

## **Board of Visitors Meeting Minutes– April 7, 2016**

Prepared by: Cari Bishop Smith

Dennis Murphree called the meeting to order and opened with request for Committee updates.

Murphree reported that the Search Committee for VP/COO, which he is a member of, has met numerous times and that Dean Vanegas is doing a great job. Korn-Ferry, national search firm, has been hired. The committee is working to complete the job description.

Murphree reported that the Board Development Committee had its best meeting ever. The committee is discussing how to engage more BOV members. In an effort to make the general BOV meetings more meaningful, about a year ago, Dr. Louchouart was asked to invite faculty to speak about their research. Moving forward, he hopes to partner with Dr. Sutherland to provide opportunities for a student to speak at future BOV meetings.

Wayne Prescott, who serves on the Board Development Committee, addressed the low attendance at meetings, less than 50% of the 49 members. Members are encouraged to be members of the George P. Mitchell Society (GMS) which also has far less than 50% of the members supporting the GMS. The committee discussed that the BOV is underutilized and avenues to become more involved. The committee plans to set clear goals with paths to implementation in the future.

Tom Farmer, who also serves on the Board Development Committee, further discussed how to establish an identifiable conduit – both political capital and intellectual capital within the BOV. The plan is to set long and short term goals. A current long-term goal that has been identified is to seek a better bridge system connecting Pelican Island to the mainland (Texas City). Improvement of pedestrian traffic to the new Maritime Hall is also under discussion.

Dennis turned over to Industrial Relations Committee Update:

Bob Fry, chair for the Industrial Relations Committee, discussed the forum or Distinguished Lecture Series, held after the January BOV meeting in an effort to generate interest in the Sea Aggie Network Mentoring program. Positive feedback was received from the good number of students attended, most from TAMMA. Moving forward, the committee is planning to host two a year around the career fair days. The committee is discussing monthly luncheons to be set up by a BOV member with 4-5 students in an informal setting. The committee desires to ensure its work is “sustainable such that as members leave and new ones are appointed, the momentum and work continues.

Bob Fry introduced Dr. Joan Mileski who discussed the topic that across the academy, engineering, and maritime administration, are forming a Maritime Cyber Security groups to bring issues to the table. Mileski asked that if there were BOV members supportive of this initiative that they provide a letter of support. Sample letters were made available. She shared that MARAD had approached TAMUG on the topic (cyber security) as well. MARAD is working on funding a center with a \$2 million grant. This will help produce “Electronic Officers” positions aboard ships and we hope to be the first group to produce

one. Dennis requested that Dr. Mileski get with Kathey Walker to send an email to all BoV members, since many were not in attendance. Need to make sure we know who to address the letter to and what exactly is needed in the letter. Bob Fry reiterated this is a perfect example of how the BoV can help support – all it takes is a letter.

Moving on from committee updates...

Dennis made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes which was seconded and approved unopposed. Dennis then made a motion to appoint / reappoint several BoV members, including Tyson Voelkel – who has advised Dennis he wished to remain on the BoV. He is a wonderful asset for the BoV. The motion was seconded and none opposed. Therefore the following were either approved for appointment or reappointment as noted:

- Chris Cahill – new appointment
- Robb Erickson – reappointment
- Damon Gowan – reappointment
- Jim McGregor – new appointment
- Frank Muller – new appointment
- Vic Pierson – new appointment
- Brian Roy – reappointment

Susan Lee gave an update on the 2016-2017 University Budget which is going to be presented at the April Board of Regents meeting. This included enrollment trends, state appropriations, revenue, etc. Question arose concerning the Hazelwood Act and took a moment to explain what Hazelwood is and how it affects TAMUG.

Patrick Louchouarn took a moment to thank all the BoV members who come and participate. This brings economic benefits to the area through hotel rooms, restaurants, etc. Tourism is important in Galveston and in fact he is now on a community committee regarding such. We are also looking at implementing a new degree program on tourism to further diversify our curriculum by offering options viable to our students while still remaining true to our marine mission. We currently have a new communications degree coming on lie this fall and next year, we should have the tourism program and will be partnering with Parks & Wildlife. Also working with the hospitality industry directly for internships – who can we house here (TAMU student wise) for local internships? Also in the Fall of 2018, hope to start a PhD in Marine Resources Management. We will be hiring faculty to support these various efforts.

