

## MEETING MINUTES: April 21, 2021

### OPENING

At 9:00 a.m. The meeting was hosted virtually through ZOOM.

### ATTENDEES

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

*Members Absent:* Greg Binion, C. Cahill, M. Cokinos, R. Guenther, P. Hill, R. House, Will Jenkins, M. Lyons, B. Massey, C. Neely

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

Ken Bailey, Carol Bunch Davis, Mike Fossum, Rick Kline, Todd Sutherland, Kathey Walker, Rebecca Watts

### BUSINESS MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Robert Fry.

*A motion to approve the Minutes from the October 1, 2020 meeting was made by Andy Tirpak and a second made by Greg Mitchell. All approved.*

*Fry announced that the Legislative Committee has been set aside. The Development and Fund-raising Committee will reconvene.*

*COL Michael Fossum welcomed those attending in person and virtually.*

COL Fossum provided a campus update on the following topics:

- The Legislative and Community Affairs Committee was critical to moving forward with the legislature. Members were prebriefed on a \$45 million infrastructure request. The members helped him prepare for his testimony and everything is now in place, and we have Chancellor John Sharp's support.
- General Pat Gamble has stepped down from the Board of Visitors.
- Dr. Patrick Louchouart has been promoted to the Office of the Provost on the main campus. Dr. Antonietta Quigg has stepped up to serve as the Acting Chief Academic Officer along with her current roles.

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The general meeting was suspended while members broke into their respective committees in the Business Center on the first floor of ASEC.

Mike Fossum welcomed everyone back to the general meeting and introduced special speaker, Jesus Castro, a 3+2 MARA student who has also served with the Aggie Gentleman's Society, the Maroon Delegates and others.

Jesus Castro shared his vision and plans and expressed his appreciation as a George P. Mitchell Scholarship recipient and for the opportunities and experiences he has had as a student at TAMUG.

## **MEETING MINUTES: April 21, 2021**

### **BUSINESS MEETING (Cont'd.)**

Mike Fossum welcomed Dr. Alok Verma, the new Department Head for Marine Engineering Technology, to the podium. Alok Verma provided a presentation on the Strategic Plan and Vision for the Marine Engineering Technology (MARE) Department. The MARE curriculum is an inter-disciplinary engineering program offering both a license and non-license option. The MARE goals include increasing enrollment, increasing collaboration and partnerships, and strengthening the pipeline from k-12. They have submitted an \$5 million NSF grant to provide STEM scholarships for rising sophomores and students from our community college partners. MARE is proposing the acquisition of specific equipment at a total of \$1.489 million to support their growth areas.

Jonathan Whitworth was called to the podium to oversee the Committee Reports. He explained that the purpose of the committees is to funnel and channel all the great ideas into ways that the BOV can help COL Fossum and the campus.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### *Industry Relations Committee – report provided by Ken Bailey and Brandon Neff*

Based on challenges in locating internship opportunities for our students (Ken B.), the committee focused on discussion about the opportunities for our students to receive simulator training in preparation for situations like what recently happened at the Panama / Suez Canal.

The committee also discussed how to become more targeted in reaching out to industry as we come out of the pandemic; finding ways to engage with industry officials. The committee suggested hosting an Industry Day through a small lunch with targeted invites with 12 companies. Examples given included Solomon, Kirby, etc. The committee needs assistance in developing a list of companies who should receive an invite. The second idea was to develop a virtual message from COL Fossum that could be distributed more widely.

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

He provided an overview of version 1.0 and 2.0 of the mentoring programs rolled out to UG's and graduates over the previous semesters. There were some problems engaging the targeted populations in version 1.0. With the 2.0 version, the program targeted graduate students who are older and pursuing a graduate degree. He gave the 2.0 mentoring project an A-.

The committee discussed:

1. Expanding the graduate mentoring program in the fall semester.
2. How do we help the undergraduate students figure out that they need to be on a certain path for success in life? They have a different need. The committee needs help from the university in figuring out how to reach this group.

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

The committee discussed near term and longer-term trends. Hot desking and working at home (30% are not going back to the office) are new trends. People are not traveling, not going to theatres, etc. The impact is that people are buying more, and this is having a massive impact on shipping with increased demand from the buying trends. As a result, there is a shortage of vessels, a shortage of capacity, port congestion, etc. that we are all going to start feeling as prices are raised as a result.

## **MEETING MINUTES: April 21, 2021**

### *Emerging Trends in the Blue Economy Committee Report (Cont'd)*

The committee discussed the need to get students back to the classroom and the impacts on mental health from virtual learning. They also discussed AI, robotics, the impact of the infrastructure bill, and sustainability on the maritime world. In the longer term, they discussed that trends are still leaning toward outsourcing and the impacts on supply chain.

### *Legislative and Community Affairs Committee – report provided by Chris Johnson*

In summary, the committees work is mostly done, and we are waiting to hear the outcome of legislation. They will be turning back toward the fundraising aspect as so much of what this campus does is fueled by donations from the community so that talked about targets for that, who we should be focusing on, and how to best use COL Fossum's time to get in front of those targets. They discussed how to bridge the gap between the Galveston Community Foundations and the Campus. How to get the campus involved and making sure the Galveston community understand the impact that this campus has on the community. They also looked at the smaller gifts that focus on Student enrichment things in the range of \$5 - \$6k range. He discussed the Maritime Environment Leadership Challenge that used to be sponsored by Shell but has since collapsed; how can the BOV participate in these type things. He reminded everyone about the George P. Mitchell Society donations. The group is asked to help identify who COL Fossum needs to get in front of.

## **CLOSING DISCUSSION**

Col. Michael Fossum discussed his involvement with the Chamber of Commerce and hosting the annual Leadership Galveston group. He shared that we are looking to bring Sea Camp up to full capacity this summer. In the fall, we will be 100% back in the classrooms. He discussed the status of the Pelican Island Bridge project which will improve the safety of our campus. Commission Ryan and TX Dot are heavily involved in the discussions. The campus is looking to purchase property from the Port of Houston to provide the necessary 1,000 safety bumper between campus and the bridge. We have a Board of Regents agenda item to be presented next month for \$8.2 million as our part of the bridge project. With the campus' recent financial losses due to the pandemic, it was tough to come up with these funds.

The SST 2020 did not go off as planned but we managed to get the necessary graduating seniors aboard the TS Rudder so they could complete their requirements. However, we will welcome the TS Kennedy to our dock in July for SST 2021 to sail with all of our cadets aboard. Everyone is invited to the dock party and flotilla. The TS Kennedy will be here in 2023 at our dock to use until we receive the new NSMV which has now been fully funded. Images and a short video of the NSMV were shared. The NSMV will provide a state-of-the-art training platform for up to 600 cadets. In a humanitarian crisis, the NSMV can handle as many as a 1,000. We need dock, mooring and electrical upgrades and are waiting to hear about our request for support from the Texas Legislature.

Col. Fossum asked each member to serve as an ambassador for campus and spread the word about who we are.

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

Lunch was hosted in the Dining Room of Mary Moody Northern.