase in grant funding to the campus. The campus is also working to build the base to justify the change. Leonard Hale expressed the importance of offering a Marine Engineering degree as opposed to the Engineering Technology degree, which raises eyebrows in the industry.

The 2021 meeting dates of April 21 and October 14 were announced.

Minutes from the September 24, 2019 meeting were presented for approval. Keith McFatridge made the motion to accept the minutes as presented and Pete Huddleston made the second. All were in favor.

The general meeting of the BOV adjourned. Campus leadership and faculty and staff attendees disconnected and the Board of Visitors continued with a private members only discussion.



# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATES

# Enrollment Update

- Enrollment of students around ~2,100 mark (decrease by ~1.7%).
- Freshman class has increased significantly (+9% increase over last year!)
- Transfers increased by +28%
- **Incoming Graduate students is 94% larger than last fall**
  - **Graduate class +15% larger (233 vs. 202)** than last year (includes TAMUG, TAMU, Quick Admits, 3+2s)
  - 54 have graduated (F19, S20, Su20)
- Engineering at Galveston freshman class increased by +~13% (273) but overall numbers have decreased (-8%)

# Programs of Focus



- **Growing Programs:**
  - Oceans and One Health (pre-health): +56% (72 enrolled; 5x in 5 yrs)
  - Marine Biology/Marine Fisheries : +6%
  - Maritime Business Administration: +3%
  - Maritime Coastal and Environmental Sciences: +6%
  - PhD in Marine & Coastal Management and Science: +8
  - MSc in Marine Resources Management: +30%
  - Master Maritime Business Admin and Logistics: +18%
- **Target programs:** showing potential (and capacity) for growth:
  - Oceans and One Health
  - Maritime Business Administration
  - Marine Engineering Technology
  - Marine “sciences” (BSc; MSc; PhDs)
  - Master Maritime Business Admin and Logistics
  - Deck and engineering LO programs (?)
  - Engineering 4-year programs (Computer Sci; Environ. Engineering)



# Next Steps

## 2020 STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVE STRATEGIES



RETENTION

Increase first year retention from 92% to 95%



TIME TO GRAD

Increase four year graduation rates from 54% to 65%



GRAD RATES

Increase six year graduation rates from 82% to 85%



ACHIEVEMENT GAPS

Equalize outcomes across all student populations



New student Intake Process



Teaching Community



Family Communication



Transfer Initiatives



Beyond Program



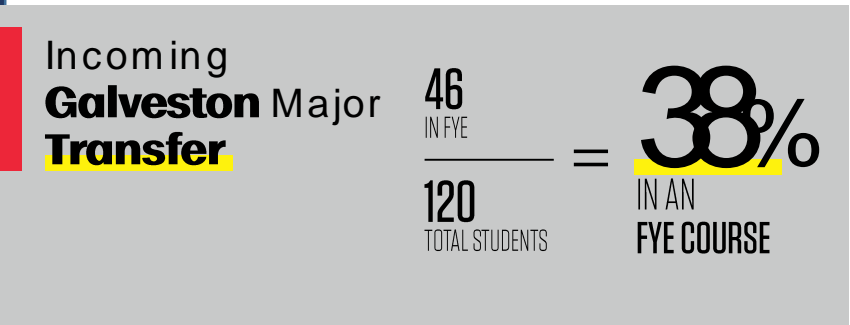
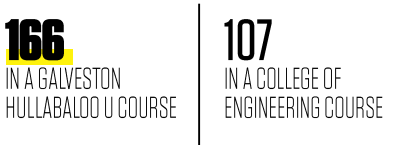
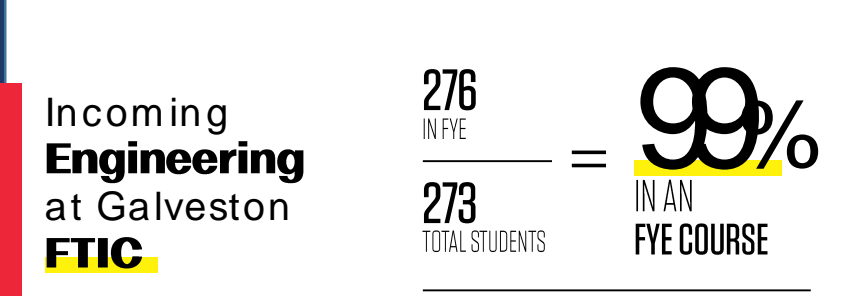
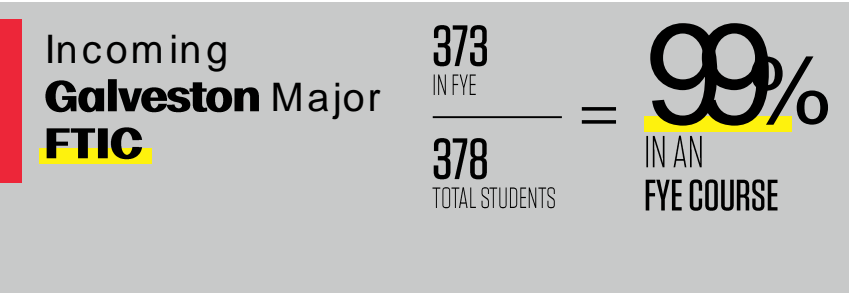
The Commons



