



**WINTER LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING**  
**February 26, 2011**

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After showing the “Welcome to Aggieland” video, Porter S. Garner III ’79, President and CEO of The Association of Former Students, called the Winter Leadership Council Meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. in the Zachry Family Rooms in the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center. Garner recognized Dr. R. Bowen Loftin ’71, Texas A&M President; Bob Surovik ’58, Association Past Chair and Chairman of the Texas A&M Foundation Board of Trustees; Rear Admiral Robert Smith III ’61, Association Past Chair and the recently appointed Vice President and CEO of TAMUG; Brigadier General Joe Ramirez ’79, Commandant of the Corps of Cadets, and recognized Bill Flores ’76, Association Past Chair, who represents District 17 in the United States Congress. Meagen Massengale ’11, Texas Aggie Band Chaplain, provided the invocation while Dr. Joe E. West ’54, Representative at Large and Class Agent for the Class of 1954 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESIDENT AND CEO’S REMARKS**

Garner thanked the Dallas, Houston and Brazos County A&M Clubs who have made significant commitments to The Association’s building enhancement project and recognized each of the club’s respective Club presidents, Scott Schueler ’96, Nick Mirgeaux ’96, and Brien Smith ’81. Garner stated Dusty Davis ’74, Fort Worth/Tarrant County A&M Club; Bill Mason ’94, San Antonio A&M Club; and Ann Pargac ’96, Capital City A&M Club, and their memberships are considering similar proposals. Porter thanked Phillip Garrett ’91, Representative at Large and owner of Conlee Garrett Moving and Storage, who at his own expense came to the aid of a recent graduate, Wenonah Ellis ’10, to assist in her move to Minnesota. Garner also recognized Buck Burnside ’73, Class Agent, who celebrated his retirement and 15 years of service to Texas A&M on Friday, February 25, 2011. Garner thanked all of the volunteers who assisted with Orange and Maroon Legislative Day on February 15, 2011. He stated The Association is exploring the addition of a summer Leadership Council conference and a survey will be distributed explaining more and asking for the Council’s input. He also noted The Association of Former Students will be increasing their presence on social media websites such as Facebook, Twitter, and You Tube to provide more timely and immediate information to constituents. Beginning in May, the Silver Taps postings included in the *Texas Aggie* will be linked to AggieNetwork.com to allow expanded online notices. Garner announced seven former students had been named 2011 Distinguished Alumni, including posthumous recipient, J. Wayne Stark ’39, Dan Hughes ’51, and John Bethancourt ’74. The other recipients will be announced through additional surprise announcements. Garner also announced the 2011 Outstanding International Alumnus Award recipient is Dr. Christiaan E. Mulder ’80, CEO of Chris Mulder Associates, Inc. in South Africa.

## **INTRODUCTION OF THE 2011 ASSOCIATION CHAIR OF THE BOARD**

Garner introduced Jorge A. Bermudez '73 as The Association of Former Students 2011 Chair of the Board and recognized him for his outstanding service to The Association of Former Students and Texas A&M University.

### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Bermudez greeted the Council and stated he looked forward to serving as Chair of the Board. Bermudez thanked Immediate Past Chair, S. Shariq Yosufzai '74, for his noble service to The Association of Former Students and Texas A&M University. Bermudez invited Yosufzai, Garner, and Marty Holmes '87, Vice President of The Association of Former Students, to join him on stage for a special presentation. Josh Smith '97, owner of NorthStar Interactive Media, Ltd. and director of the video, *Aggies: The True Story of Texas A&M*, presented Holmes, Yosufzai and Garner each with one of the four Silver Telly statuettes awarded for the video. The Telly Award is the highest industry honor bestowed for film and video productions. Bermudez announced the formation of a new Affinity Committee whose goal is to 1) identify and promote opportunities to strengthen relationships throughout the Aggie Network; 2) develop new approaches to reaching former students, current students and future students, as well as affinity groups associated with Texas A&M; and 3) enhance affinity on behalf of Texas A&M, The Association and all Aggies through the world.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: (BG RED SCOTT '53/RANDI MAYS-KNAPP '79) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FALL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 6, 2010 BE APPROVED. Carried.

## **THE ASSOCIATION REPORT**

### **Finance Report**

Kathleen Gibson '81, Board Member and Chair of the Finance Committee, reviewed the 2010 financial report and stated the total Association revenues for all funds, including trust funds and building contributions, in 2010 exceeded total expenses by \$3,678,867. Total operating revenues were \$11,206,674. Total operating expenses were \$10,891,645. Gibson reported the total cost to raise one dollar was 19 cents, which is well below the Better Business Bureau's benchmark of 35 cents. As of December 31, 2010, The Association's net assets totaled \$84,363,412.

### **Fundraising Report**

David Heath '76, Board Member and Chair of the Fundraising Committee, reported the Association raised \$6,780,778 in the 2010 Annual Fund. The Endowed Century Club Trust Fund, including 36 new funds, totaled \$14,164,147 in gifts and pledges, while memorials and other scholarship pledges totaled \$317,642. Ten Aggie Ring Scholarships were funded in the amount of \$126,078 which does not include three planned gifts. Heath also reported \$16,592,086 has been raised to date for the building enhancement campaign. Heath noted the 2011 Annual Fund goal is \$6,800,000 with \$1,429,800 raised as of February 23, 2011. Heath introduced Arnan Narayanan '10, Ph.D. candidate, international student and Buck Weirus Spirit Award recipient, who explained how he came to Texas A&M to pursue his Ph.D. Narayanan shared his experiences as an international student at A&M and thanked The Association's donors for the scholarships and donations.

