

Board of Visitors
Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2017

Attendees: Chris Cahill, Jim Fraser, Bob Fry, Pat Gamble, Charlie Jenkins, Ross Margraves, Keith McFatrige, Phyllis Milstein, Dennis Murphree, Brandon Neff, Bob Sakowitz, Bill Schubert, Jim Watson, Mike Fossum, Rick Kline, Donna Lang, Patrick Louchouart, Bill McClain, Doug Palmer, Grant Shallenberger, Todd Sutherland, Cari Bishop-Smith, Mike Rodriguez,

Doug Palmer introduced, welcomed, and provided backgrounds on Col. Mike Fossum, COO and VP beginning 03/01/17, and Capt. Mike Rodriguez, who began his role as Superintendent of the Texas A&M Maritime Academy this week. Doug introduced Mr. James Pozzi, Chairman, President and CEO of American National Insurance Company.

Mr. Pozzi welcomed everyone to the American National Insurance Company now 112 years old. He encouraged

Committee briefs were provided by:

- Industry Relations –
 - Bob Fry expressed that this was a small group and that the meeting was spent sharing information with Capt. Mike Rodriguez to.... Only seven members were present where there are normally 15 or more.
 - Expressed the need for billets this summer for the TAMUG Maritime students. Anyone with contacts or ideas was asked to reach out to Capt. Rodriguez.
 - The committee heard from Dr. Joan Mileski and the need for support of the ongoing cybersecurity initiative, which is expected to provide great return on the dollar.
- Board Development discussed several ideas
 - Phyllis discussed Mardi Gras coming up on 02/25/17. She shared that the event is underwritten by The Tremont House/Mitchell Family and the proceeds benefit the George P. Mitchell Foundation and student scholarships. Everyone is encouraged to participate.
 - Phyllis discussed her idea of small gatherings hosted by BOV members with the goal of introducing their networks to what is happening on the Galveston Campus. This will raise awareness and potentially bring in new support.
 - Dennis Murphree discussed changes to the BOV Bylaws:
 - Committee decides that \$1k annual contribution is acceptable
 - Expectation that members will be actively engaged with the campus
 - BOV meetings will be rotated to off campus locations one time each year
 - Removing the need for changes to bylaws and membership to receive Board of Regents authorization. Charlie Jenkins brought out that in
 - Charlie Jenkins discussed the opportunity to host the BOV meeting on April 20th at the Port of Houston. There are two options. The meeting can be hosted at either the Bayport Terminal in Pasadena on Port Rd. at 146 (25 minute drive from Galveston) or at the executive office building in Houston which is older and not as visually appealing. There is a tour boat at that location. A number TAMUG graduates are at the Bayport terminal. A consensus was reached that we would go to the Bayport location.
 - Dennis asked for feedback on whether the members prefer the 11am start with a 1pm ending or a new idea to begin at 3pm with a later ending. The meetings would end with a cocktail reception. Several members expressed a concern about the traffic with a later ending time.

- Dennis discussed the idea of sun setting the Awards and the Scholarship committees that consistently have not had good turnout. However, Keith McFatridge will lead a new committee for *special items or special projects*.

Grant Shalleberger presented updates on the *Wave of Change* for campus.

- Phase I of the Academic Complex Building is out of the ground and taking shape from the exterior with much work to do yet on the interior, which as a targeted completion for summer 2017.
- The Waterfront Events Pavilion broke ground in December and is a fast moving project intended to provide a venue for a variety of events.
- There is ongoing infrastructure work to support the existing needs as well as the new buildings.
- Phase II will come out of the ground in March and provide a central hub for campus with a targeted completion in summer 2018.
- A new sewer treatment plant is in the works.

Bob Sakowitz asked about the Bridge Project status. Bill McClain said the city and the county have established a MOA on the Bridge Project. The group under the city's direction is going out for bids for the engineering firm to handle the project. TXDOT, up to this point, has not wanted the bridge to fall under their auspices. Doug stated that Faircloth is in support of the project and there is a great deal of political support.

Rick Kline discussed development updates past and present. They are looking forward to the 3rd annual Endowed Scholarship Reception. Student needs will continue to grow and with the current financial downturn from state funding puts a greater need for philanthropic support. BOV members were encouraged to request the Development Newsletter if they were not receiving those. The Lead by Example campaign at the main campus includes the Galveston campus. Annual giving from 2015 to 2016 grew by 147%. A hand out with campus naming opportunities is available.

Patrick Louchouart thanked everyone for their support of the Galveston Campus and for giving of their time to be here. Patrick spoke to the incredible leadership provided by Doug Palmer and welcomed Mike Rodriguez to campus. He spoke to the success of the Galveston campus at connecting research to industry. Joan Mileski is a good example of translational research with a bright future for the cybersecurity initiative. Patrick asked the members what the campus can do new or better to meet the needs of industry. An example of this is the “ ”. This program is growing exponentially AND WILL will increase Emergency Management, whether a license program or certificate program, is an idea that has the potential to provide a high return with a low investment.

Patrick briefly addressed the budget crises sharing that we will emerge stronger than before. With the new leadership coming onboard, we are going into a stable period.

Doug Palmer acknowledge the leadership and change on the Galveston Campus directly attributable to Patrick. Doug shared that he was in Austin with Bill McClain and Susan Lee on Wednesday to testify before the Senate Budget Finance Committee hearings. At this time, funding of Special Items were cut completely in the proposed budget. For Galveston, the impact is significant as it relates to academic programs, student support services, and the Texas Institute of Technology. Some of the A&M campuses receive 50% or more of their budget through Special Items funding and this could force campus closures. The importance of the Coastal Sustainability initiative for which funding through special items was submitted. The senate was complimentary about the campus and recognized the important work being done. This is the first draft of a budget and there will be change before a final iteration is reached. Jim Watson asked about the timing of this budget decision.

Bill McClain said the budget should be done by May and go into effect the first of September. He spoke to the importance of the role of the Board of Visitors in using their connections in support of this campus.

Bob Sakowitz asked that message be shared with the membership concerning the budget and how the members can help in the coming months rather than wait until the next meeting. Patrick discussed Marketing and Communications and the recent re-structuring and re-organization to promote a new and better communications process.

Dennis Murphree opened the floor for questions. With no questions, the meeting was adjourned and everyone is invited to the 20th floor viewing area to enjoy the Moody Family archives.