Welcome Week

# Focus on Student success Initiative: Early indicators in the pilot initiatives reflect a significant gain (+8%) in campus first year retention

## 2021 HULLABALOO U REGISTRATION



### 33 total GV Hullabaloo U Sections

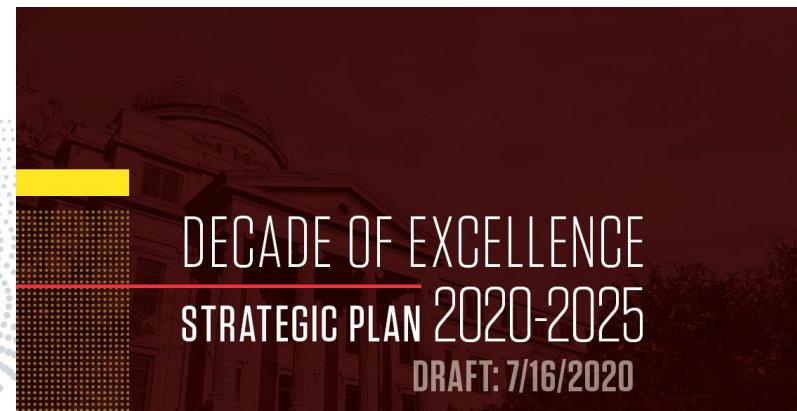
- | Basic Math Skills
- | Terry LLC
- | Leadership LLC
- | SEA FYE (diving)
- | Chart Your Course (major exploration)
- | F1RST (first-generation) x2 sections
- | Transfer Seminar
- | Ally+ LLC (gender neutral housing)
- | Information Exploration
- | Gateway LLC (provisional admits)
- | Practicing Normative Science
- | Hip Hop & Culture
- | Engineering LLC x2 sections
- | Civic Engagement
- | Fishing Fundamentals
- | Pathways
- | Venturing Crew
- | Good Relationship with Money
- | Ocean Educators
- | Leadership Guadalupe
- | Nourish U
- | Art School Experience
- | Leadership Development
- | Appreciation of Sport
- | Readings in Science-Philosophy-Math
- | One Health
- | Comic Books & Social Justice
- | Science Basics of Health & Fitness
- | Life & Community Skills
- | Succeeding in Science
- | WAVE LLC (small boat licensing)

# Next Steps



## Developing the new Strategic Plan (2020-2025)

- Student Success! (Transformative learning experience)
  - Increased first year retention; graduation rates (4-6 years)
  - **Elimination of achievement gaps**
  - **Recruit and retain URM students to match our state's demographics**
  - Grow graduate and professional studies
- Research and Scholarship (Innovation and Discovery)
  - Coastal Resilience (natural ecosystems under a changing environment);
  - Ocean Exploration;
  - Marine Transportation/Power at Sea
  - Seafood Production
  - Resilient Coastal Communities (human communities and built envt)
- Impact on State, Nation, and World
- University as a Community



