



# Galveston ~ Board of Visitors Meeting Notes

October 2011

*Attending: Chairman Valerius, RADM Smith, Wayne Prescott, Robert Fry, Kelly Teichman, Chris Orth, Charlie Jenkins, Michael Cokinos, Randolph House, Frans Gillebaard, Albert Shannon, Kris Ann Vogelpohl, Greg Binion, Keith McFtridge, Bernie Milstein, Bill Merrelle, Bill McClain, Bill Seitz, Grant Shallenberger, Brad McGonagle, Susan Lee, Donna Lang, Steve Conway, Cherie Coffman, Cathy Cashio, Mary Sue Smith, Nicole Parker, Student Guests: Jeff Lencioni, Rex Jones, Maria Nistal, David Brankovits, Arielle Carchidi,*

## **Call to Order & Approval of Meet Minuets by Chairman Valerius**

Frans Gillebaard motion to approve, Albert Shannon second motion, Notes from last meeting were unanimously approved by Board of Visitors.

## **Welcome from RADM Smith**

President Smith expressed his gratitude and excitement to be chosen as the TAMUG President. He thanked Bill Hearn for his years of service to TAMUG, the staff and students of TAMUG, and especially Dr. Bill Merrell for his service as interim TAMUG President. He welcomed the TAMUG Board of Visitors to Galveston.

## **Student Body President, Arielle Carchidi gave a welcome to Board of Visitors**

The Student Body President commented on record breaking enrollment in 2011, the diverse student body population and inspiring returning veterans to the campus. She testified to SeaAggies working with world renowned researchers at TAMUG and her own opportunities to travel around the world to conferences and research symposiums. "Students are excited about the word spreading of TAMUG to the surrounding areas, we aren't a secrete anymore." On behalf of all TAMUG students, She welcomed the Board of Visitors to Galveston and thanked them for their service to the school.

## **Introductions of new members by Chairman Steven Valerius**

- Mr. Charlie Jenkins- Post of Houston Authority, Vice President of Strategic Planning.
- Mr. Michael Cokinos- President of Cokinos Energy Corporation
- Lt. General Randolph (Randy) House – TAMUG Board of Visitors member, Class of '67
- Mr. Bruce Nichols- TAMUG Board of Visitors member, from Austin Texas
- Greg Binion – TAMUG Board of Visitors member
- Introduced Nicole Parker as the new secretary for Board of Visitors and thanked Cherie Coffman for her service over the years.

## **Introductions of the TAMUG Communications Team by RADM Smith**

"Communications, branding, messaging are very important to the future of TAMUG. The communications for TAMUG needs to increase and improve to meet our new goals and challenges." RADM Smith introduced Major General Bill McClain '62, Chief Communications Officer for the Pentagon. Also joining the TAMUG team this year is Ms. Cathy Cashio, the new Director of Communications. The new development officer for TAMUG has not arrived to campus, but will be on board shortly.

President Smith spoke to the Board of Visitors saying, “Higher education is under assault, not just a local but on a national level as well. This university stands for great core values. We have advanced and impressive students but they do not get the respect that they deserve. Most people think we are like Corpus Christie or Laredo, but TAMUG is part of the main campus university, a tier one university. We have a water based campus and we must take advantage of this. We must begin to dialogue with entities around Texas and the national telling them about the level of excellence here at TAMUG.”

### **Budget Overview**

*Budget review* (bar chart)- there is a diminishing of 18%-20% of state basic aid annually. Main campus (TAMU) has dropped by approximately 28%. This is a national wide pattern which will continue into the future. *Sources of funds* (pie chart) – only 2% of funding sources come from gifts. This is something TAMUG is committed to focusing on and working hard with the Board of Visitors to accomplish.

### **Vision 20/20-**

“How will TAMUG continue to improve and contribute to TAMU reaching its goal to be in the top 10?

President Loftin has charged the university with a 20/20 reset (reference Convocation speech handout.) We need supporters who are connected with our students. Copper Industries visited campus last week and they are taking our students as interns and have begun dialogue about further commitment to Galveston. The TAMUG Board of Visitors is our group who knows which companies and sponsors we need to approach and connect to this university. We need your help.”

“A lot of people don’t think of TAMU when they think about Houston, but 80% of the pilots in Houston are Aggies and almost all of them have graduated from our TAMUG campus. The Panama Canal will be opening a huge industry for marine trade. TMA is 20% of our student body, and they receive a TAMU degree just like graduates of College Station. Unlike other maritime academies, TAMUG must learn and compete next to tier one researchers in the classrooms. TAMUG graduates compete at a different level when they graduate.”

President Smith left the Board of Visitors with a message that TAMUG students are spectacular and we must start telling their stories and letting the world know how great TAMUG is. We have great research, 35 labs, 35 million in research funding. We need help connecting our students and research with the donors and companies that need to meet them.

RADM Smith thanked the Board of Visitors for being a part of this board and looks forward to contact concerning opportunities for networking & connections.

### **Research program’s growth by Dr. Bill Seitz**

Graduate programs have been a primary focus in the past few years. TAMUG currently have 5-7 programs with potential for more, including cross degrees with TAMU. Growth last year was 40% and with a current total graduate population of 130 students enrolled in masters programs.