## **TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION REPORT**

Bob J. Surovik '58, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Texas A&M Foundation, and Past Chair of The Association, Endowed Century Club member, and recently named Aggie Lawyer of the Year by the Texas Aggie Bar Association, reported on the formation of the Texas A&M University Coordinating Council whose purpose is to develop a comprehensive fundraising strategy on behalf of Texas A&M. Surovik said the Foundations' annual goal is \$108,000,000 with \$51,000,000 raised by December 31, 2010. Major gifts raised \$305,000,000 to date and there has been an increase in life income gifts, annuities and charitable trusts. A commitment was recently received from an anonymous donor in the amount of \$8,000,000 for the Corps of Cadets, Foundation Excellence Awards and general endowed scholarships. The *Our MSC: A Tribute to Honor* campaign has a goal of \$20,000,000 and to date has received commitments in the amount of \$7,500,000. Texas A&M students have committed \$82,000,000 through student fees and the Class of 1958 have committed for one of the Flag Room columns. Total estimated cost of the MSC renovation is \$125,000,000. *Operation Spirit and Mind*, the fundraising scholarship initiative launched in 2007 with a goal of raising \$300,000,000, has raised \$241,000,000 to date. Surovik thanked the Leadership Council for their generosity of donations to Texas A&M.

## **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY REPORT**

President R. Bowen Loftin '71 reported there are thirteen NCAA sports teams at Texas A&M of which seven are ranked in the top 10 nationally, with one being number one in the country. Loftin reported in December, 2009, he was directed by the State Legislature to reduce the current biennium budget by 4% which was accomplished; then in May, 2010, Loftin was told to plan for a 10% reduction in the next biennium beginning in September 1, 2011. He stated there are two bills before the Legislature, with the Senate bill reducing the budget by approximately \$35,000,000 on top of the 5% reduction for a total of approximately \$60,000,000; and the House bill reducing the budget for the next two years by \$53,000,000 on top of the 5% reduction for a total of \$78,000,000. Loftin stated these reductions will impact the quality of education and experiences at Texas A&M, but the University will work to minimize those impacts. Both the Senate and House bills reduce State scholarship funds by approximately \$12,000,000 per year which will primarily affect entering freshman for Fall 2011 and those who are least able to pay such as first generation students who historically filled 25% of the freshman class. Loftin stated A&M provides one-half billion dollars each year in financial support in the form of grants, scholarships, work student and loans to its students with \$182,000,000 of that one-half billion coming through donations to Texas A&M either directly or through endowment gifts. Loftin encouraged the Council to continue their support to Texas A&M and The Association of Former Students. In September, 2009, Loftin met with University of Texas President Bill Powers to create *Together for Texans*, an initiative to develop a common agenda which was presented to the Legislature during the 2011 Orange and Maroon Day on February 15. Vision 2020 is being reviewed and assessed to determine how it can be revised to be equally valid today. Loftin stated the Office of the President will be relocating from Rudder Tower to the Jack K. Williams Administration Building. Loftin answered the Leadership Council's questions.

## **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY COMMANDANT OF THE CORPS OF CADETS**

Brigadier General Joe Ramirez '79, 39th Commandant of the Corps of Cadets, reported there were 115 more Cadets at the end of the Fall 2010 semester than in Fall 2009. Ramirez stated his three priorities for the Corps are: 1) raise the academic standings; 2) recruit and retain more Cadets; and 3) increase diversity. The current attrition rate is 18% and Ramirez intends to reduce that number and raise the numbers of African-American, Hispanics and women in the Corps. Ramirez reported the

average Corps of Cadets GPR in 2010 was 2.73, the highest in decades, but he has set a goal to increase the GPR to 2.85 or better for the Spring 2011 semester. Ramirez mentioned many of the 2010 accomplishments of the Corps including commissioning 166 new officers into the military and developing several new social media venues to communicate with prospects, parents, current and former cadets. Ramirez reported on many of the initiatives including the creation of an Adopt-A-School, a Corps Orientation Program for academic deans, and plans are underway to renovate the Corps Dorms, and build a new Aggie Band Hall and Leadership Learning Center. Ramirez answered the Leadership Council's questions.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Bermudez invited Ross Volunteer Max Anthony '12, Cody Guffey '13, and Reveille VIII to help recognize Dr. Joe E. West '54 as a 2011 Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient. West offered his sincere appreciation for the award.

### **CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS**

Bermudez expressed his appreciation to have been selected to serve as Chair of The Association of Former Students in 2011 and thanked the Leadership Council, fellow members of the Board, and The Association staff for their support. Bermudez announced the 2011 Sul Ross Reunion is scheduled for March 7-9 and reminded the Leadership Council to make plans to attend the Fall Leadership Council Weekend scheduled October 28-29, 2011. To close the meeting, former Yell Leaders led in the singing of the *Spirit of Aggieland*.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jorge A. Bermudez '73  
Chair of the Board

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Porter S. Garner III '79  
President and CEO