Enrollment is static because of engineering merger – which helped eliminate academic redundancy and formed stronger partnerships with TAMU. We are still up 100+ applications though. Strategic Enrollment Management team is trying to hit the numbers by May (instead of taking all summer to hit target enrollment number).

Also, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Engineering (admitted to Engineering Program on main campus – but goes here in Galveston first) numbers count toward TAMU. However, these students take all their core classes with us so it's a win win, we support engineering's growth and they help us with credit hours.

Graduation apps are on target – approximately 200. Also interesting developments in research and new faculty hired in past few years are on point.

Looking at these three strategic areas to have a “thought leader”.

1. Thanks to the new DH in MARE, cyber security is a strategic area and also a MARAD initiative Also, search ongoing for the Powell Chair – needs to be a thought leader
2. One Health – struggling to fund (Provost \$1.5 mil) but still need salary to attract top level scholar – working with Geosciences and the Veterinary College.
3. Coastal Sustainability – got a boost from Pres Young for \$1mil over next 3 years. A proposal for more funding has also been submitted to recruit a high level scholar to come here for a year. We weren't supposed to apply, but we did and got it! Trying to get a guy who is nationally known and a thought leader to come here.

Dr. Louchouart has also been accepted to attend the Strategy Forum at the Naval War College. It is a two day conference with other academic leaders in June.

Admiral Smith introduced the new Corps Commander – Cole – he talked briefly about himself.

During lunch – Dennis commemorated Admiral's last meeting with a gift – antique colored historical illustration of the Battle of Trafalgar led by Admiral George Nelson. All BoV members pitched in.

After lunch, Grant Shallenberger introduced the Wave of Change website – shows all the various construction projects on campus with status. It is also in honor of Admiral Smith, since he was instrumental in getting these projects started (Maritime Hall, Academic Complex Phase I, II, III and the waterfront pavilion).

Rick Kline – newsletter is being sent next week. He has had several engagement and relationship building meetings/events including Wartisila, Stolt-Neilson, Kyle Buse with Kirby, etc.

Sea Aggie Network met last week and he is working with them on development goals to set up 1) scholarships and 2) set up reunions and partner at tradeshow.

Save the date – Endowed Scholarship Reception 10-26-2016. Rick then introduced the new Manager of Development Communications – Jason Morton, who is a TAMU graduate.

Capital Campaign Lead by Example - \$4 billion goal (with raising \$22 million for Galveston). Rick also mentioned he was also on the VP/COO search committee and he had a message from the chair Dr. Vanegas, to pass along. Dr. Vanegas is happy to meet with BoV members any time (one on one or small groups) who want to discuss their thoughts on the position.

Kelly Teichman gave a brief update on Mardi Gras – encouraged BoV group to purchase table sponsorships – could go into together for a table or two. \$2,500 gets a table for 10 and \$25,000 to get two tables (of 10 or 12). They are starting sales earlier this year for next and hopes to see more BoV participation in table sales. Phyllis Milstein closed with the money made this past year underwrites another endowed scholarship.

Admiral Smith thanked everyone for the gift and promised it would be hung in a prominent place and told the story of George Nelson.

He has been spending his time with the other SMAs on the training vessel issue. Admiral Smith, also mentioned in follow up to Dr. Louchouart, that the new tourism initiative involves the College of Architecture and Dean Mark Hussey – another “partnership” strengthening our relations with main campus. Also reminded everyone about the fact that we weren’t eligible for PUF funds, but thanks to Regent Buzbee, an attorney general’s ruling was received and Galveston is eligible.

Also this group can help with next legislative session as there is a major hurdle to retain PUF (only 2 AAU public members – us and UTMB flagship universities; and the one private in Texas is Rice University. Other universities in the state want a piece of the pie so to speak and if that happens, less money for the flagship universities. So the challenge is to preserve the funding as is.

Opened for questions. Dennis – when is your [Admiral Smith] last day? 6/30/2016 is his official last day. Dennis: if not a new head by then? – anticipate an interim.

Phyllis Milstein thanked the Admiral and said we would miss him. She also asked everyone to take a moment to remember Kris Ann Voglepohl who served on BoV for 15 years and she brought all her political contacts to us (TAMUG).