

MEETING MINUTES: September 24, 2019

OPENING

A regular meeting of the Texas A&M University at Galveston Board of Visitors was called to order on September 24, 2019 on the Galveston Campus at 9:30 a.m.

ATTENDEES

Members Present: Greg Binion, Bob Fry, Pat Gamble, Leonard Hale, Amy Hark, Paul Hill, Pete Huddleston, Will Jenkins, Shrub Kempner, Dale Laine, Keith McFatridge, John Michael, Phyllis Milstein, Greg Mitchell, Brandon Neff, Chris Orth, Wayne Prescott, Brian Roy, Bob Sakowitz, Mike Spiers, Todd Sullivan, Kelly Teichman, Andy Tirpak, Jim Watson, Jonathan Whitworth

Members Absent: C. Cahill, M. Cokinos, T. Farmer, W. Fraser, R. Guenther, J. Hallmark, R. House, C. Jenkins, C. Johnson M. Lyons, B. Massey, J. Mohn, F. Muller, C. Neely, V. Pierson, T. Ray, T. Voelkel, D. Varshney, B. Greer

Texas A&M Galveston Leadership, Faculty, and Staff

Ken Bailey, Mike Fossum, Rick Kline Patrick Louchouart Donna Lang, Susan Lee, Bill McClain, Joan Mileski, Allan Post, Antonietta Quigg, Grant Shallenberger, Todd Sutherland, Rebecca Watts, Kathey Walker

BUSINESS MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Fry.

COL Michael Fossum welcome everyone and introduced new Board of Visitors members:

- Leonard Hale
- Dale Laine
- Shrub Kempner

Greg Mitchell, long time BOV member, was welcomed back to Texas and to today's meeting. Each member introduced themselves.

The prior minutes were presented for approval. Chris Orth made the motion and Leonard Hale the 2nd – all were in favor.

COL Michael Fossum provided the following briefing:

- Announced letter of resignation from RADM Mike Rodriguez last Thursday and provided a brief overview of the highlights as a result of his tenure.
- Announced the appointment of Capt. Allan Post as Interim Superintendent of the Texas A&M Maritime Academy.
- Ship Update provided by Kerry Kinirons from Governmental Relations in Washington
 - Ship is the number one priority for them. They are still working through the legislative funding process with the National Defense Authorization processes as well.
 - There is 8 million set aside for the ship sharing until such time as our Academy has a ship
- Discussed Disaster Response capability of NSMV and the importance to the Gulf Coast
- Pelican Island Bridge - Commissioner Laura Ryan is now personally involved and has been to campus twice. A 3rd meeting will be held next month. Work continues to find a solution to the replacement of the functionally obsolete bridge.

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BUSINESS MEETING (Cont'd.)

Dr. Donna Lang discussed the Women on the Water Conference being hosted by Texas A&M University in November. This is a break even event where the students attend at no cost. A circular was provided to attendees outlining the sponsorship support.

COL Michael Fossum discussed the recent Visioning and Strategic Planning Retreat. The primary goal will focus on recruiting and retention. We recently received news that student retention increased by 8% which is encouraging.

Fossum also discussed the need for student internships and ideas on how we can collaborate and communicate with BOV members to improve partnerships in this area.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The general meeting was suspended while members broke into the following committees:

WORKING LUNCH

SST 2019 Briefing provided by Deputy Commander Daryn Taylor. The experience of continuing their education through the summer sea term is much better rather than breaking from your education to go board someone else's ship. Morale has improved dramatically. Instead of working with other groups and their initiatives on the ships, this experience has allowed our cadets to provide input into the process, be involved from start to finish with the entire leadership and faculty from the classroom to the deck. All cadets are growing as leaders. The upper classmen provide leadership to the younger shipmates as they learn and train.

Committee Reports

Emerging Trends in Maritime (new committee) met for the first time under the guidance of Patrick Louchouart and Joan Mileski with Pat Gamble. The committee will look into the future 10-15 years with recommendations – divest themselves of current thinking and actions. An example of this thought process included the development of ships operating on natural gas which will not be a retrofit but a new ship. Discussions including applied and theoretical research, pollution (ship and coastal), cyber integration, water management, impact of climate change on ports and navigable waterways and drone support of operations. What is the 'sweet spot' where this university can have an impact? There are students who are yet to arrive who will be living in the world they are trying to forecast. While they can't solve all the problems, the goal will be to identify a narrower focus, refine the ideas, within the big circle and look at what is relevant for A&M Galveston to address. Patrick Louchouart stated that today was about identifying a vision for the committee.

Development and Fund Raising report provided by Rick Kline.

Attendees: Kempner, Milstein, Huddleston, Roy, Prescott, McFatrige, W. Jenkins, Kline
Committee Chair Vic Pierson was unable to attend the BOV meeting.

With several new attendees, the committee addressed the role of the Texas A&M Foundation and how it supports TAMUG students, faculty, programs and facilities. The report included a status of Lead by Example campaign with \$3.65B raised against \$4B goal. Kline discussed the Center for Texas Beaches and Shores (CTBS) status. Of the \$5M goal, \$268,500 had been raised to date. For those interested in giving, the online link is <https://give.am/CTBSEndowment>. The committee should meet to discuss who #3, #4 and #5 fundraising targets should be. Direction from the Board of Visitors is requested regarding additional targets. Kline shared that, to date, the George P. Mitchell Society has 73 members with only 17 BOV members participating. The online giving link for GPMS is <http://give.am/GPMSMembership>. Fund raising efforts for the Aggie Ring Statue are being led by the Maroon Delegates with an \$80,000 target. The giving link is <http://give.am/MaroonDelegateAggieRingStatue>.

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The report included a brief discussion of the potential of future Sea Turtle Rehabilitation and Educational Outreach Facility. Stay tuned for more details.

Industry Relations Committee report provided by Brandon Neff. They see their current purpose as one to support the ship initiative. At the last meeting, the committee developed and honed a letter of support. Today, they have developed a list of potential signers to approach. The audience for the letter is decision makers in Washington who affect the outcome of this important legislative initiative.

Student Affairs Committee - Jonathan Whitworth gave an update on the two projects which the Student Affairs Committee focused on last year; the BOV Speaker Series and the Mentoring Program. The Speaker Series is doing very well and has been fully adopted and administered by Ken Baily and the TAMUG Career & Ability Services team. As for the Mentoring Program, we were successful in our pilot program which matched approx. 40 TAMUG alumni up with sophomores and juniors in the same discipline in which they are studying to focus on internships, hiring, resume prep, etc. We received positive feedback from the program and starting later this month, we will canvas the Alumni and the BOV again to see if we can sign up another cohort of mentors/students. In addition, we would like to facilitate younger Alumni (graduated in the last 1-10 years) to assist with freshman students in order to help dealing with entry into the college world and also to assist in retention. We may try the Freshman Mentoring program as a limited pilot program this year, then work with the school to include an industry mentor in the Provost Learning Program aimed specifically at freshman scheduled for fall 2020.

MESSAGE FROM THE COL MICHAEL E. FOSSUM

COL Mike Fossum introduced members of leadership and staff present. He provided a recap of the Summer Sea Term 2019 and discussed his upcoming trip to Washington to meet with the Consortium of Maritime Academies, MARAD, and legislators. Everyone was invited to a 4 p.m. reception on October 16 with the astronauts from the Planetary Congress – Association of Space Explorers Reception.

The meeting was adjourned.