



SPRING LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 29, 2020

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 of 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, President of the Texas A&M Foundation Tyson Voelkel '96, Chairman of the Texas A&M Foundation Board of Trustees Otway Denny '71, Director of Athletics Ross Bjork, and Student Body President Mikey Jaillet '20. Garner also recognized special friends and longtime Leadership Council members Buck Rogers '46, Charlie Weinbaum '47 and Max Ploeger III '48. Tom Wisdom '60, President of the Sul Ross Group, led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge. Association Board member John Dickerson '87 provided the invocation.

PRESIDENT AND CEO'S REMARKS

Garner shared memories of his personal relationship with Clayton W. Williams, Jr. '54, the namesake of The Association's premier facility, who recently passed away and commented on Williams' genuine love and generosity for Texas A&M. Garner reported The Association surpassed its 2019 Annual Fund goal by raising \$10,879,517 from 60,730 donors, representing the largest Annual Fund by donors and dollars in our history. The Association recently chartered three new A&M Clubs: Comanche County, Los Alamos (Los Alamos, NM) and Space Coast (Melbourne, FL). Garner stated that on February 11-12, he and Cathy Mann '92, The Association of Former Students' 2020 Chair of the Board, were in Washington, D.C. for Aggies on the Hill, along with Association Board member Dara Hegar '95, university deans, and Texas A&M and A&M System officials. The group met with 32 members of Congress to promote higher education in the state of Texas, particularly at Texas A&M University. Association Past Chair and Representative Bill Flores '76 presented The Association with the Congressional Record of his January 10, 2020 recognition of The Association of Former Students' 140th anniversary on the floor of the House of Representatives. Aggie Ring Day is scheduled for April 17-18, with nearly 6,500 Aggie Rings to be distributed during this 2-day event. Garner thanked members of the Leadership Council who have assisted with distributing Rings at previous Aggie Ring Days, particularly the Class of '69 who consistently has the largest number volunteers each Ring Day. The Association staff will coordinate over 300 Muster ceremonies around the world this year, with the names of over 1,500 Aggies on the Worldwide Roll Call for the Absent to be called – and answered – in a live reading on April 21 in the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center. Speakers mounted on the roof will carry the reading of the 2020 Roll Call throughout campus while The Association's website streams the reading live to Aggies around the world. He provided an update on the *Lead By Example* campaign and stated that as of December 31, 2019, The Association had exceeded its \$100 million goal by raising nearly \$120 million. Garner provided an update on Aggie Park and the groundbreaking ceremony that would be held later that morning.

The Distinguished Alumni Selection Committee recently selected 12 Distinguished Alumni to be honored in 2020. Of Texas A&M's 516,000 former students, only 303 individuals have been honored with the highest honor bestowed upon a former student of Texas A&M University. Dr. Charles Cocanougher '53 will be honored posthumously and Thomas Saylak '82 was recently notified of his selection as a Distinguished Alumnus with a surprise announcement. The remaining surprise announcements will take place over the next few weeks. The 2020 Distinguished Alumni Gala will be held in Reed Arena on October 9.

INTRODUCTION OF 2020 CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Garner introduced The Association of Former Students' Chair of the Board, Cathy Mann '92, and recognized her for her outstanding service to The Association and Texas A&M University. Garner thanked Mann and her husband, Stan, for leading by example and for their selfless service to Texas A&M.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mann greeted the Leadership Council and stated she looks forward to serving as Chair of the Board in 2020. She thanked Immediate Past Chair Mark Fischer '72 for his admirable leadership and dedicated service to The Association of Former Students and Texas A&M University in 2019.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: (DAVID GREENBERG '84 / MARK HEROD '78) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FALL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 16, 2019, 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 continued support to Texas A&M. He reported on the growth of the university, noting that Texas A&M's graduation rates are the highest in the state. He added that minority and transfer student graduation rates are also the highest, which can be attributed to the Student Success Initiative. Young noted that graduates of Texas A&M University have the highest starting salaries in the state of Texas. He concluded by thanking The Association for its programs like Orange & Maroon Legislative Day and Aggies on the Hill, which raise awareness for the importance of higher education and providing funding for Texas A&M University at the state and federal levels.

TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS REPORT

Mann introduced Ross Bjork, Director of Athletics, who discussed the importance of aligning Texas A&M's athletic programs with the university's mission to educate all students at Texas A&M. He stated that Texas A&M currently has 13 competitive sports, with 10 of these teams being ranked in the nation's top 20. Bjork provided a brief update on A&M's athletic program and stated that GPAs and graduation rates continue to rise amongst the student athletes.

THE ASSOCIATION REPORT

Fundraising Report

Bobby Jenkins '81, Board member and Chair of the Fundraising Committee, stated that 2019 was a historic year for The Association of Former Students with \$10,879,517 having been raised in the Annual Fund from 60,730 donors, setting both donor and dollar records. There were 56 Endowed Century Club funds established in 2019 for a total of 1,067 funds. In addition, 24 Aggie Ring Scholarships were added last year for a total of 138 endowments. The Association's 2020 Annual Fund goal is to raise \$10,900,000 from 62,000 donors. As of February 24, 2020, over \$1.8 million had been raised from over 19,000 donors. Jenkins invited Nic Taunton '07, Vice President for Development, to provide an update regarding The Association's 100K Plan. Taunton provided a brief update and stated that across Texas A&M University, there were 80,429 donors in 2019, and asked the Leadership Council for their help to reach the 100,000 donors goal by the end of 2020. Taunton introduced Mikey Jaillet '20, Student Body President, and welcomed him to the stage. Jaillet expressed how grateful the student body is to The Association Former Students for its dedicated support of Texas A&M and its students.

Finance Report

Dara Hegar '95, Board member and Chair of the Finance Committee, presented The Association's 2019 financial report. She stated that as of December 31, total assets were \$127,907,108, total liabilities were \$5,958,521, with net assets of \$121,948,587. Total revenues were \$24,423,493, total expenses were \$21,487,063 and net revenue over expenses was \$2,936,430. Net realized and unrealized gains on investments was \$10,241,622. Hegar reported that total operating revenues were \$17,324,345 and total operating expenses were \$17,269,789 with net revenues of \$54,556.

TEXAS A&M FOUNDATION REPORT

Tyson Voelkel '96, President of the Texas A&M Foundation, provided an update on the *Lead By Example* campaign, in which \$3.8 billion had been raised from January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2019. Voelkel 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. He also commented on the *University Community* campaign, which encourages Texas A&M faculty and staff participation, as well as the *Honor a Loved One* campaign, which highlights memorial and honorary giving. Voelkel introduced Otway Denny '71, Chairman of the Texas A&M Foundation Board of Trustees. Denny thanked the Leadership Council for their role in supporting the *Lead by Example* campaign. He discussed the effects that this campaign will have on the university as a whole and the 4,000 new scholarships that have derived from this campaign.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Garner welcomed and thanked John Sharp '72, Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, for his genuine support of Aggie Park. Sharp gave tribute to The Association of Former Students and thanked Garner for his leadership with the project. He expressed his enthusiasm for what Aggie Park will mean for Texas A&M, as well as current, future and former students alike. With Mann observing, Garner and Sharp signed the Aggie Park land lease agreement and memorandum of understanding between The Association of Former Students and The Texas A&M University System.

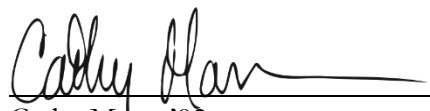
CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Mann commented on The Association of Former Students' 2020 Resource Guide and encouraged the Leadership Council to remain engaged with The Association. The Sul Ross Group Reunion is scheduled for March 5-7, 2020, with the Fall Leadership Council meeting to be held November 07, 2020. Mann invited the Leadership Council to stay for the Aggie Park groundbreaking at 11:30 a.m. outside of the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center. To close the meeting, former Yell Leaders led in the singing of the *Spirit of Aggieland*.

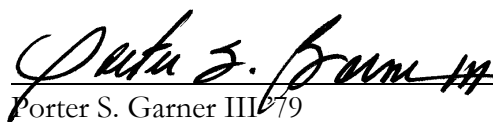
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy Mann '92
Chair of the Board



Porter S. Garner III '79
President and CEO