Marine Biology Masters & Master of Marine Resources Management (MARR & MARM) Have both allowed our strong undergraduate programs in Marine Biology and Marine Science to connect and

recruit outstanding national and international students and faculty. These programs will also allow TAMUG to expand on joint and hybrid courses with TAMU.

The newly launched Master of Maritime Administration and Logistics (MMAL) was developed by Dr. Bill McMullen as a new masters degree driven by the interest in the Houston area for a marine version of an MBA. Primary evening classes here in Galveston, we've been surprised to have 12 students entering into the program already before advertising the program really started. The degree will explore hybrid courses (TTVN, split locations, etc) as it matures. This has tremendous potential of high participation rates from industry and returning students.

### **The Board of Visitors is invited to a reception in Houston (Rice University Invitation handout)**

Coast Guard has approved and LO stacked option across all TAMUG degrees (including masters) Many of our students (such as the Victor veterans group) who are coming to the campus for the LO license are now allowed to continue to a masters level and still receive their LO license.

#### Q&A from Board of Visitors

Q: please approach the petroleum programs at TAMU if you pursue joint/hybrid courses

Q: research numbers seem light compared to graduate numbers. Is there enough researched funding opportunities in the majors for our graduate students?

A: Yes and No. MARB and MARS have sufficient research funding. The Administration masters and non-these masters do not have enough funding because, by nature, they are not research based. Yes- there is a common need to increase research support for master level programs.

Q: Is brown water study still active on the campus?

A: Yes brown water is active at TAMUG. It's working within our academy and working in the Center for Marine training and safety (which is seeing a revitalization recently). Perhaps a full brown water report can be a focus at the next BOARD OF VISITORS meeting.

#### **Campus Update by Grant Shallenberger**

The new Seibel Student Services Center- (see insert) opened in 2011. The space provides offices, meeting and working spaces for our more than 40 student groups on campus. Only the first phase of construction was completed. Ultimately, Seibel will attach to the expansion of the Mary Moody Northern Student Center & Dining Hall. The tree carved artwork found in the hallway was a campus tree lost in Ike and carved by artisan Earl Jones.

Mary Moody Northern Student Center & Dining Hall- (insert) expanded the cafeteria, student meeting spaces, and AC facilities for the building. December is the projected accelerated move-in date for this space.

New Resident Halls- (insert) are the two L-shaped buildings you saw under construction on the edge of campus. Opening date for the new dorms is fall 2012.

#### Q&A from BOARD OF VISITORS

Q: Are we following the Mitchell funded plan?

A: Yes- we've been very close and connected to the original plan as projected

Q: Are we ok on our physical facilities?

A: The new construction is fed differently electrically than previous buildings. We are maxed out on electrical capacity on the campus infrastructure. We cannot add another building to the

campus. Our infrastructure is a great concern, to grow any further we must address infrastructure. It's a prime focus the last few years for TAMUG. The biggest problem being infrastructure is not a popular donation opportunity. Not many people are excited about the sewage plant being named after them.

Q: If you had your dream \$\$\$ to complete what you need to accomplish an infrastructure upgrade what would it cost?

A: 40 million. That is what we asked for during the last legislative session. The system asked us to begin programs, but the funding was not granted in legislation. TAMUG sewer system is in good shape, otherwise all other infrastructure is in need

### **Update on the TMA Training Ship by RADM Smith**

The TAMUG training ship is a high priority for our school and students. Both are very motivated to get our ship used for cruise training up and running. We worked hard to get stimulus money this past year but were unsuccessful. Our students want to train on our own ship instead of training on borrowed ships from the other maritime academies. We must have configurations completed on the ship in order to sail. It will take about 20-30 million to retrofit the ship. The ship is owned by the US Gov so we can't use gift money for the ship. Not having the ship moving is depressing for our students and frustrating for our faculty & staff. Chancellor Smith and the Board of Regents are on board to support our need. It's not fair that our students don't have a ship when the other maritime academies have ships from the GOV to train on.

### **Student Panel introduction by RADM Smith**

"The best part of the event is this student panel. These are our students, this is our product."

**David Brankovits- MARB PhD, Fulbright Scholar (Hungary).** His research is in Cave Diving with Dr. Iliffe. He came to TAMUG because it is the number one research university in the world for cave diving. He could have chosen to go anywhere in the world that he wanted. He chose TAMUG based on the location and academic program. The first few months have been challenging, both the vigor of the academy and the new culture. His country is landlocked but they have many underground caves and he looks forward to sharing his cave knowledge with Hungary when he returns home.

**Rex Jones- Corps Commander, ROTC Navy.** He grew up at the Sea Camp outreach programs when young. He choice the Navy and received a scholarship, then he had to pick a school. He chose TAMUG based on the learning environment which focuses on academics and leadership. He observed that the cadets who transfer from TAMUG to the main campus far out performs the main campus students. This told him TAMUG trains cadets better, and that is one reason he picked TAMUG. When he goes to class he challenged like any other student, there is no concessions for being in the Corps. After graduation he'll go to Pensacola for flight school, and hopes to become Admiral one day.