# Dr. Carol Bunch-Davis



- **Associate Professor of English in Dept. of Liberal Studies**
- **Administrative Fellow in CAO Office: 2015**
- **4 years as Assistant Dept. Head: 2017-2020**
- **Leading the Common Reader: 2017-2020**
- **CLIDE Chair: 2019-present**
- **TAMU ADVANCE Administrative Fellow in the TAMUG Office of Academic Affairs: 2020**
- **TAMUG Assistant VP for Academic Affairs – Faculty Affairs: 2020-2024**
  
- **Texas A & M System Chancellor’s Summit on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award: 2020**
- **TAMU Diversity Champion: 2020**
- **AFS Distinguished Achievement Awards Recognition: 2018**
- **Finalist, Benjamin Hooks Center for Social Change National Book Award for Outstanding Book on the Civil Rights Movement and its Legacy : 2016**
- **Texas A & M University System Student-Led Award for Teaching Excellence (SLATE): 2009**

## Why CLIDE?

“Ideally, the college years offer a unique opportunity to engage with people whose life experiences and viewpoints are different than one’s own and to **develop the leadership capacity** needed to function effectively in a diverse, increasingly global, world.

However, whether college students develop that capacity will depend in large part on whether the institution they attend has provided structures for those learning experiences to take place.

**Intentionality matters.”**

Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, President Emerita of Spelman College  
*author of Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? and Other Conversations about Race*

# Civic Literacy, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity (CLIDE) Committee

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## Mission

**To educate** the campus community about civic literacy, intercultural competency and the importance of a culture of diversity and inclusion of all community members.

**To develop** a more inclusive, diverse, equitable, accessible and accountable campus for all TAMUG campus community members.

**To promote** our core values through campus inclusion, diversity, equity, access and accountability.

## Function

**To support** TAMUG's aspirations and vision

**To enhance** student, faculty and staff well-being and retention

**To develop** TAMUG's annual accountability report

**To sustain** inclusion, diversity, equity, access and accountability at TAMUG

# Civic Literacy, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity (CLIDE) Committee Keywords

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**Civic Literacy**— “provides [the campus community] with three capacities: critical thinking, proficiency in bridging and understanding differences, and the ability to imagine and sympathize with the the situation of others” (Nussbaum 1997).

**Intercultural Competency**—“the capacity to shift behavior based on commonalities and differences by experiencing cultures and individuals with greater levels of complexity” (Hammer 2010).

# CLIDE Initiatives=Professional Development Opportunities

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- **IDI Assessment**—Assesses our capacity for navigating cultural differences and offers suggestions for broadening it.
- **CLIDE IDEA Seed Grants**—Provides support for IDEA related initiatives.
- **Core Values and Cultural Competency Workshops**—Shares resources and best practices for developing a culturally competent campus.
- **Campus Collaborations**—The 1973 Center, Wind Down Wednesdays, The Common Reader Program, Implicit Bias & Microaggressions Presentation.



# One Student's Experience of Cultural Differences

In choosing the Asian/ European test, I found I hold a SLIGHT automatic association to think of Asians as more American and Europeans as more foreign. My initial thought as to why this bias exists, I believe lies in the interactions, I think I've had with Asians compared to Europeans.

Of the communication that's occurred with any Asian I've interacted with I believe I understood more with them than with someone European. The main factor in this, I believe to be in my ability to understand one's accent. **Seeing as I have aspirations to work in a port someday, I think this information will be vital for me in dealing with potential clients in the future. Being a MARA major, interactions I have in the shipping industry will be of global caliber.** Also, Asians and Europeans are the ship owners of most the ships commercially used today.

To improve, perhaps I seek to disassociate one's accent as being an indicator of whether someone is foreign. Instead, I try to actively learn who people are based on more than an accent. Perhaps by learning to identify personality traits and be more interpersonal. **I do not feel as though my slight bias is anything wrong. I would, however, be open to knowing more about if it is something I should change and if so, how I could.**