



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY®

**SPRING LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2019**

Following the *Welcome to Aggieland* video, Porter S. Garner III '79, President and CEO of The Association of Former Students, called the Spring Leadership Council meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. in the Zachry Family Rooms in the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center. Garner thanked the volunteer leaders for their dedicated service to The Association and Texas A&M. He recognized special guests President of Texas A&M University Michael K. Young, Texas A&M Head Football Coach Jimbo Fisher, and Vice President and CFO of the Texas A&M Foundation John Huser '89. Garner also recognized special friends and long-time Leadership Council members, Buck Rogers '46 and Max Ploeger III '48. Holden Nichols '19, Corps Chaplain, provided the invocation, and then Don Patton '61, President, Minnesota/Western Wisconsin A&M Club, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESIDENT AND CEO'S REMARKS

Garner thanked the Leadership Council for their dedicated service and support to The Association of Former Students and Texas A&M. He reported The Association surpassed its goal to raise \$10.25 million in the 2018 Annual Fund from 55,000 donors by raising \$10,265,533 from 57,423 donors, which represents the largest Annual Fund and the greatest number of donors in our 140-year history. He noted The Association will have a \$13.6 million impact on Texas A&M University in 2019. Garner reported that Texas A&M University will graduate its 500,000th former student at the upcoming May commencement. The Association of Former Students and the Texas Exes joined forces February 5 for the ninth biennial Orange & Maroon Legislative Day (OMLD). Garner stated it was a productive and impactful day for Texas A&M and higher education in Texas, with close to 260 volunteers participating, half of which were former students of Texas A&M. He and Mark Fischer '72, The Association of Former Students' 2019 Chair of the Board, had the opportunity to meet with Governor Greg Abbott and Speaker of the Texas House Representatives Dennis Bonnen. The next Aggie Ring Day, which is scheduled for April 12-13, will kick-off Family Weekend with almost 6,300 Aggie Rings to be distributed during these two days. Garner expressed his appreciation to members of the Leadership Council who have assisted with distributing Rings at previous Aggie Ring Days, particularly the Class of '69. Garner reported that April 21 coincides with Easter this year. The Campus Muster Committee announced last fall that the 2019 Campus Muster ceremony will be held Monday, April 22, in Reed Arena. The date change was prompted by April 21 coinciding with Easter, a time when traveling to and from campus may be difficult for members of the Texas A&M campus community and loved ones of the deceased Aggies being honored. The Campus Muster Committee set the date in consultation with many groups and with the full support of the Class of 1969, whose 50-Year Class Reunion will be held in conjunction with Muster. This year, over 1,600 names on the Worldwide Roll Call for the Absent will be called – and answered – in a live reading on Sunday, April 21, in the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center. The speakers mounted on our building will carry the reading of the 2019 Roll Call throughout campus while The Association's website streams the reading live to Aggies around the world. Garner stated The Association of Former Students supported the Texas Aggie Band at the recent TaxSlayer Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, FL, with a meal after the game. The Parsons Mounted Cavalry participated in the Rose Bowl Parade, and

several meals during their journey were provided by the Arizona Aggie Mom's Club, Valley of the Sun A&M Club, Southern California A&M Club, and the Traveling Aggies who were in Pasadena on a Traveling Aggies trip. Garner provided an update on the *Lead By Example* campaign and stated that as of December 31, 2018, The Association had exceeded its \$100 million goal by raising \$101.7 million. He reported the Distinguished Alumni Selection Committee recently selected 10 Distinguished Alumni to be honored in 2019. He noted that only 291 of the nearly 500,000 former students have been honored with the highest honor bestowed upon a former student of Texas A&M University. The 2019 recipients who have received a surprise announcement to date are: Regent Phil Adams '70, Past Chair of The Association of Former Students David A. Heath '76 and Former Chairman of The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents Dr. Richard Box '61. The 2019 Distinguished Alumni Gala will be held Friday, October 25, in Reed Arena.

