



FALL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 31, 2020

The Association of Former Students' Chair of the Board, Cathy Mann '92, called the Fall Leadership Council Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Zachry Family Rooms of the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center. She welcomed over 150 members of the governing body participating in this first-ever virtual meeting of the Leadership Council. She reported that during the COVID-19 nationwide shelter-in-place orders, The Association continued the tradition of Muster through Muster Live, a portal on MusterLive.AggieNetwork.com that connected Aggies from across the globe in remembrance of Aggies who passed away over the last year. In addition, The Association welcomed over 12,000 new former students through virtual commencement celebrations in May and August, and safely delivered more than 11,300 Aggie Rings in April and September combined. Mann welcomed and congratulated The Association's newest chartered Constituent Network, the Aggie Pride LGBTQ Network, represented by Brad Dressler '96 via Zoom from California. Mann led the meeting with an invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY PRIOR ONLINE VOTING FROM MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL WHO WERE PRE-REGISTERED FOR THIS MEETING:

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE SPRING LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 29, 2020, BE APPROVED. Carried.

THE ASSOCIATION REPORT

Mann reported on the Aggie Park project and stated that in the spring of 2021, final designs should be complete, with construction to begin in the summer. The park is expected to be complete in the spring of 2022. She commented on the new building, which will host Aggie Ring Days and be home to portions of operations for The Association of Former Students and the Texas A&M Foundation. Mann stated that all questions related to Aggie Park should be directed to Marty Holmes '87, Vice President for Programs. Clubs, Classes and individuals who are interested in financially supporting Aggie Park should contact Nic Taunton '07, Vice President for Development. Details on the Aggie Park project can be found online at <https://AggiePark.tamu.edu>.

Nominating Committee Report

Mark Fischer '72, Immediate Past Chair and Chair of the 2020 Nominating Committee, stated The Association of Former Students' Nominating Committee met August 6, 2020 via Zoom to nominate candidates for election to hold the following positions: Association Board of Directors to include the

2021 Chair Elect, Student Loan Fund Trustees, as well as Area and National Representatives. He presented the slate of candidates for The Association's 2021 Board of Directors, and announced the new Board members who have been placed in nomination: Charles B. "Brad" Bynum '92, Laurie Hill Gutierrez '88 and Mark C. Herod, Sr. '78.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY PRIOR ONLINE VOTING FROM MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL WHO WERE PRE-REGISTERED FOR THIS MEETING:

THAT THE SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR THE 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. Carried.

He reported the following former students have been placed in nomination before the Leadership Council for election as The Association of Former Students' 2021 Student Loan Fund Trustees: George Nelson '64 and Phil Callahan '69.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY PRIOR ONLINE VOTING FROM MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL WHO WERE PRE-REGISTERED FOR THIS MEETING:

THAT THE SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR THE 2021 STUDENT LOAN FUND TRUSTEES BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. Carried.

Fischer stated the nominees for the 2021 Area and National Representatives will be presented for election by the general membership via a ballot distributed electronically as well as in the November-December issue of *Texas Aggie*.

Finance Report

Dara Hegar '95, Board Member and Chair of the Finance Committee, presented The Association's 2021 financial plan as prepared by The Association's staff and approved by the Board of Directors at their 4Q meeting on Friday, October 30, 2020. Total proposed budgeted operating revenue for 2021 is \$15,829,000 with total proposed budgeted operating expenses being \$15,829,000 including \$5.8M in cash support, across all funds, to Texas A&M University. Total Association support, across all funds, to Texas A&M University for 2021 is proposed to be \$13.1M. Hegar stated the 2021 Annual Fund goal is \$9,725,000. She reported that 2020 has provided a set of unprecedented challenges given COVID-19 and the resulting economic impact, which has created the need to modify the approach to The Association's operations and plan differently for the coming year. Hegar explained the team has learned a lot over the last few months and expects to learn even more through the end of the year as they analyze the fundraising data. She added The Association's two largest fundraising months have historically been November and December, and revenue raised during these months will bring revenue expectations for 2021 into a clearer focus. When the year-end data is received in January 2021, the team may need to present a revised 2021 budget to the Board for approval at the 1Q meeting in February.

Fundraising Report

Bobby Jenkins '81, Chair of the Fundraising Committee, reported as of October 27, 2020, The Association had raised \$6,347,337 from 43,170 donors. The goal for Pass It Back Day, which is scheduled for November 10, 2020, is to achieve 1,876 donors during this 24-hour day of giving.

Jenkins stated that as of October 27, 18 new Endowed Century Club endowments had been established year-to-date for a total of 1,085 endowments. In regards to Aggie Ring Scholarships, there are 157 total endowments with 17 new scholarships for the year as of October 27, 2020.

