



WINTER LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 20, 2016

Following 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 9:08 a.m. in the Zachry Family Rooms in the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center. Garner recognized Michael K. Young, President of Texas A&M University; Tyson Voelkel '96, President of the Texas A&M Foundation; Bill Toler '76, Chairman-Elect of the Texas A&M Foundation; Col. Byron Stebbins '78, Deputy Commandant and Chief of Staff of the Corps of Cadets, representing Brigadier General Joe Ramirez '79; Joseph Benigno '16, Texas A&M Student Body President; Matt Vanderbloemen '16, Deputy Corps Commander and Chaplain, provided the invocation while Don Patton '61, President Emeritus of the Minnesota/Western Wisconsin A&M Club led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESIDENT AND CEO'S REMARKS

Garner provided an update on recent events and activities taking place at The Association of Former Students. He noted The Association recently provided \$15,000 to Career Closet, a new student-led initiative which allows students to borrow professional attire for interviews, office visits and other events, helping all Aggies make a positive first impression. Garner thanked the Brazos County A&M Club and Dallas A&M Club for their financial support of this initiative.

At the request of Chancellor John Sharp '72 and The Texas A&M University System, Garner reported The Association will host the first *Aggies on the Hill* event which will take place in Washington, D.C. on April 13, 2016.

He stated The Association's goal for the *Lead by Example* campaign is 100,000 annual donors by 2020. In 2015 The Association lost momentum, falling short of the goal of 51,000 donors and slightly short of the \$9.5 million Annual Fund goal. In 2016, The Association's goal is to raise \$10,250,000 and 55,000 annual donors.

Garner reported that more than 10,000 copies of The Association of Former Students' Directory of Former Students were purchased. In addition to this resource, Aggies may use the Find an Aggie tool on AggieNetwork.com to locate other Aggies.

Garner stated that in 2016, The Association is proud to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Traveling Aggies program which began with one trip in 1966 and now offers 70 trips annually. Since 1966, nearly 7,500 Aggies have traveled with The Association on 900-plus trips and provided over \$316 million in gifts to Texas A&M.

The Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center was featured in the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education's December 2015 issue of *CURRENTS* magazine in a feature titled "Most Amazing Alumni Spaces" with the Haynes Ring Plaza being selected for the cover of the magazine.

Garner announced 12 former students have been named 2016 Distinguished Alumni of Texas A&M University. The recipients will be announced through upcoming surprise announcements over the next few weeks, with the honorees to be recognized at the Distinguished Alumni Gala on Friday, October 7, 2016 in Reed Arena.

INTRODUCTION OF 2016 ASSOCIATION CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Garner introduced Dwain Mayfield '59, The Association of Former Students' 2016 Chair of the Board, and recognized him for his outstanding service to The Association and Texas A&M University. Garner presented Mayfield with a ceremonial Chair's gavel.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mayfield greeted the Leadership Council and stated he looks forward to serving as Chair of the Board this year. He thanked Immediate Past Chair, Bo Bradbury '89, for his outstanding leadership and dedicated service to The Association of Former Students and Texas A&M University in 2015.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: (SCOTT EBERHART '74 / STEVE COOPER '78) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FALL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 14, 2015 BE APPROVED. CARRIED.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY REPORT

Michael K. Young, President of Texas A&M University, reported on an incident involving minority high school students who were on campus for a college visit. Joseph Benigno '16, Student Body President, created a personal video in regard to the incident, and held a letter writing campaign in which several thousand current students wrote letters of apology to the high school students involved. Young reported on the *Lead by Example* campaign. He concluded by thanking the Leadership Council for their continued support.

CORPS OF CADETS REPORT

Col. Byron Stebbins '78, Deputy Commandant and Chief of Staff, provided an update on the Corps of Cadets on behalf of Commandant BG Joe Ramirez '79 who was unable to attend the meeting. Stebbins reported that with the incoming freshmen class, total enrollment in the Corps is expected to be 2,600 which will represent the largest Corps of Cadets in 40 years.

TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION REPORT

Tyson Voelkel '96, President of the Texas A&M Foundation, stated the Foundation had seen a 28% increase in the first six months of their fiscal year and with total assets under management being \$1.748 billion. Voelkel reported on various fundraising efforts taking place across campus as part of the *Lead by Example* campaign. He noted the Foundation received more than \$12 million in matured planned gifts.

Bill Toler '76, Chairman-Elect, provided an update on the *Lead by Example* campaign and announced the campaign surpassed \$2 billion in contributions by end of 2015.

THE ASSOCIATION REPORT

Finance Report

Mark Fischer '72, Board Member and Chair of the Finance Committee, reviewed The Association's 2015 financial report and stated that total revenues for all funds, including trust funds and building contributions in 2015 exceeded total expenses by \$1,352,219. Total operating revenues were \$15,361,402 with total operating expenses being \$15,483,181. Fischer reported the cost to raise one dollar was \$0.22. In 2015, The Association provided \$12,296,520 in support and services to Texas A&M and the worldwide Aggie Network. As of December 31, 2015 The Association's net assets were \$104,807,037.

Fundraising Report

Cathy Mann '92, Board Member and Chair of the Fundraising Committee, reported the Endowed Century Club Trust Fund, included 40 new funds and totaled \$20,329,447 as of December 31, 2015. There were \$1,461,220 in gifts received for memorial and other scholarships. She noted there are currently 53 Aggie Ring Scholarships with the trust fund balance totaling \$1,235,176, which does not include 11 planned gifts. In 2015, 70 Aggie Rings were awarded through Aggie Ring Scholarships and pass through donations. Mann reported on the 2015 Annual Fund and stated The Association raised \$9,423,600 from 48,234 donors.

She noted the 2016 Annual Fund goal is \$10,250,000 and 52,000 donors with \$1,510,842 having been raised from 12,117 donors as of February 16, 2016. Mann introduced Mason Parish '14, Executive Director of Texas A&M's Career Closet, who discussed The Association's involvement with the Career Closet and thanked The Association and Leadership Council for their support. Mann introduced Joseph Benigno '16, Student Body President, who thanked The Association of Former Students for its quick support in providing funding to create notecards that were used in the recent letter writing campaign that President Young referred to earlier in the meeting.

CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Mayfield thanked the Leadership Council for representing The Association of Former Students and Texas A&M University throughout the worldwide Aggie Network. He announced the Sul Ross Reunion is scheduled for March 21-23, 2016, and the Fall Leadership Council will be held November 11-12, 2016. He stated The Association's Former Student Programs team is preparing a survey asking for input on a volunteer recognition program to be implemented in 2017. The program will be discussed further during the Volunteer Leadership Conference which is scheduled for June 10-11, 2016. To close the meeting, former Yell Leaders led in singing the *Spirit of Aggieland*.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Dwain Mayfield '59
Chair of the Board

Porter S. Garner III '79
President and CEO