INTRODUCTION OF 2019 CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Garner introduced Fischer and recognized him for his outstanding service to The Association and Texas A&M University. Garner thanked Fischer and his wife, SuSu, for leading by example and for their selfless service to Texas A&M.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Fischer greeted the Leadership Council and stated he looks forward to serving as Chair of the Board in 2019. He thanked Immediate Past Chair Jimmy Williams '83, Ph.D. for his admirable leadership and dedicated service to The Association of Former Students and Texas A&M University in 2018.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: (JASON BOULLIOUN '06 / PATTY EBERHART '76) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FALL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2018, BE APPROVED. CARRIED.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY REPORT

Michael K. Young, President of Texas A&M University, thanked The Association of Former Students for its support of Texas A&M and its students. He gave tribute to Pinky Wilson, Class of 1920, who wrote the Aggie War Hymn and noted the song was written 100 years ago this year. The President's Excellence Fund, which The Association contributes to, enables interdisciplinary teams of three faculty members to develop long-term research and scholarship collaborations. Young noted that this year alone, there was a 20% increase in freshman applications, along with a 26% increase of out of state applicants. He reported that while the university's retention rate is high, the time to graduation is among the shortest. He noted that Texas A&M's graduation rates are the highest in the state, with specifically minority and transfer student graduation rates being the highest by a large margin. Young attributed this to the Student Success Initiative.

THE ASSOCIATION REPORT

Fundraising Report

Bobby Jenkins '81, Board member and member of the Fundraising Committee, presented the Fundraising Report in the absence of committee chair Kristi Sherrill Hoyl '86. Jenkins reported The Association exceeded its 2018 Annual Fund goal of \$10.25 million from 55,000 donors by raising \$10,265,533 from 57,423 donors. He mentioned the success of Pass It Back Day, which included gifts of nearly \$300,000 from more than 2,200 donors. He stated 50 new Endowed Century Club gifts were established in 2018, bringing the total number of funds to 1,011. He also reported that 220 Aggie Rings were awarded in 2018 through the Aggie Ring Scholarship Program. With two years remaining in the *Lead By Example* campaign, he noted The Association has already exceeded its \$100 million goal, having raised \$101.7 million as of December 31, 2018. The Association's 2019 Annual Fund goal is \$10.65 million from 61,000 donors. Jenkins invited Nic Taunton '07, Vice President for Development, to provide an update regarding The Association's 100K Plan. Taunton stated that across Texas A&M University, there were 75,645 donors in 2018. From 2012-2018, 180,948 donors have contributed to Texas A&M's *Lead By Example* campaign. He noted the challenge is not finding donors to provide support; rather, it is convincing donors to consistently give on an annual basis. Taunton introduced Helena Shakesby '19, Chair of the Campus Muster Committee, who expressed her sincere appreciation for The Association of Former Students' longstanding and dedicated support of Campus Muster.

Finance Report

Dara Hegar '95, Board member and Chair of the Finance Committee, provided an update on The Association's financial performance in 2018. The Association provided \$13.5 million in mission support in 2018, including \$9.8 million in university and student support and \$3.7 million in former student program support. As of December 31, 2018, The Association's total assets were \$116 million, total revenues were \$21.5 million and total expenses were \$19.7 million.

TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION REPORT

John Huser '89, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Texas A&M Foundation, shared an update on the *Lead By Example* campaign, which has raised \$3,380,046,819 from January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2018. Huser highlighted the Foundation's upcoming Legacy Society event, which serves to recognize donors with a cumulative giving total of \$100,000 to all Texas A&M affiliates.

CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Fischer reintroduced the topic of the Distinguished Alumnus Award, at which time Association Past Chair Shelley Potter '78 was surprised by a Ross Volunteer announcing that she is a 2019 recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award. After reconvening, Fischer congratulated Potter and thanked the Leadership Council for representing The Association of Former Students and Texas A&M University throughout the worldwide Aggie Network. He commented on the 2019 Resource Guide and encouraged the Leadership Council to remain engaged with The Association. The Sul Ross Group Reunion is scheduled for March 5-7, 2019, with the Fall Leadership Council meeting to be held November 16, 2019. To close the meeting, former Yell Leaders led in the singing of the *Spirit of Aggieland*.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Fischer '72
Chair of the Board

Porter S. Garner III '79
President and CEO