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM REPORT

John Sharp '72, Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, reported on the search process for Texas A&M University's next president, with the new person to be in place by June 1, 2021. He commented on an opinion from the Texas Attorney General stating that without approval from the Texas Legislature, Texas A&M University cannot remove the Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue from the Texas A&M campus since it had been a gift from the State of Texas. Sharp provided an update on the various new facilities being constructed within the A&M System, including the Bush Combat Development Complex being built at the RELIS campus. He reported that Stephen F. Austin State University is the top university in the State of Texas to prepare future teachers and will soon be the first non-system entity to have presence at RELIS, focusing on education and preparing students for teaching. Sharp commented on the vaccine manufacturing taking place within the A&M System and briefly discussed what the System is doing in regards to COVID-19 research. He also shared how AgriLife has conducted research to change the current food pyramid. Sharp reported on the Chancellor's Texas A&M Research Initiative to bring national academy members and top scientists to Texas A&M. He reported on the Texas A&M School of Law being ranked as one of the best law schools in the country for dispute resolution programs and intellectual property law, contributing to the 25% increase in applications.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY REPORT

Dr. Michael Benedik, Vice Provost and Chief International Officer of Texas A&M University, introduced Chad Wootton '96, Associate Vice President for External Affairs. Wootton reported on the university's 2020 COVID-19 response, including the offering of online instruction, ensuring safe return of Aggies abroad, collaboration with Texas A&M's School of Public Health and holding virtual commencement ceremonies while handling economic and social pressures. Wootton reported during the fall semester, the university offered maximum flexibility, adaptability and an adjusted calendar, as well as mask and social distancing mandates, managed surging cases, created a robust testing and tracing program, and carefully held gatherings with athletics and student activities, to include the commencement ceremonies this December. Wootton stated that looking ahead to Spring 2021, the University's approach would be fairly the same as Fall 2020. Benedik added that 64% of undergraduate course sections will have a face-to-face component, as well as a remote option. Wootton confirmed the current fall enrollment is 71,109, with 15,355 students having graduated year-to-date, compared to 18,437 total graduates in 2019. He reported on new awards and scholarships to enhance graduate education, and announced the new Graduate and Professional School, which will be operational in the spring of 2021. Wootton commented on the Student Success Initiative, which focuses on retention and degree progress.

12th MAN FOUNDATION REPORT

David Dunlap '83, Chair of the 12th Man Foundation's Board of Trustees, reported that due to COVID-19, the seating capacity at Kyle Field had been reduced to 25%. He added that over 20% of the season ticket holders opted not to receive a refund on their unused tickets, resulting in \$5M in philanthropic gifts to the 12th Man Foundation. Travis Dabney '96, 12th Man Foundation President and CEO, expressed his appreciation to The Association of Former Students for their partnership, as well as to the season ticket holders, Athletics Department and the 12th Man Foundation staff for their continuing support and diligent efforts during the pandemic.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY STUDENT BODY REPORT

Eric Mendoza '21, Student Body President, shared priorities of the Texas A&M Student Government Association (SGA) to ensure students can enjoy Aggie experiences—whether that be in-person or hybrid format—and to address student concerns with a sense of belonging on campus, different learning formats and mental health. Mendoza highlighted the priorities that SGA and the university community have been working on to address these concerns: 1) Retain the traditional Aggie experience by focusing on holistic benefits of involvement; 2) Improve how SGA communicates with students and stakeholders, including The Association of Former Students and its Leadership Council; 3) Promote the immediate needs of the students and work to create a unified student voice; and 4) Promote health and safety on and off campus.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mann reported that Class of '70 and '71 Reunions are being planned to coincide with Campus Muster in 2021. The Association staff is hopeful that Muster will return to an in-person format in the spring and is moving forward with plans for these Reunions.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mann recognized and thanked the outgoing 2020 Board members: Steve LaMantia '81, Ingrid Warren '93 and Immediate Past Chair Mark Fischer '72 for their dedicated service to The Association of Former Students and the worldwide Aggie Network. Mann and Porter S. Garner III '79, President and CEO, presented Fischer with a chair from the Pitzer Board Room in appreciation of his service as The Association's 2019 Chair of the Board and eight years of exemplary volunteer service to The Association of Former Students. Garner thanked the Leadership Council for their service to The Association and to Texas A&M University. He went on to thank Mann for her inspiring leadership this year and presented her with a special proclamation recognizing her dedicated service as The Association of Former Students' 2020 Chair of the Board.

CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Mann expressed her deep appreciation for the opportunity to serve The Association of Former Students as the 2020 Chair of the Board. She thanked the Leadership Council, fellow members of the Board and The Association staff for their tremendous support.

Mann welcomed Pat Beaird '83 as the 2021 Chair of the Board and gave accolades for his service to the Aggie Network. Mann reminded the Leadership Council to make plans to attend the Spring Leadership Council Meeting, which is scheduled for February 26-27, 2021. She encouraged the Council to participate in Pass it Back Day, which is scheduled for November 10, 2020.

To close the meeting, former Yell Leader Marty Holmes '87 led the group in a yell.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy G. Mann '92
Chair of the Board

Porter S. Garner III '79
President and CEO