**Maria Nistal- MARB major (Mexico)-** she chose TAMUG for several reasons. She had a full scholarship at Mexico's primer MARB University. Once she became aware of TAMUG she realized that coming to TAMUG would stretch her and challenge her as a person and student. She is the first person in her family to go overseas. She's been a TAMUG ambassador for 3 years and loves to encourage students to come to TAMUG. The small size of the school means the

professors really do care about the students and get to know them personally. She knows everyone of her professors at TAMUG and she doesn't believe this would be the same case if she went to the bigger main campus. She is very proud of her Aggie Ring and is looking into master degree programs.

**Jeff Lencioni- Corps Victor Company** – As a non-traditional student with previous background in molecular biology having worked in the industry up North. He decided to change careers and returned to school to enter into the shipping industry. Once the decision was made, there are only a few maritime academies to choose from. Being from a family of Aggies, they tried hard to sway his opinion. He believes the growth of the industry would be in the Houston area and wanted to go to school close to that industry. Sailing on the Golden Bear this past summer cruise really confirmed to himself that he'd made the right choice. Seniors from the California school didn't know as much as our cadets knew. He realized he was getting a better education and more hands-on experience than cadets from other schools. His wife and 2 kids both love it in Galveston. He believes TAMU can knock off UT and replace them in the top 10! Ports of call for during cruise included: Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand, Somalia, the Pacific, San Diego, and California. He got his Golden Shellback certificate on his cruise. They weren't supposed to take that course but the persistence of our cadets convinced the captain to alter course so they could cross the equator and earn the certificate.

#### Q&A by Board of Visitors

Q: can you talk about the importance of experience in maritime industry courses/industry during high school years?

A: (Jeff) having High School visits to a campus really bridges cadets to the students and the teachers. The connection TAMUG has to the Houston Aggie Pilots adds to the networking. He thinks word can get out more still; there are many people who still don't know TAMUG is in Galveston.

A: (Maria) would love to tell you about the Ambassador program at TAMUG. We visit all the High Schools in the surrounding areas to talk to the students. The recruiters go out all over Texas. Maria goes out many times to Houston to speak to Spanish students and families about the TAMUG. The Sail Camp is another great tool to help reach and engage students.

A: (Rex) for me my High School experience was through interaction between faculty and students. Seeing that relationship, convinced him to come to TAMUG. He believes there is a direct relationship between learning performance and the student/teacher relationship. Leadership is a key element to using that education to accomplish goals in life. This type of leadership is present at TAMUG.

Q: Maria how did your family feel about you leaving international

A: (Maria) it was very difficult to be away from her family. Due to the situation in Mexico it's very hard for her to go home safely. TAMUG have jobs which allow her to stay safe in USA over summer. It was very hard not to see her family over the summer. For friends back home her being here has become an inspiration to others to leave and come to school in America. That gives her motivation to encourage others to follow their dreams to come to a safe place to study. She plans to stay here after graduation; she hopes to find a way to stay in the country and continue to work. Her family really wants her to stay in America, she's turned down a job offer in Mexico, she's decided to continue her education and pursuing a master's degree.

**Smith thanked the students for taking their time to speak to the BOARD OF VISITORS**

“We are really fortunate to have the level of Higher Education that we do in this country. These students are testifying to the facts of what wonderful faculty, staff and administrators we have at TAMUG. We are going to continue to build on the foundations of those heroes. We have some new work to do in the future and we’ll need BOARD OF VISITORS help in doing that. TAMUG students will be more involved with the Board of Visitors in the year to come, this is the reason we are here. The students are what we are doing all this for.”

#### **Event Reminders and bragging points by RADM Smith**

TAMUG Commencement – Dec 17<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Visitors is always invited to participate  
Next year is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the University, we are working on the events surrounding this celebration starting in the Fall.

The Chancellor’s Century Council will be hosted at TAMUG in February.

We are striving to get more information out to Board of Visitors well ahead of time

“We’re going to communicate more with you in the coming year. We look forward to getting to know you better and seeing you often. It is a honor and privilege to serve you at TAMUG. Mary Sue and I are proud and happy to be in Galveston, there are lots of childhood memories in Galveston and we give thanks for the opportunity to serve TAMU. Many thanks to Steve for the opportunity to speak to the Board of Visitors today”

#### New business reported by Chairman Valerius

- TAMUG Board of Visitors are looking to add 10 new additions to the board, please contact President Smith or Steve Valerius with any recommendations.
- The next BOARD OF VISITORS meeting will be set soon and communicated to you via email.
- Cathy Cashio & Nicole Parker hope to start a routine communication distribution to Board of Visitors throughout the year to keep you connected and informed.
- If members have any ideas for the board please contact Chairman Valerius with your ideas.
- Please refer to the George Mitchell Society (see pamphlet) we hope all Board of Visitors will consider being members. The goal is that all Board of Visitors will one day be members.
- Please feel free to contact Bill McClain on development issues till the new Development officer.

#### **Motion to Adjourn**